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VOL. XXVI.

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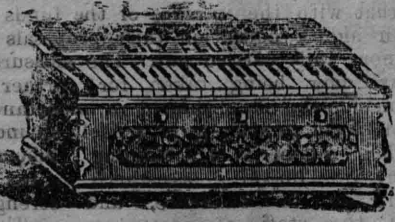
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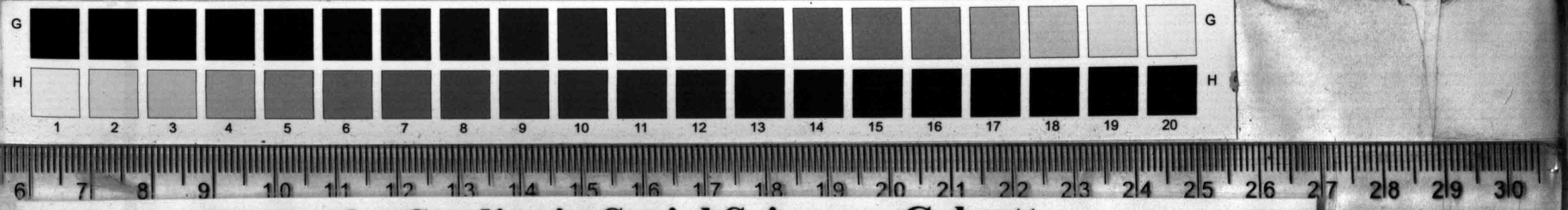


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(Sd.) Nil Kant Majumder,
Dated 4-2-90. Professor, Presidency College.



EDUCATION IN INDIA.

IMPORTANT RESOLUTION.

(Concluded.)

ITS PROGRESS.

16. While the need for education grows with the growth of population, the progress towards supplying it is not now so rapid as it was in former years. In 1871 there were 16,473 schools with 67,820 scholars; in 1881-82 there were 82,916 with 2,061,541 scholars. But by 1891-92 there had only increased to 97,109 schools with 2,837,607 scholars, and the figures of 1901-02 (96,005 schools with 3,268,120 scholars) suggest that the initial force of expansion is somewhat on the decline; indeed the last year of the century showed a slight decrease as compared with the previous year. For purposes of exact comparison some allowances have to be made for differences in the basis of the statistics, but their broad effect is not altered by these modifications. Not has the rate of growth of primary schools kept pace with that of secondary schools, in which the number of scholars has considerably more than doubled during the last twenty years. It may be said indeed that the expansion of primary schools has received a check in recent years from the calamities of famine and plague; and it is further impeded by the indifference of the more advanced and ambitious classes to the spread of primary education. These however are minor obstacles, which would soon be swept away if the main difficulty of raising the requisite funds for extending primary education could be overcome.

ITS COSTS.

17. The expenditure upon primary education does not admit of exact statement, since the cost of the instruction given in the lower classes of secondary schools is not separately shown, nor is the expenditure on the administration and inspection of primary schools capable of separate calculation. But the direct outlay from public funds upon primary schools in the years 1880-81, 1891-92 and 1901-02 stands as follows:—From Provincial funds, Rs. 16,00,239; Rs. 18,45,943; Rs. 16,92,014; from Local and Municipal funds, Rs. 20,91,624; Rs. 35,80,208; Rs. 40,10,387. Total, Rs. 42,07,866; Rs. 49,29,551; Rs. 53,02,901.

ITS CLAIMS.

18. On a general view of the question the Government of India cannot avoid the conclusion that primary education has hitherto received insufficient attention on an adequate share of the public funds. They consider that it possesses a strong claim upon the sympathy both of the Supreme Government and of the Local Governments, and should be made a leading charge upon provincial revenues; and that in those provinces where it is in a backward condition, its encouragement should be a primary obligation. The Government of India believe that Local Governments are cordially in agreement with them in desiring this extension and will carry it out to the limits allowed by the financial conditions of each province.

19. In so far as District or Municipal Boards are required to devote their funds to education, primary education should have a predominant claim upon their expenditure. The administration of primary schools by local bodies is already everywhere subject to the general supervision of the Education Department as regards educational matters; but the degree of control differs in different provinces, and where it is most complete, primary education is most advanced. It is impossible to extend that control to financial matters as there are other objects besides education which have legitimate claims upon local funds. But it is essential, in order to ensure that the claims of primary education receive due attention, that the educational authorities should be heard when resources are being allotted, and that they should have the opportunity of carrying their representations to higher authority in the event of their being disregarded. In future, therefore, so much of the budget estimates of District or Municipal Boards as relates to educational charges will be submitted through the Inspector to the Director of Public Instruction before sanction.

20. The course of instruction in primary schools naturally consists mainly of reading and writing on the vernacular and arithmetic. Progress has been made in several parts of India during recent years in the introduction of home-grown methods and object lessons. Where these methods have been applied with discretion by competent teachers, who have discarded elaborate forms and foreign appliances, and have used for the purpose of instruction objects familiar to the children in their every-day life, they have been productive of much benefit by imparting greater life and reality to the teaching, and by training the children's faculties and powers of observation. The experience which has been gained on Kindergarten teaching in Madras and Bombay has enabled those provinces to effect steady advances in the system; a complete scheme has been drawn up for Bengal, for the introduction of which teachers are being trained; and a manual of the subject is being prepared in the Punjab, where well designed courses of object lessons are already given. The Government of India look with favour upon the extension of such teaching, where competent teachers are available, as calculated to correct some of the inherent defects of the Indian intellect, to discourage exclusive reliance on the memory, and to develop a capacity for reasoning from observed facts. Physical exercises also find a place in the primary schools, and should as far as possible be made universal. A series of native exercises, systematised for the use of schools, has been adopted in the Central Provinces, and has been commended to the attention of the other Local Governments.

21. The instruction of the masses in such subjects as will best fit them for their position in life involves some differentiation in the courses for rural schools, especially in connection with the attempts which are being made to connect primary teaching with familiar objects. In Bombay a separate course of instruction, with standards of its own, is prescribed. In the Central Provinces a system of half time schools has been successfully established, providing simple courses of instruction in the mornings for the children of agriculturists, who work in the fields during the rest of the day. This system seems worthy of imitation elsewhere; at present a similar experiment made in the Punjab has met with less success. The aim of the rural schools should be, not to impart definite agricultural teaching, but to give to the

children a preliminary training which will make them intelligent cultivators, will train them to be observers, thinkers, and experimenters in however humble a manner, and will protect them in their business transactions with the landlords to whom they pay rent and the grain dealers to whom they dispose of their crops. The reading books prescribed should be written in simple language, not in unfamiliar literary style, and should deal with topics associated with rural life. The grammar taught should be elementary, and only native systems of arithmetic should be used. The village map should be thoroughly understood; and a most useful course of instruction may be given in the accountant's papers, enabling every boy before leaving school to master the intricacies of the village accounts and to understand the demands that may be made upon the cultivator. The Government of India regard it as a matter of the greatest importance to provide a simple, suitable, and useful type of school for it among the population. This and for the agriculturist, and to foster the demand for it among the population. This and other reforms in primary schools will involve some revision of the pay of primary teachers which varies greatly, and in some provinces is too small to attract or to retain a satisfactory class of men. Thus in Bengal the rates fall as low as Rs 5 per month, while the average pay in the Bombay Presidency rises to Rs. 17 and Rs 18. The matter has been under consideration, and improvements will be made where they are most needed.

22. The growth of secondary instruction is one of the most striking features in the history of education in India. The number of secondary schools has risen in the last twenty years from 3,916 to 5,493 and that of their pupils from 214,077 to 558,378. In all provinces there is considerable eagerness among parents to afford their sons an English education, and the provision and maintenance of a high school are common objects of liberality among all sections of the community. Whether these schools are managed by public authority or by private persons, and whether they receive aid from public funds or not, the Government is bound in the interest of the community to see that the education provided in them is sound. It must, for example, satisfy itself in each case that a secondary school is actually wanted; that its financial stability is assured; that its managing body, where there is one, is properly constituted; that it teaches the proper subject up to a proper standard; that due provision has been made for the instruction, health, recreation, and discipline of the pupils; that the teachers are suitable as regards character, number, and qualifications; and that the fees to be paid will not involve such competition with any existing school as will be unfair and injurious to the interests of education. Such are the conditions upon which alone schools should be eligible to receive grants-in-aid or to send up pupils to compete for or receive pupils in enjoyment of Government scholarships; and schools complying with them will be ranked as "recognized" schools. But this is not sufficient. It is further essential that no institution which fails to conform to the elementary principles of sound education should be permitted to present pupils for the University examinations; and in future admission to the Universities should be restricted to "bona fide" private candidates and to candidates from recognized schools. In this way the schools which enjoy the valuable privilege of recognition will in return give guarantees of efficiency in its wider sense; and the public will be assisted in their choice of schools for their children by knowing that a school which is "recognized" is one which complies with certain definite conditions.

23. It is frequently urged that the courses of study in secondary schools are too literary in their character. The same complaint is otherwise expressed by saying that the high school courses are almost exclusively preparatory to the University Entrance Examination, and take insufficient account of the fact that most of the scholars do not proceed to the University, and require some different course of instruction. Attempts have therefore been made, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Education Commission, to introduce alternative courses analogous to what is known in England as a "modern side," in order to meet the needs of those boys who are destined for industrial or commercial pursuits. These attempts have not hitherto met with success. The purely literary course, qualifying as it does both for the University and for Government employ, continues to attract the great majority of pupils and more practical studies are at present but little in request. The Government of India, however, will not abandon their aim. In the present stage of social and industrial development it appears to them essential to promote diversified types of secondary education, corresponding with the varying needs of practical life. Their efforts in this direction will be seconded by that largely influential opinion which has supported the recommendation of the Universities Commission that the Entrance Examination should no longer be accepted as a qualifying test for Government service.

SCHOOL FINAL EXAMINATION.

24. But the question what subjects should be taught and by what means proficiency in them should be tested forms only a part of the larger problem of the true object of secondary education. Whatever courses a school may adopt it should aim at teaching them well and intelligently, and at producing pupils who have fully assimilated the knowledge which they have acquired, and are capable of more sustained effort than is involved in merely passing an examination. Some test of course there must be; and the Government of India are disposed to think that the best solution of the difficulty will probably be found in adapting to Indian conditions the system of leaving examinations, held at the conclusion of the secondary course, which has been tried with success in other countries. Such examinations would not dominate the courses of study, but would be adapted to them, and would form the natural culminating point of secondary education: a point not to be reached by sudden and spasmodic effort, but by the orderly development of all the faculties of the mind under good and trained teaching. They would be of a more searching character than the present Entrance test and the certificate given at their close would be evidence that the holder had received a sound education in a recognized school, that he had borne a good character, and that he had really learnt what the school professed to have taught him. It would thus possess a definite value, and would deserve recognition not only by Government

and the Universities, but also by the large body of private employers who are in want of well-trained assistants in their various lines of activity.

ETHICS OF EDUCATION.

25. The remark has often been made that the extension in India of an education modelled upon European principles, and, so far as Government institutions are concerned, purely secular in its character, has stimulated tendencies unfavourable to discipline, and has encouraged the growth of a spirit of irreverence in the rising generation. If any schools or colleges produce this result, they fail to realise the object with which they are established—of promoting the moral no less than the intellectual and physical well-being of their students. It is the settled policy of Government to abstain from interfering with the religious instruction given in aided schools. Many of these, maintained by native managers or by missionary bodies in various parts of the Empire, supply religious and ethical instruction to complete the educational training of their scholars. In Government institutions the instruction is, and must continue to be, exclusively secular. In such cases the remedy for the evil tendencies noticed above is to be sought, not so much in any formal methods of teaching conduct by means of moral textbooks or primers of personal ethics, as in the discipline, the institution of well-managed teachers, the maintenance of a high standard of influence of carefully selected and trained masters, the proper selection of text-books, such as biographies, which teach by example, and above all in the association of teachers and pupils in the common interests of their daily life. Experience has further shown that discipline and conduct are sure to decline when the competition between schools is carried so far as to allow scholars to migrate from one school to another without inquiring into their previous school and their reasons for leaving it. Rules have accordingly been framed regulating the admission of scholars to Government and aided schools and their promotion or transfer from one school to another so as to secure that a record of their conduct shall be maintained and that irregularities and breaches of discipline shall not pass unnoticed. These rules will now be extended to all unaided schools which desire to enjoy the benefits of recognition.

LANGUAGES IN SCHOOLS.

26. Except in certain of the larger towns of Madras, where like Urdu in Northern India, it serves to some extent the purpose of a "lingua franca," English has no place, and should have no place, in the scheme of primary education. It has never been part of the policy of Government to substitute the English language for the vernacular dialects of the country. It is true that the commercial value which a knowledge of English commands, and the fact that the final examinations of the high schools are conducted in English, cause the secondary schools to be subjected to a certain pressure to introduce prematurely both the teaching of English as a language and its use as the medium of instruction; while for the same reasons the study of the vernacular in these schools is liable to be thrust into the background. This tendency however requires to be corrected in the interest of sound education. As a general rule a child should not be allowed to learn English as a language until he has made some progress in the primary stages of instruction and has received a thorough grounding in his mother tongue. It is equally important that when the teaching of English has begun, it should not be prematurely employed as the medium of instruction in other subjects. Much of the practice, too prevalent in Indian schools, of committing to memory ill-understood phrases and extracts from text-books or notes, may be traced to the scholars having received instruction through the medium of English before their knowledge of the language was sufficient to enable them to understand what they were taught. The line of division between the use of the vernacular and of English as a medium of instruction should, broadly speaking, be drawn at a minimum age of 13. No scholar in a secondary school should, even then, be allowed to abandon the study of his vernacular, which should be kept up until the end of the school course. If the educated classes neglect the cultivation of their own languages, these will assuredly sink to the level of mere colloquial dialects possessing no literature worthy of the name, and no progress will be possible in giving effect to the principle, affirmed in the Despatch of 1854, that European knowledge should gradually be brought, by means of the Indian vernaculars, within the reach of all classes of the people.

FEMALE EDUCATION.

27. In their efforts to promote female education the Government have always encountered peculiar difficulties arising from the social customs of the people; but they have acted on the view that through female education a "far greater proportional impulse is imparted to the educational and moral tone of the people than by the education of men," and have accordingly treated this branch of education liberally in respect of scholarships and fees. Nevertheless though some advance has been made, female education as a whole is still in a very backward condition. The number of female scholars in public schools in the year 1901-02 was 444,470, or less than a ninth of the number of male scholars. The percentage of girls in public schools to the total female population of school-going age has risen from 1.03 in the year 1886-87 to 2.49 in 1901-02. This rate of progress is slow. The Education Commission made recommendations for the extension of female education, and the Government of India hope that with the increase of the funds assigned in aid of education their proposals may be more fully carried out. The measures which are now being taken for further advance include the establishment in important centres of model primary girls' school, an increase in the number of training schools, with more liberal assistance to those already in existence, and strengthening of the staff of inspectresses. The direct action of Government will be exerted in cases where that of the municipalities and local boards does not suffice. Nearly one-half of the girls in public schools are in mixed boys'-girls' schools. Their attendance along with boys is often beneficial to them, especially in village schools, and nothing in the report of the Commission of 1882 need be taken as indicating that such attendance ought to be discouraged. Great assistance is rendered to the cause of female education generally by missionary effort, and in the higher grades especially by zenana teaching. The Government of India desire that such teaching shall be encouraged by grants-in-aid.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

28. In founding the Universities of Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, the Government of India of that day took as their model the type of institution then believed to be best suited to the educational conditions of India, that is to say, the examining University of London. Since then the best educational thought of Europe has shown an increasing tendency to realize the inevitable shortcomings of a purely examining University, and the London University itself has taken steps to enlarge the scope of its operations by assuming additional functions. The model, in fact, has parted with its most characteristic features, and has set an example of expansion which cannot fail to react upon the corresponding institutions in India. Meanwhile the Indian experience of the last fifty years has proved that a system which provides merely for examining students in those subjects to which their aptitudes direct them, and does not at the same time compel them to study those subjects systematically under first-rate instruction, tends inevitably to accentuate certain characteristic defects of the Indian intellect:—The development of the memory out of all proportion to the other faculties of the mind, the incapacity to observe and appreciate facts, and the taste for metaphysical and technical distinctions. Holding it to be the duty of a Government which has made itself responsible for education in India to do everything in its power to correct these shortcomings, the Governor-General in Council two years ago appointed the Commission, with the Hon'ble Mr. J. Raleigh as President, to report upon the constitution and working of the Universities, and to recommend measures for elevating the standard of University teaching and promoting the advancement of learning. After full consideration of the report of this Commission and of the criticisms which it called forth, the Government of India have come to the conclusion that certain reforms in the constitution and management of the Universities are necessary. They propose that the Senates, which from various causes have grown to an unwieldy size, should be reconstituted on a working basis, and that the position and powers of the syndicates should be defined and regulated. Opportunity will be taken to give statutory recognition to the privilege of electing members of the Senate which, since 1891, has been conceded by way of experiment to the graduates of the three older Universities. A limit will be placed upon the number of "ex-officio" fellows; and a reduction will be made in the maximum numbers of the Senates so as to restrict nominations to those bodies to the persons well qualified to discharge their responsible duties. Powers will be conferred upon all the Universities to make suitable provision for University teaching. The teaching given in colleges will, instead of being tested mainly or wholly by external examinations, be liable to systematic inspection under the authority of the Syndicates; and the duty of the University not only to demand a high educational standard from any new college that desires to be recommended to Government for affiliation, but also gradually to enforce a similar standard in colleges already affiliated, will be carefully defined. A college applying for affiliation will be required to satisfy the University and the Government that it is under the management of a regularly constituted governing body; that its teaching staff is adequate for the courses of instruction undertaken; that the buildings and equipment are suitable, and that due provision is made for the residence and supervision of the students; that, so far as circumstances permit, due provision is made for the residence of some of the teaching staff; that the financial resources of the college are sufficient; that its affiliation, having regard to the provision for students made by neighbouring colleges, will not be injurious to the interests of education or discipline; and that the fees to be paid by the students will not involve competition injurious to the interests of education with any existing college in the same neighbourhood. Colleges already affiliated will be inspected regularly and will be required to show that they continue to comply with the conditions on which the privilege of affiliation is granted. The necessary improvements in the Universities and their affiliated colleges cannot be carried out without financial aid. This the Government of India are prepared to give; and they trust that it will be possible to afford liberal recognition and assistance to genuine effort on the part of the colleges to adapt themselves to the new conditions. They also hope that this increase of expenditure from the public funds may be accompanied by an increase in the aid given to colleges and Universities by private liberality, so that the policy of progressive development which was adopted in 1854 may be consistently followed, and that the influence of the improved Universities may be felt throughout the educational system of the country.

29. The problem of the education of European and Eurasian children in India has been anxiously considered by the Government of India on many occasions. As long ago as 1860 Lord Canning wrote that if measures for educating this class were not promptly and vigorously taken in hand, it would grow into a profitless and unmanageable community, a source of danger rather than of strength to the State. Since then repeated efforts have been made, both by the Government and by private agency to place the question on a satisfactory basis by establishing schools of various grades, both in the plains and in the hills, by giving liberal grants-in-aid, and by framing a code of regulations applicable to all forms of instruction that the circumstances require. As a result of this action there are now more than 400 schools and colleges for Europeans in India, with nearly 30,000 scholars, costing annually 42½ lakhs, of which 8½ lakhs are contributed by public funds. Notwithstanding the expenditure incurred, recent enquiries have shown that a large proportion of these schools are both financially and educationally in an unsatisfactory condition. Munificent endowments still support flourishing schools in certain places; but in some cases these endowments have been reduced by mismanagement; and too many of the schools are unable to support themselves in efficiency upon the fees of the scholars.

EDUCATION OF EUROPEANS AND EURASIANS IN INDIA.

30. During the last thirty years the idea that the changed conditions of Indian life demand a change in the traditional modes of education, has found acceptance amongst the ruling Chiefs of Native States. Chiefs' Colleges have been established, of which the most important are those at Ajmere, Rajkot, and Lahore, where some of the features of the English public school system have been reproduced, with the object of fitting young Chiefs and Nobles physically, morally, and intellectually for the responsibilities that lie before them. Convinced of the great importance of promoting this object, His Excellency the Viceroy has closely examined the organization and conduct of these colleges, which appeared to admit of improvement, and has placed before the ruling Chiefs proposals of a comprehensive character for their reform. An increase will be made in the number of teachers of high qualifications to be engaged upon the staff; and in regulating the studies and discipline of the college, the aim kept in view throughout will be the preparation of the sons of ruling Chiefs for the duties which await them, on lines which will combine the advantages of Western knowledge with loyalty to the traditions and usages of their families or States. The proposals have been received by the Chiefs with satisfaction; the interest of the aristocratic classes has been universally aroused in the scheme; and the institution of the Imperial Cadet Corps, which will in the main be recruited from these colleges, will assist to keep this interest alive. The Governor-General in Council confidently hopes that the reforms now in course of execution will result in giving a great impetus to the cause of education among the Indian nobility.

CHIEFS' COLLEGES.

31. Technical education in India has hitherto been mainly directed to the higher forms of instruction required to train men for Government service as engineers, mechanicians, electricians, overseers, surveyors, revenue officers, or teachers in schools, and for employment in railway workshops, cotton-mills, and mines. The institutions which have been established for these purposes, such as the Engineering Colleges at Rurki, Sibpur, and Madras, the Colleges of Science at Poona, the Technical Institute at Bombay, and the Engineering School at Jubbulpur, have done and are doing valuable work, and their maintenance and further development are matters of great importance. The first call for fresh effort is now towards the development of Indian industries, and especially of those in which native capital may be invested. Technical instruction directed to this object must rest upon the basis of a preliminary general education of a simple and practical kind, which should be clearly distinguished from the special teaching that is to be based upon it, and should as a rule be imparted in schools of the ordinary type. In fixing the aim of the technical schools, the supply or expansion of the existing Indian markets is of superior importance to the creation of new export trades, and a clear line should be drawn between educational effort and commercial enterprise. As a step towards providing men qualified to take a leading part in the improvement of Indian industries, the Government of India have determined to give assistance in the form of scholarships to selected students to enable them to pursue a course of technical education under supervision in Europe or America. They hope that the technical schools of India may in time produce a regular supply of young men qualified to take advantage of such facilities, and that the goodwill and interest of the commercial community may be enlisted in the selection of industries to be studied, in finding the most suitable students for foreign training, and in turning their attainments to practical account upon their return to this country. The experience which has been gained in Japan and Siam of the results of sending young men abroad for study justifies the belief that the system will also be beneficial to Indian trade.

SCHOOLS OF ART.

32. There are four Schools of Art in British India, at Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, and Lahore. The aims to be pursued in them, and the methods proper to those aims, have been the subject of much discussion during recent years. The Government of India are of opinion that the true function of Indian Schools of Art is the encouragement of Indian Art and Art industries; and that in so far as they fail to promote these arts or industries, or provide a training that is dissociated from their future practice, or are utilized as commercial ventures, they are conducted upon erroneous principles. Their first object should be to teach such arts or art industries as the pupil intends to pursue when he has left the school. Examples of the arts which may thus be taught to those who will practice them professionally in future, or to drawing masters, are:—designing (with special reference to Indian arts and industries), drawing, painting, illumination, modelling, photography, and engraving. The art industries taught in Schools of Art should be such as are capable of being

(Continued to page 7.)

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LORD CURZON AND HIS MEASURES.

The "Indian Daily News" confesses that it is very painful for him to array himself against the members of the Government in the way he has been compelled to do in connection with the Official Secrets Bill. It is also far from pleasant to us, Bengalees, to have to say anything harsh against Lord Curzon. The only province in India where he spends a considerable portion of his time is Bengal; and though we are not aware if he has made any friends among the Indians, yet, there is no doubt, he has come more in contact with the Bengalees than with the inhabitants of any other Province. He professed his love for the people of this country, who believed him, and, in return, not only learnt to respect him for his talents but also to cherish a feeling of oneness for him for his sympathetic utterances.

Unfortunately however, all his important measures are directed against the interests of the Indians generally, and the Bengalees specially. His partition scheme is a great blow to the national aspirations of the latter. His University "reform" will deal a greater blow to the progress of higher education in Bengal than in any other province. This may be also said of the Official Secrets Bill; for, Bengal has a more vigorous press than any other province. And lastly, it was His Excellency who gave the finishing stroke to the only representative institution of India, viz., the Calcutta Municipality.

As regards the Official Secrets Bill, why was the measure introduced? It was to please the officials, that was its main, perhaps, only object. No amount of reasoning can conceal the fact that it was not for the benefit of the administration, but in the interest of the officials that the measure was needed. It was done, in short, to please officials by displeasing others. His Excellency has possibly earned the thanks of the former, but he cannot reasonably expect to be thanked by the latter for the measure. The fact need not be concealed that the speech of Sir Andrew Fraser on the subject has given much pain to the general public. This is, because, he is held in universal esteem, and the people cannot bear to see any slip on his part. Then again, he could never mean what he said, for here are the words of His Honour:—

"But since I have come to Bengal I have felt that there has been a great evil in respect of the relations between Government offices and the Press. I do not wish to enter into any detail, but I desire to state this, that I have found papers given perfectly freely to the Press which were marked confidential; I have found notes relating solely to the conduct of cases in the offices commented on in the newspapers; I have found demi-official letters which I have myself written finding their way to the Press; so that I have actually adopted the rule when I write a demi-official letter of keeping the copy in my own office box, instead of placing it in the office file. That of course makes me do precisely what a business man would do, as we have heard, in respect of correspondence affecting his business; but I need not say what an immense, what an intolerable, increase of work and responsibility and burden it means when I am unable to use my office for this legitimate purpose. Now I think, my Lord, in the first place, that this is due, or largely due, to the fact that there is no conscience whatsoever with regard to communication of confidential information; and I think that this is due partly to the fact that, whatever may have been intended, it was believed that it was no offence to communicate civil secrets. And, if there is one thing which this Bill will achieve which will be of advantage, it will be that it will enable people to understand that it is an offence to communicate important confidential affairs without the authority of the officer who is competent to give such authority."

We are quite in sympathy with His Honour when he complains of confidential matters, official or private, finding their way in the columns of newspapers. As is irritating to see such secrets made the subject of public comments. Comparing great things with small, we once found ourselves in a queer position when a private letter of ours, addressed to Mr. R. C. Dutt in England, every page of which was marked confidential, and of which we kept no copy, was, somehow or other, waylaid in its passage and published in a vernacular paper. But it was not we who suffered by the publication, but the paper which could be guilty of such an outrageous conduct. So, if any newspaper publishes any official secret of a confidential nature, not in the interests of the public but from stupidity or spite, it receives its punishment in the condemnation of the public, for, no right-minded person can approve of such an act. As the sun will not cease to rise or the wind to blow by the disclosure of such secrets, so, beyond some temporary irritation, it should cause no other feeling to a really sensible person.

But is it a fact, that demi-official letters of His Honour containing confidential information of no public importance, have appeared in papers? If it were not a fact, His Honour would never have mentioned it in a public speech. That being so, will he be pleased to name the newspapers which gave publicity to such information and the nature of the communications published? For, it is not fair that the entire press should be condemned for the faults of a few. And even these condemned few ought to be given an opportunity of defending themselves.

And, surely, His Honour cannot mean that the object of the measure is to protect such civil secrets as relate "to the conduct of cases in the offices" and so forth. Take, for instance the following suppositional case: A District Magistrate does an unworthy act and the Lieutenant-Governor institutes a private enquiry into the matter. A newspaper learns the circumstances and publishes official correspondence on the subject in its columns. Does the paper bring itself within the scope of the Act by such an act? Certainly not, judging from the remarks of the Viceroy and the mover of the Bill. The utterances of Sir A. Fraser are, however, capable of such interpretation. But why should the sympathetic ruler of a province, who is a good Christian and an honest man have any secret to conceal from the people? He knows very well that there is a God Who reads heart and from Whom no secret

can ever be kept concealed; and if he has to fear any Being in the universe, it is Him. A man with such a belief can never have secrets offensive to God, and what does he care if such secrets are known to his fellow-beings?

A measure like the Official Secrets Act can only be welcomed by an official who has secrets, which will not bear public scrutiny, an official who has a bad conscience, or who is hypocritical and delights in intrigue. Sir Andrew is the reverse of such officials. How can he, when his heart is as pure as a gem of Golconda, and as guileless as that of a child, benefit by protecting his secrets? The public would have been more glad, and it would have been more in keeping with his character, if Sir Andrew Fraser, instead of showing exultation over the passing of the Bill, had challenged the members of the press to do their worst by betraying his so-called secrets. He ought to have proudly told the world that he had no secret of which he was ashamed; and if any of his so-called secrets were betrayed it would only raise him in the estimation of the public, and not put him but his betrayer to shame. Anyhow, as stated before, the Viceroy cannot expect any grateful feelings from others than officials for this measure. As the press is more vigilant in Bengal, it will suffer more from its provisions than the newspapers of other provinces.

The University "reform" is another work of Lord Curzon, which has not earned for him thanks. It was hinted that this measure had a particular object to fulfil, namely, to put some restraint upon the doings of an "individual" who, it was alleged, had made money out of his educational institution. But the Viceroy could have easily introduced his reforms without depriving the natives of India of almost every control over the educational institutions. The Indians have shown in every way possible that they do not like this "reform," and they do not want it. So His Excellency is forcing it upon them. His Excellency's scheme will affect Bengal more than it will affect other Provinces; for higher education has taken deeper root and is more widely spread here than in any other Province.

Then about the partition question, His Excellency can no longer have any doubt that he will have to carry out his measures at the point of the bayonet, that is to say, against the wishes of the whole nation. For the purpose of inducing the people of East Bengal to swallow the bait, the prospect was held out to them of building up a new province and converting it into a Lieutenant-Governorship. But what this means is very clear to all. It means, the creation of a larger number of fat berths for Europeans at the cost of the people of this country.

Now India has been flooded with officials "recruited from England." Never in the annals of the world was the spectacle seen of the children of the soil being in this manner almost entirely ostracised from the public services of their own country as is witnessed in this unfortunate country. What makes the position of the Viceroy very strange is that he is himself aware of this grave injustice to India. India has not and can never forget His Excellency's Jeypore speech, made eloquently expressive by a beautiful metaphor, in which he feelingly condemned the practice of nourishing foreigners by depriving the people of their birth-right. Knowing full well that India in this respect is unjustly treated by England—realizing that this is a real grievance,—how can His Lordship support an arrangement which will only multiply the number of highly-paid officials "recruited from England?"

Lord Curzon is accused of having created new berths for the benefit of Europeans and Eurasians. In the new Agricultural College at Pusa, seven fat berths have been created at one swoop for the Europeans. There is also no doubt that the Eurasians have obtained a status during His Lordship's administration which they never enjoyed before. Nay, it was at one time believed that one of the cherished objects of the Government, nowadays, is to replace the Bengalees by substitutes recruited from the Eurasian community, not on account of their superior ability but because of their colour. Circulars announcing "no native need apply" for a Government post were at one time promulgated in secret; now it is done openly. All this we would have never said had we not believed that Lord Curzon, in his heart of hearts, is generous, and he really means well.

PARTITION QUESTION IN AMERICA.

THIRTEEN States of North America, some one hundred and twenty-five years ago, united for the purpose of forming a country, and that was the United States. The number of such States increased rapidly, for others gradually joined the Union. And when the number of such States had trebled, a few of them in the South wanted to cut off their connection with the rest. Thus a partition question arose in America which is now fiercely exercising the people of this country.

Those States in the South, which desired a separate existence, had good reasons for separation. They fancied that their private interest would be better served if they could separate themselves from the Union. They had united for a purpose,—of securing their national independence—they had secured the desired object, why should they not separate if separation served the purpose better than Union? If we had the privilege, argued the separatists, of entering into a partnership, we have surely the privilege of dissolving it. That being the case, should not the South, they contended, be permitted to dissolve the Union if it served their purposes better than by maintaining it?

The Unionists, however, did not like this sort of argument; for they saw that right was on the side of their opponents. But yet they could not permit a separation for excellent reasons. If they permitted the few States to secede from the Union, two rival powers would be created in the continent, which would destroy one another, and lead to the eventual subjugation of both by England, which had never forgiven the Americans for their success in securing their independence. And thus the quarrel between the South and the North commenced.

We are now in the midst of such a controversy. The rulers of Bengal have proposed to divide our country into two, but the people are dead opposed to the division. How is the difference between the ruled in Bengal and its rulers to be settled? The latter intend to do it in this manner. They say that it is not true that Bengal objects to be divided; that

if it is true that they object, the rulers have no need to listen to their objection; for they know everything—nay, they know better than the people themselves what would serve them best; that they are the true representatives of the people, and they will, therefore, do whatever is best for them.

In America, however, the difference was sought to be settled in another way. The North and the South fought—they fought over the partition question, and that so fiercely that one of the richest countries in the world was desolated, and hundreds of thousands of the bravest and noblest of men were sacrificed.

The rulers of India can thus see that the act of splitting a nation into two, or that of the dissolution of a union which nations have entered into, is too serious a matter to be disposed of by a Government Resolution. Here in this country the Government no doubt is irresistible and can declare, "let there be a partition," and have the thing done by a dash of the pen; but in other parts of the world, men have undergone immense sacrifices over this question, which seems so petty to the rulers of India.

It is this question of partition which created a new party in England called the Unionists; it ruined Mr. Gladstone; it created Joseph Chamberlain, the dictator of England. If the Viceroy had claimed for himself and his subordinates the position of representatives of the people as a great joke, we could have enjoyed it, but surely he can not mean it seriously when he says that he and his subordinates are quite competent to represent the people of India. They are not babes, nor are they savages, and they ought to be treated as rational creatures who understand their interests, better than outsiders, however able and sympathetic they may be. Very little idea has the Viceroy of the pain that the partition scheme has caused to the people of this country. His duty, next to the maintenance of the Empire, is to respect the wishes of the people subject to British rule.

Our rulers belong to an enlightened race. They will shed their best blood for the defence of what is right. But here we see hundreds of millions are shrieking in pain, because they are helpless to avert a measure which they hate. And in return they are told that they ought to remain quiet, and never question the right of their rulers to do whatever they like with their affairs.

INDIANS AND FILIPINOS.

WHEN the Americans acquired Philippines, we ventured to bring one fact to the consideration of our rulers, namely, that it would be a shame if the Americans were found to treat the Filipinos more generously than the English rulers did the Indians. As a matter of fact, we now see, the Americans have resolved not only to treat their "fellow-subjects" in a most sympathetic manner and promised a great future to them, but are practically showing that they mean what they say. Governor William H. Taft made over his office as civil governor of the Philippines to his vice, Luke E. Wright, and returned to Washington to succeed Blount as secretary of war. He left affairs in the hands of the following men, who make up the insular cabinet:

Governor—Luke E. Wright.
Vice-Governor and Secretary of Finance and Justice—Henry C. Ide.
Secretary of the Interior—Dean C. Worcester.
Attorney-General—L. R. Wilfley.
Secretary of Public Instruction—Gen. James F. Smith.
Director of Posts—C. M. Cotterman.
Chairman of the Civil Service Commission—W. S. Washburn.
Treasurer—Frank W. Branagan.
Executive Secretary—A. W. Ferguson.
Auditor—A. L. Lawshe.

The Supreme Court of the Philippines is composed of these men:
Chief Justice—C. Arellano.
Associate Justice—Florentino Torres.
Associate Justice—Joseph F. Cooper.
Associate Justice—Charles H. Willard.
Associate Justice—Victorino Mapa.
Associate Justice—John T. McDough.
Associate Justice—E. Finley Johnson.
It will be seen that four Americans and three Filipinos make up the Supreme Court of the islands. Yet very few of the inhabitants of the country can yet speak English fluently. The Chief Justice, C. Arellano, is fifty-seven years old, a native of the province of Batangas. He was educated at the Royal College of San Juan de Letran and at the University of St. Thomas of Manila, where he began his professional life. Associate Justice Florentino Torres is sixty, a St. Tomas graduate, and a specialist in criminal law. Justice Victorino Mapa, a native of the province of Capiz, was born in 1864, is like his two native associates, a graduate of St. Tomas, and a Manila lawyer. In 1896 he became mayor of Iloilo, and in the last Spanish administration he was a member of a Council of Reformers.

The statistics show that not only are more Filipinos entering examinations than heretofore, but that the proportion of those securing eligibility is much greater than heretofore. The examinations held during the past year have developed the fact that many Filipinos have secured a sufficient knowledge of the English language to take examinations in English and obtain eligibility therein. More Filipinos than Americans have been appointed from the Board's register of eligibles.

The examination system providing a method of entrance into the civil service has greatly stimulated the Filipino to avail himself of the educational advantages offered in the public schools. The policy of the Government is to appoint Filipinos to all positions which they are capable of filling.

It must be borne in mind that the Americans have only just begun the work of the Government and they have to create materials in the country. And yet what do we find? Of the seven Judges in the Supreme Court in the islands; three are Filipinos! Nor is this all. The Chief Justice is a Filipino! The English are here for nearly two hundred years. The people are as educated and civilized as the rulers themselves are. Yet, in the Supreme Court here, out of fourteen Judges, only three are Indians, and none of them has ever been appointed as permanent Chief Justice! We deeply regret that this should be the case, when the English are the most enlightened nation in Europe, and the Indians, the most enlightened in Asia.

It is also a remarkable fact that more Filipinos than Americans have been registered as eligible for appointments in the Philippines. What is the case here? The educated classes have long been ostracised completely from the higher departments of the State service; they are now being expelled even from the petty appointments in order to make room for "Poor Whites" and Eurasians! Indeed, no country in the world presented such a unique spectacle as India under British rule does, namely, the people, though highly qualified, have not the privilege of holding not only lucrative and responsible appointments in their own land but even many unimportant posts in the subordinate services.

Another fact already noticed by us is that, a large number of Filipino students have been taken to America at Government expense for the purpose of affording them suitable education. In this way, the American Government intend to create a class of educated Filipinos and leave the administration of the country eligible for appointments in the Philippines, gradually to their hands. The policy of our Government, unfortunately, is in the other direction. It is to create berths for foreigners, "recruited from England," on the plea that properly educated men are not available in India to take charge of these posts. But, why not, like the Americans, send out Indians to England for education, and make over the appointments to them when they are fully qualified to hold them?

The following letter has been addressed to us by the Private Secretary to H. H. the Lieutenant-Governor:—

"Sir,—The Lieutenant-Governor's attention has been drawn to a statement published in your paper that Mr. Corbett, the District Superintendent of Police, Comilla, entered the compound of a gentleman of that town and broke up a party of musicians, doing damage to their instruments. It has been ascertained that the paragraph in question is entirely incorrect as regards Mr. Corbett. He was in his house at the time in question and it appears to be a case of mistaken identity. I am therefore to request that you will make an early opportunity to remedy by a contradiction the injustice thus done to Mr. Corbett."

Yours faithfully
H. L. STEPHENSON I.C.S."

March 11, 1904.
It is gratifying to learn that the Lieutenant-Governor not only takes note of what appears in other than the editorial columns of the Indian Press, but institutes prompt inquiry into the truth or otherwise of statements, when they relate to a public officer. We do not know whether His Honour himself reads the papers or his Private Secretary does the work for him. Whoever does it, we must humbly submit, he should not fasten the blunder of James upon John. It is quite possible that some newspapers, when describing the incident, connected Mr. Corbett with it, but we never did it. And this, we did not notice the matter in an editorial paragraph at all; it appeared in this letter of an occasional correspondent. But, does it matter much whether Mr. Corbett or Moulvi Karimullah of the local police was concerned in the disgraceful affair? The point is whether or not a police officer entered the compound of a gentleman of the town when he was performing a religious festival and behaved in the way he is alleged to have done. On that point the Private Secretary is silent. May we therefore take it that such a thing really happened? If so, the Indian papers which brought the unjustifiable conduct of the police officer to light should be thanked, for, otherwise, the matter would have never come to the notice of the ruler of the Province. It is very good of the Lieutenant-Governor to point out the mistake of a newspaper in a friendly spirit. For the sake of fairness, we would also submit, that when a newspaper makes an allegation against an official, and it is found to be correct on enquiry, His Honour should be pleased to acknowledge it. For instance, the other day, we unearthed an objectionable circular relating to pig-sticking issued by Mr. Garrett of Rajshahy. We are quite in the dark whether any notice has been taken of the matter or not.

We learn from the "Statesman" that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and Lady Fraser gave on Friday last a farewell entertainment in honour of the two retiring Judges of the High Court, Justices Hill and Stevens. The former carries with him the good-will of the people; for there is no doubt that he was an ornament to the highest judicial tribunal in the land. He was universally respected for his judicial temper, wide knowledge of law, and sympathetic heart. We wish we could speak in the same way of the other Judge. We do not doubt for a moment that he discharged his duties honestly and, according to his own light, but, then, he could never train as a civilian. The result was that, although he spoke English as fluently as a Criminal Judge, he was more for conviction than for acquittal. Indeed, so long he presided over the Criminal Bench, there was quaternation and walling throughout the length and breadth of the Province. The people would have been glad if he had retired two years earlier and enjoyed his well-earned pension in his native land, instead of sitting on the Bench here and administering justice in a way no doubt agreeable to him, but which does not suit the non-criminal instincts of the people of Bengal.

We do not know which of the two speeches at the last meeting of the Bengal Council to admire most—that of the Hon'ble Mr. Woodroffe or of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. Both were in their best form, and both spoke in the interests of the public. Mr. Woodroffe was not for hurrying through the Excise Bill, as the question it dealt with affected not only the material but moral interests of the people. He said, he was not one of those fanatics or fastidists who considered that drink in itself "per se" was wrong. Yet, if liquor were taken in excess, the evils which followed were of a most deadly character. What then was the result? "It was," Mr. Woodroffe observed, "an increase in drink and a great increase in the excise revenue of the country. But what was the condition of the people? Was not their material and their moral condition far greater value to this country than the rise in the revenue of the Excise Department?" He

therefore suggested that the Bill should be re-committed to the Select Committee and thoroughly threshed out.

ALTHOUGH the Hon'ble Mr. Buckland, the member in charge of the Bill, opposed the motion, the Lieutenant-Governor not only accepted it, but most eloquently expressed his desire to make the measure as good as it was possible for them to do. His Honour said he had no desire to rush this legislation through. "We do not care," observed Sir Andrew Fraser, "even if it takes a long time, because it will last a long time, and we feel we ought not to hurry through this legislation, because it is going to influence the country for a long time to come." If the Viceroy and the rulers of Provinces were actuated by this liberal and sympathetic spirit when legislating for the millions and hundreds of millions in this country, what a load of misery would have been removed from this country. What, however, they generally do is to introduce a Bill and pass it as soon as possible, without feeling in the least the grave responsibility lying on their shoulders. Here, sometimes, Bills are passed at one sitting, although it will take at least a whole Parliamentary session to pass a most unimportant measure in England. The Indian Official Secrets Bill was passed in the course of three or four sittings; but, it required full seven months for the British Parliament to pass the English Official Secrets Act.

Who is to succeed Justice Amir Ali, who has submitted his application for retirement. The answer depends upon another question—is the Government going to fill up the vacancy from among the Mussalmins or other sections of the Indian community? Of course the Government will never do the outrageous thing of appointing other than an Indian in the place of Mr. Amir Ali; but the point is who is this Indian to succeed him? In the appointment of a High Court Judge, the question of Hindu or Mussalman, Parsee or Jain should never be raised. He who is most qualified should occupy the seat. If a worthy Vakeel than Babu Saroda Charan Mitra were available among the Mussalmins or Parsees, we would have declared for him and not Babu Saroda Charan when he occupied the place of Justice Bannerjee. Considerations of merit, and not of race or creed, should guide the Government in determining this question. If it is, however, decided to select one from the Mussalman community, we do not see why should not Moulvi Mahomed Yusoff, whose claims have already been urged in several quarters, be appointed to the post? He is not only one of the prominent Vakeels of the High Court, but is held in high esteem both by the Hindus and Mussalmins. We believe, he is the senior Mohammedan Vakeel who is yet eligible to a seat in the High Court. At any event the post should be given to a competent Indian; and a little enquiry will enable the Chief Justice to ascertain whether Moulvi Mahomed Yusoff is fit for the post or not.

We have already noticed the case of the Navadwip Municipality. The matter requires the personal attention of the Lieutenant-Governor. It seems that a curse has rained upon the Municipalities of the Nadia District. The Santipur Municipality lost its independence only last year, and the death-knell of the Navadwip Municipality was sounded on the 6th January last. The "Calcutta Gazette" of that date subverted the independence of the municipality and placed it under a Government official. The authorities of the day, it appears, have become too much imbued with imperialistic ideas; they cannot bear the least opposition to their wishes. The case, as stated in the "Gazette," appears to be that the Government wanted the municipality of Navadwip to introduce the latrine system into the town, and in deference to the Government's order a special meeting was held in which it was resolved that the latrine system should be introduced into a selected area, rather than into the whole town, and the most important and congested area of the town was selected for the purpose. The Government was not satisfied with this partial submission and stigmatised the municipality as supine and incompetent.

May we ask if the municipality was in any way disobedient or obstructive or incompetent? So far as we are aware, the latrine system is gradually introduced in all municipal towns. Even in the rich city of Calcutta, the new latrine system is being gradually introduced into its different parts. In the mufassil the householders generally build their privies in some convenient, secluded nook of their houses. So the change of their sites and making a passage for the "mether" are insuperable difficulties for the construction of new ones. Of course the municipality had to consider many circumstances before introducing this novel and expensive system into each and every part of the town. The locality selected by the municipality, though small in area compared to the total area of the town, is small, but its importance can not be over-rated. It is the quarter where the pilgrims are accommodated and where exists nearly one half of the total number of privies of the town, some five hundred out of one thousand.

Is this not sufficient compliance with Government order? We submit it is. If few public conveniences a municipal measure is slowly introduced into the municipality and that for cogent reasons, that does not betray recalcitration or disobedience or incompetence. Besides, at the head of the Navadwip Municipality is an ex-Sub-Judge; the Vice-Chairman is also a Government pensioner; and the rest of the Commissioners are also men of light and leading who would not merely for opposition's sake oppose Government in any way. So any deliberate obstruction on their part to a Government order is out of the question. Navadwip is the seat of Sanskrit learning from very ancient times and is known throughout the civilized world as a place of pilgrimage. It would be a pity to see it humiliated in the way as it has been done. The sympathetic Government of Sir Andrew Fraser, we dare say, will reconsider the matter and restore the independence of the Municipality.

BAHU MUNNA LAL had been serving as a Sarbarakar of the Sambathara Court of Ward's estate for the last 16 years in the district of Mazaffernagar, in the United Provinces. One day he was surprised to learn that the District Magistrate had ordered his

dismissal and that without recording any charges against him. The poor man, aggrieved at this extraordinary order of the Magistrate, appealed against it to the Commissioner and the Board, but to no effect. He next appealed to the Local Government but the latter declined to interfere in the matter. Failing to get justice at the hands of the local authorities Munnalal presented his pitiful case before His Excellency direct. The Government of India in returning him the papers directed him to send them through the Local Government. Accordingly he submitted the petition to the Local Government to be transmitted to the Government of India. But the former refused to forward the petition to the Supreme Government on the ground that as the petitioner's pay was less than Rs. 100 it was against the rule. The situation then stands thus: Babu Munnalal does not know why he has been dismissed. He appeals to the Government of the United Provinces for doing justice to him but in vain. He then goes up to the Government of India but the latter can not hear him except through the proper channel. But the U. P. Government would not forward his case to the Supreme Government on technical grounds. So, the case of Munnalal is indeed a hard one. He has been condemned but why he does not know and he has been denied even a hearing on his behalf! It is a Lord Curzon is a protector of these unjustly treated officials in the subordinate service. Will he be pleased to enquire into the case?

In a recent issue, we noticed a case in which a boy, Ajub Mea, had been sentenced to transportation for life by the Sessions Judge of Tippera and which sentence was, on appeal to the High Court, set aside and the juvenile accused was acquitted. The editor of the "Weekly Chronicle," who lately visited Comilla, has thrown some new light on the case. This is what he says:—

"The facts of the case appeared to us rather extraordinary. Apart from the suspicious character of the confession about which ugly rumours incriminating the investigating police were in the air, we could not make up our mind to believe that a mere quarrel over an ink-pot could be any motive for the commission of so dastardly a crime on the part of a boy of such tender age. In legal or lay circles, wherever we went, the opinion was unanimous as to a flagrant miscarriage of justice, and it was confidently expected that the conviction would be set aside on appeal. For our own part we were simply unnerved by the account of the case, as we got it, from more than one quarter. The local papers had nothing to say about it, for we were told, the Editor of one was handicapped by being retained for the prosecution and the other could not be expected to criticise the actions of the local authorities. However, that might be, it is with a sense of relief we have now come to learn that the boy has been acquitted on appeal by the High Court and British justice once more vindicated."

Considering the grave nature of the charges insinuated against the local Police we think the matter deserves the serious attention of the Bengal Government and should be thoroughly sifted.

The voice of the people is said to be the voice of God, but in this country the rules do not admit it. They declare, without reserve, that the people of India have no voice, at least they need have no voice, for their alien rulers know all they want, and will give them all that they really need. But are they so wise and is it not a little bit impudent on their part to claim to represent the people and refuse to listen to them on that score? They are, however, punished adequately for this conceit, though in an indirect way. Half of the people of England believe that Mr. Chamberlain will ruin their country, yet they cannot get rid of him. He was the author of the Boer war which proved almost as disastrous to the Empire as the wars during the Napoleonic period. But why was England led to undertake this bloody fight? The English people are gradually realising how they had been deceived into this business. We quote the following from a circular by the Peace Party in England re-published in the "Morning Leader":—

"With such damning evidence as to the real objects of those who promoted the war it will be easily understood why Mr. Chamberlain to please the millionaires refused the repeated offers of President Kruger to submit any matters in dispute to arbitration. We had a very weak case, and a body of Arbitrators would speedily have found that out. Away then, with the delusion that this war waged in order to open up new territory to British Colonists. The capitalists who brought up or hired the Press both in South Africa and England to clamour for war, are largely Jews and foreigners. The cry which they raised about the Outlanders' grievances, the arming of the Boers, a Dutch conspiracy, etc., were mere pretexts to deceive you. The enormous sums which they made out of the Rhodesian Diamond Mines emboldened them in their efforts to become absolute masters of the Transvaal gold mines also. They have all along wanted war to double their profits by cheap forced native labour. This is now proved out of the mouths of the capitalists themselves. And for this despicable object the British people have to pay untold millions and British blood already is poured out like water on South African soil!"

If the rulers do not listen to our grievances, wishes or aspirations, they themselves are, in the same manner, deceived by others. That is some comfort. Fancy too situation. A body of capitalists, most of them Jews and foreigners, wanted cheap labour to utilise the enormous profits they enjoyed, they further coveted the Transvaal gold-mines. So they formed the brilliant plan of making the British people do all these for them at the expenditure of their own gold and blood. They first purchased the reptile section of the press, and made them appeal to the worst passions of Jean Bull—to his vanity and cupidity. They declared that the Boers had insulted the British; that to conquer them would cost very little; that Transvaal conquered, it would provide for White labour. They knew they had only to implicate John Bull and he would do the rest. The White labour was found after the war to consist of others than Englishmen. Nay, the capitalists do not want White labour

at all. They wanted only native labour and they expected the Government would impose a tax upon these natives and reduce them into the condition of slaves for their benefit. So it was for these objects that Englishmen were led to sacrifice immense gold and best blood, and take upon themselves the odium of annihilating a brave nation. With such a record Englishmen have no right to claim that they are a wise people and know more of the wishes and grievances of the Indians than the people themselves. Let them first learn to take care of themselves before they undertake to take care of the interests of others who are aliens to them in every respect.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

London, Feb. 25.

TWO PHRASES FOR THE WEEK.

"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves. And, under a just God, they cannot long retain it."

—Abraham Lincoln.

"Finally, I insist that if there is anything that is the duty of the whole people to never entrust to any hands but their own, that thing is the preservation and perpetuity of their own liberties and institutions."

—Abraham Lincoln.

THE LEICESTER CONFERENCE ON INDIA.

I intended last week to direct attention in this Letter to the Conference on India held in Leicester forty-eight hours before the mail left. The arrangements I made to procure a report of the proceedings miscarried, and I was, therefore, unable to give you information on the subject. To-day I only make general reference to one interesting incident in the campaign which is being waged in England for India. Amongst those who sent letters of regret at their inability to be present at the meeting were the Radical Member of Parliament, Mr. Broadhurst, and the Tory Member of Parliament, Sir John Rolleston, both Members for the Borough, and Mr. J. R. MacDonald, the Labour Candidate who, because the Liberals and Radicals have decided not to run a second candidate but to support the Labour man, will support Sir John Rolleston from his seat. The speakers at the Conference were Sir Henry Cotton, Mr. U. K. Dutt, Mrs. Bradlaugh Bonner, and Mr. S. H. Swinney. Between them they covered much ground, and brought Indian questions well before the assembled audience. A local political magnate, Mr. Councillor Davies, moved a vote of thanks to the visitors, and declared that the Indian people had a right to rebel—though he did not mean by Mutiny methods—against their present grievances, and the working classes of this country should support them in doing so. We sent out, he said, the sons of aristocrats to govern a nation whose thoughts and manners they did not study and did not understand. We spent £180,000,000 on railways which India did not need and neglected irrigation works which India needed very badly. The fact was, we constructed railways to oblige the capitalist ironfounders who wanted to dispose of their iron goods. The voters of England should acquire themselves with the needs of the Indian people, who were as much the subjects of King Edward as the British people, and these problems should be considered at Trades Union Congresses and similar assemblies of workers. The Councillor finally pleaded for the establishment of local government in which the people should have a gradually increasing share until India was wholly self-ruled. Councillor Amos Mann, having echoed this Home Rule sentiment, the vote of thanks was heartily passed. The realisation of the wish so cordially expressed would bring India very near to that "practical independence" which the Americans have promised to the Filipinos.

THE INEFFICIENCY OF THE RUSSIAN NAVY.

An English engineer, who has spent a considerable time in the Far East, has been opening men's eyes as to the reason why the Japanese have, so easily, obtained command of the seas. No doubt a greater part of the success which the Mikado's sailors have achieved is due to Japanese readiness and resource, Japanese daring and determination. But there are other facts to be considered. French naval officers in the Far East have not hesitated to speak in the most condemnatory, not to say contemptuous, terms, of their ally's fleet. They do not wonder at the reverses which Russia has sustained. According to them, the Czar's ships were as foul as possible on their bottoms, from which long tresses of seaweed trailed, and on which there were tons of barnacles. They were incapable of steaming at anything like their reputed speed. The boilers of the older vessels were in a deplorable state, and the engines were not much better. "My informants told me," says the English naval engineer, whose narration is before me as I write, "that the guns on the same ships were not up to the mark, that the black powder in the magazines would handicap the Russian boats, and that the old tuses at hand for the shells were not above suspicion. The Frenchmen felt very keenly for the Russians in the event of war, and deplored the fact that the authorities in St. Petersburg did not insist upon everything being done to give their ships a chance in view of the possibility of war." The Russians have, indeed, blundered into terrible catastrophes, and have themselves to thank for the disaster which has come upon them.

THE ANGLO-SAXON LACK OF CULTURE.

I wonder whether any copies of the weekly newspaper, known as the "Clarion" ever reach India. It is a paper worth seeing, more than that, it is a paper eminently worth reading. It is the organ of the Socialists. To the men who, bitterly resentful of the inequality and injustice with which affairs are conducted so that the many suffer and the rich are rich beyond their capacity of enjoyment, "The Clarion" is what Mr. Stead intended to make "The Daily Paper" in the home of the average Briton. With, of course many exceptions—the writer of his paragraph among them—the subscribers to this paper constitute a cordial brotherhood, bound together to labour for a common end, that end being the amelioration of the hard condition of vast numbers of the British people. Occasionally, the editorial eye is turned towards India. But neither Robert Blatchford, the Editor, nor any one of his many gradistors, has had his eyes opened

to the fact that for every single need in England there are forty worse in India. They are on the right side, everyone of them, and, on occasion, "The Clarion" says the fitting word. But, taken as a whole, the appreciation of the awful condition of things in India economically and politically, is lacking; that which sometimes attracts their attention is, after all, "a tale of little meaning." Some day they will awaken, as Mr. W. T. Stead, in the past two years, has awakened. When that time comes, the people of India will nowhere find heartier support than in the columns of "The Clarion," and encouragement from the comradeship of what appears therein. I have referred to the paper to direct attention to the concluding passages of an article in a series on Self-Culture addressed by Robert Blatchford to young men and young women. He quotes Matthew Arnold as saying that culture consists not in having something, but in being something, and goes on to remark that there is a difference between getting culture and being cultured. He alluded last week to the national boasts that we Anglo-Saxons are the dominant race, and that we have a genius for government. The fact that we can boast in that way shows, he says, that we are not a cultured people. Culture does not boast, and does not value domination. "And now," he continues, "let us ponder the following cutting from a daily newspaper of the current week:

"Sir Henry Cotton, addressing the Individualist Club on 'The Attitude of Europe to the Asiatic Races,' said that the bitterness of feeling between Englishmen and the races of India was more marked than in a former generation. As an instance which he termed typical of the extraordinary arrogance which was manifested by the white race, he stated that a Raja, invited to the Durbar, was travelling in a first-class carriage when a soldier, who had been sent to see that the carriage, through itself down on the long seat, and caused on the Raja to take off his boots and to wipe his legs. The Raja, strange to say, performed this act of self-abasement, but, on returning from the Durbar, he, to avoid any similar incident, travelled third class."

Upon this incident Mr. Blatchford thus expresses himself: "I shall not offer any comments upon that paragraph. Comments would spoil it. It has a political and religious significance, but with those we have no concern. I only ask here two questions: What must a man of culture think of the conduct of that British officer, and how much culture does the officer himself possess? Sir Henry Cotton describes that shameful incident as typical. I remember reading a few months ago how an effort was made in India by an English lord to get a clever Indian Prince invited to dine at an officers' mess, and how the cultured and courteous secretary of the mess replied: 'If your friend likes to take off his shoes and wait at table like the other natives, he may come. On no other terms will he be admitted. Well, culture, even a very little culture, would make that kind of ignorant-brutality impossible.' Ignorant brutality is an excellent description of the atrocity described."

AN ESPECIALLY IGNORANT CABINET MINISTER.

Cabinet Ministers, not being omniscient, or even as the late Mr. Gladstone or the present John Morley, frequently make blunders. "To err is human," remarks the critic, and passes on with no very strong word of censure. But, at times, such extraordinary blunders are made that all men stand amazed at the ignorance exhibited by one whose ignorance—in the circumstances—is unpardonable. Mr. Lyttleton, who has succeeded Mr. Chamberlain as Colonial Secretary is responsible for the biggest mistake which the House of Commons has known for many years. Speaking in the debate on the provision of Chinese labour for the Transvaal, he referred to the suggestion that had been made of a referendum to the people of the Transvaal. Was ever anything so un-English and so foolish suggested, he asked? "Such an expedient," he cried out in scornful terms, "is absolutely unknown in any portion of the British Empire." Mr. Lyttleton, be it borne in mind, is not only an educated gentleman, but a Member of Parliament of some years standing and now Secretary of State for the Colonies. Yet, he did not know, concerning the very countries he is now ruling that

The Commonwealth of Australia was instituted by referendum;

The number of licenses in New Zealand is determined by referendum every three years; Educational and franchise questions in South Australia have been settled by referendum; and

The number of members in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly has been arrived at by referendum.

That is to say, the political instrument, which "is absolutely unknown in any portion of the British Empire" is actually in frequent use in every country in the Australian Commonwealth! Still, Mr. Lyttleton is a fair average member of the present Cabinet. Since that wonderful Cabinet existed in which the Foreign Minister ceded Java to the Dutch because "he could not find the blessed place on the map," England has never had such a Ministry of Duffers as that now existing.

MR. HYNDMAN ON CHINESE LABOUR.

Mr. H. M. Hyndman has been for so many years, and will continue to be as long as he lives, a staunch friend of the Indian people. His remarks on public events cannot fail to be interesting to Indian readers. The provision of Chinese slave labour for the Rand has caused him to favour the public with his reminiscences of John Chinaman as a miner. He and his brother employed Chinese coolies in California, and he was afterwards in Australia when legislation forbidding the employment of Chinese labour was passed. Consequently, he is able to speak with something of authority. "I don't believe that they will ever get these Chinamen into the mines at all," said Mr. Hyndman to a "Daily News" interviewer, "unless they exercise overwhelming force. Both from my own experience and from conversations with mining men in Australia and California, I am convinced that nothing will force a Chinese coolie to go more than one hundred feet below the surface. When my brother and I employed them on the mines in California, we were paying 1 dollar 50 cent, and 2 dollars to Europeans for work above ground, and 3 dollars and 3 dollars 50 cents for work beneath the surface. But even the three and a half dollars a day would not induce the Chinaman to go down the mine.

Whether it is his religion, or fear of djinns, I do not know, but he will not go. If they trap them into these compounds and then try to force them underground, they can only succeed by torture and the lash." It would seem that the Chinese are disliked by the lower class Anglo-Saxon and American with whom they compete in the labour market for a reason which goes to the deepest root of human conduct. Mr. Hyndman points out that the Chinese coolies do not bring their women with them, and for some reason they exercise a fascination over European women of the labouring class. "The Chinese coolie makes an excellent and most attentive husband, and a woman who has once taken up with him will never leave him again. Naturally, the white workers did not like having their girls and women secured by Chinese bridegrooms, and doubtless this did something to inflame public feeling." I may here add that only recently I heard Dr. Pentecost—an American clergyman who has spent a considerable time in the East—observe that Chinamen in all ranks of life were the best husbands in the world. In fact, Dr. Pentecost's enthusiasm for John Chinaman is second only to his enthusiasm for the Anglo-Saxon race.

BAD IN SOUTH AFRICA: WORSE IN INDIA.

Among the more energetic of the Members of Parliament on the Liberal side is T. J. Macnamara, LL. D. He was born in Montreal, Canada, in 1861, but soon after came to England with his father, a soldier in a British regiment, and has achieved a great position in educational affairs. Much of his income is derived from journalism, and he has been Editor of "The Schoolmaster." In the discussions on Chinese Labour for the Transvaal he has taken a leading part in the House of Commons. In the press also he has been active. From one of his signed articles I take some particulars which, in themselves, are sad, but the sadness attaching to them seems of little importance when like particulars are furnished concerning India. Dr. Macnamara shows that while last year, in Great Britain, one miner per 1,000 was killed, and that whilst, during the South African war, the death-rate amongst the soldiers was under 40 per 1,000, in the Rand compounds the death-rate in 1902-3, was 70 per 1,000, and in one case went up to 106 per 1,000! This phase of the matter is so appalling, that Dr. Macnamara quotes the official table (p. 385 of the volume of evidence before the Commission) as follows:

NATIVE MORTALITY ON MINES. IN JOHANNESBURG, KRUGERSDORP, BOKSBURG, GERMISTON AND SPRINGS.

During the Month.	No. of Natives Employed.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.
November 1902	46,710	247	63.4
December, "	48,542	324	80.9
January, 1903	49,761	253	61.0
February, "	55,288	207	44.9
March, "	57,022	235	49.4
April, "	62,265	209	51.8
May, "	65,371	431	79.1
June, "	68,819	492	85.7
July, "	70,474	627	106.7
Average number of natives employed per month			58,250
Average number of deaths per month			343
Average death rate per 1,000 per annum			70.6

No doubt this is "appalling." An average death-rate of 70.6 per annum, with extremes of 44.9 and 106.7, is very bad. But what shall be said of India which, in respect to some of the countries embraced in the Indian Empire, had, in 1900-01, such higher averages officially recorded? Here are some of the ratios in India:

157.51	102.33	86.10
119.97	82.10	65.06
124.84	87.20	70.07
114.44	79.30	69.28

These facts are contained in a Blue Book which passed through Dr. Macnamara's hands. They related to his fellow-subjects. Why did he not pay some heed to such a terrible revelation of suffering and death?

Perhaps, if this paragraph should come under his notice, Dr. Macnamara will tell the readers of the "Patrika" why death-stricken Kaffirs are of more interest to him than death-stricken Hindus.

BRITISH WORKING MEN NOT WANTED IN JOHANNESBURG.

The indignation all over the country aroused by the Government's policy of slavery in the Transvaal by the importation of "animated machines" from China, is growing every day, and has quite driven the fiscal question into the background. Every newspaper one opens contains striking facts with regard to the attitude of the country and the determined opposition which will be made to the Chinese ordinance. The Churches are, naturally, taking a very active part in the protest; the working men's societies are bringing force to bear, and a number of influential bodies are combining to make a great demonstration in Hyde Park against the revival of slavery. It is a curious fact that the only Liberal Member of the House of Commons who voted in support of the Government's proposal to put the clock back to the days before Wilberforce, was the gentleman who represents the ancient town of Wisbech, in Cambridgeshire. Wisbech is one of the very few places in England which boast the possession of a statue to a great man who took an active part in the abolition of slavery movement, Thomas Clarkson. The people of the town are indignant that their Member should have so scorned the traditions of his constituency as to record his vote in favour of the Government. To-day the greatest excitement prevails not only in Birmingham but in all parts of the country: as to the result of the South Birmingham election. Mr. Chamberlain's stronghold has been assailed, and Mr. Hirst Hollowell, the Liberal candidate is making a great fight. The action of the Government last week with regard to the importation of Chinese miners into South Africa has rallied to Mr. Hollowell's banner large numbers of working men. At one of his meetings a letter was read from a Birmingham artisan now in South Africa. It is worth quoting in part here. The writer says: "Poor men are starving, and are offering themselves for very little money. In Johannesburg thousands of men are walking the streets out of work, and not likely to get any. Yet the mineowners are agitating for Chinese labour for the mines, when there are plenty of unemployed round them who would be only too glad to work at anything." Two Birmingham

the hope of settling there, have returned ham mechanics who went to South Africa in grievously disappointed. They say: "Not wanted there" was the cry. British working men are neither wanted nor welcome in South Africa. There are thousands of working men, disappointed and deceived, who would get back if they could. The Chamberlain-Milner bargain has betrayed England". What effect this question will have upon the voters will only be known to-morrow. Dr. Miller Macguire, the famous Army Coach, expresses himself in the strongest terms against the importation of Chinese. He holds the highest possible opinion of the Chinese workers, but protests that the present proposals entrap the yellow man into inhuman slavery—not for the benefit of the British race but for the magnates of Park Lane. The worship of gold, he maintains, is a greater evil than the competition of the yellow man.

Calcutta Gazette.—Mar. 16.

Mr. J. J. Platel, Jt. Magte. and Dy. Collr. Nadia, is appointed to act as Dist. and Sessions Judge of Nadia, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. W. B. Brown.

Mr. R. J. Hirst, Asst. Supdt. of Police, Shahabad, is transferred to Purnea.

Mr. H. L. L. Allanson, I.C.S., is allowed combined leave for six months.

Mr. J. H. Kerr, Offg. Jr. Secy. to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, is allowed leave for three months.

Mr. J. D. Cargill, Offg. Dist. and Sessions Judge, Nadia, is allowed combined leave for one year six months and twenty-five days.

Mr. F. N. Warden, Dist. Supdt. of Police, Saran, is allowed combined leave for eight months.

Babu Pares Nath Sen, Professor, Bethune College, is allowed leave for six weeks.

Maulvi Amjad Ali, Head Master, Anglo-Persian Department, Calcutta Madrasah, is allowed furlough for two years.

Mr. Syed Nasimul Huk, Munsif of Gaya, is appointed to be a Munsif of Bhagalpur.

Babu Dakshina Charan Mazumdar, Munsif of Bhagalpur, is appointed to be a Munsif of Gaya.

Mr. L. Birley, Offg. Jt. Magte. and Dy. Coll. Midnapur, is appointed to act as a Justice of the Peace within the territories under the Lieutenant-Governor's control.

Babu Atul Chandra Das Gupta, M.A., B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Sandip, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Atul Chunder Ghose.

Babu Akhouri Nityananda Singha, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Arrah, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Uma Nath Ghosal.

Babu Aswini Kumar Das, M.A., B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Lakhimpur during the absence, on leave, of Babu Prasanna Kumar Gupta.

Mr. Syed Nasiruddin Ahmed, Barrister-at-law, is appointed to act as a Munsif of Arrah, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Satis Chandra Banerjee.

Babu Behari Lal Sarcar, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Burdwan, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Bidhu Bhusan Chakravarti.

Babu Atul Chunder Ghose, Munsif of Sundep, is allowed leave for six weeks.

Babu Bidhu Bhusan Chakravarti, Munsif of Burdwan, is allowed leave for four months.

Babu Prasanna Kumar Gupta, Munsif of Lakhimpur, is allowed leave for one month.

Maulvi Abdul Jubbar, Munsif of Kishanganj, is allowed leave for one week in extension of the leave already granted to him.

Babu Satis Chandra Banerjee, Munsif of Arrah, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Uma Nath Ghosal, Munsif of Arrah, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Monmohan Neogy, Munsif of Chittagong is allowed leave for one month in extension of the leave already granted to him.

Babu Ashutosh Banerji, Munsif of Jessore, is allowed leave for one month.

The services of Lieutenant-Colonel R. Macrae, I.M.S., Officiating Civil Surgeon of Hazaribagh, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Dept.

Major R. J. A. Durant, R.A.M.C., is appointed to have charge of the civil medical duties at Dum-Dum, in addition to his military duties.

Maulvi Imdad Ali Sub-Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to the Rajshahi Division.

Maulvi Sujat Ali Ahmad, Sub-Dy. Coll. in charge of the Falakata tahsil, in the Jalpaiguri district, is allowed combined leave for fifteen months.

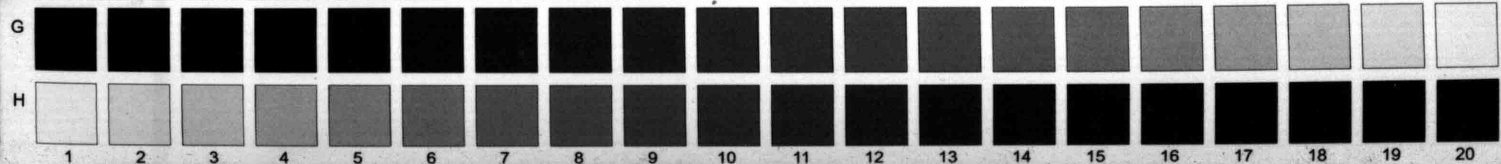
The Japanese who endeavoured to blow up the brigade over the Sungari River have been hanged. Bands of Tunguses have been observed under Japanese leadership. They are being pursued.

An Italian news agency has published a report that the Czar may shortly leave Russia to take command in person of the army in the Far East. This is, of course, an absurd story.

The Burdwan Municipal Corporation and the District Board will present addresses to the Viceroy during His Excellency's visit to that town.

The total daily cost of the Tibetan mission is estimated at £2,000. Should the undertaking be finished in a year—and it may last longer—the whole expenditure must be a long way inside of a million sterling. So the rulers of India thought it fit that this poor country, where famine is an annual visitation, can afford to bear this extravagant and unnecessary burden.

The Madras police must congratulate themselves for the result of their recent labours. On last Christmas day some half-a-dozen European soldiers, under the influence of liquor, misbehaved themselves on the public road. The local police had not courage enough to prosecute the guilty soldiers; but they were alive of duty and so they prosecuted seven innocent villagers on a charge of assaulting the soldiers. Fortunately the case came on for hearing before a just and independent Magistrate, who after hearing the case acquitted the accused persons. But the police were not to be discomfited. They must do something. At last they prosecuted the man who supplied the soldiers with the wine. And this time they were successful. The wine-seller was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 100.



Calcutta and Mofussil.

Legislative Department.—It is settled that Mr. R. Green, who is now on special duty in the Legislative Department, will succeed Mr. Camdnu as Deputy Secretary.

Plague Diary.—There were 44 cases and 43 deaths from plague in the city on the 15th instant, the total mortality from all causes being 76 against a quinquennial average of 166.

The Home Member.—The Home Member of Council, Sir Denzil Ibbetson, on leaving Calcutta will pay a visit to Lucknow, where he will be the guest of Sir James La Touche, arriving on the 1st April.

Legislative.—The Hon'ble Mr. Behari Lal Gupta, Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs has been renominated to be a Member of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Examination of Compounders.—The next half-yearly examination of Compounders will begin at 9 A. M. on the 22nd and 23rd April at the Campbell Medical School, and on the 26th April at the Dacca Medical School.

Inspector of School.—Miss Lilian Brook, who has been appointed by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India to be a member of the Indian Educational Service, is appointed to be Inspector of Schools in Bengal.

Research Scholarship.—The Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to sanction the continuance to Babu Ganga Mohan Laskar, M.A., for a further period of six months, of the Research scholarship of Rs. 100 per mensem.

Assault by a European.—On Tuesday, before the Chief Presidency Magistrate, the case in which one A. A. Price stood charged with having assaulted his wife, was concluded. The court found the defendant guilty and sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 3.

Supreme Council.—It is unlikely that the vacancy among the Additional Members of the Viceroy's Legislative Council, due to Mr. Lely's appointment as Officiating Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, will be filled up as the cold weather Session is so near its close.

Marriage Registrar of Sikkim.—The Lieutenant-Governor, on the recommendation of the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division, is pleased to appoint Mr. John Claude White, Political Officer, Sikkim, to be a Marriage Registrar in respect of the Native State of Sikkim.

Director of Public Instruction.—The Hon'ble P. W. Dept., Mr. P. G. Jacobs, Executive Engineer, is, on return from leave, appointed Executive Engineer, Circular and Eastern Canals Division, during the absence of Mr. G. J. St. C. Sedgley. Babu Poresh Charan Chatterjee, Assistant Engineer, passed the Lower Standard examination in Urdu.

Theft by a Eurasian.—On Tuesday, before Mr. Abdul Rahim, the second Presidency Magistrate, a Eurasian lad was re-arrested on a charge of theft of a bike, belonging to one Mr. Smith of the Appraiser's department, Customs House. The Court found the accused guilty and sentenced him to suffer two months' rigorous imprisonment.

Exodus to Simla.—The annual exodus to Simla is now beginning. During the next month, a constant stream of officials and records will be moving northwards from Calcutta Army Headquarters as, as usual, the first to start. Their camp offices close, at Fort William, on the 19th instant, an advance instalment left on Tuesday night.

Civil Medical Dept.—Asst Surgeon Upendra Nath Brahmachari, Teacher of Materia Medica and Pathology, Dacca Medical School, is appointed to act as Teacher of Materia Medica in the Campbell Medical School, Calcutta during the absence on leave of Assistant Surgeon Hem Chandra San and Asst Surgeon Hem Chandra Sarkar is acting for him.

Examination of Teachers.—An examination in the knowledge of English idiom and in pronunciation for teachers of English in native schools will be held at the office of the Inspector of European Schools, 12 Dalhousie Square, East, on Friday, 25th March, at 11 A. M. An oral examination will also be held at the office of the Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division, on the 27th instant.

Examination of Opium.—An examination of the Patna and Benares provision opium of the season 1902-1903 will be held at the new Opium Godowns, No. 14, Strand Road, on Wednesday, the 30th March next at 11 A. M. Merchants, dealers and others interested in opium are invited to attend. Samples of the opium examined will be given to merchants and dealers only in small tins, which must be placed on the table, "labelled with the names" of the persons requiring the sample.

Alterations in Jurisdictions.—The Lieutenant-Governor sanctions the following alterations in the sub-divisional and thana jurisdictions of the district of Monghyr, with effect from 1st July 1903: The transfer of the Shaikpura Police Station, together with its outpost Barhiga, from the jurisdiction of the Jamui sub-division to that of the Sadar sub-division; the transfer of the mauzas mentioned in the list A from the jurisdiction of thana Surajgarh to that of thana Shaikpura; the conversion of thana Surajgarh, into a police-station with jurisdiction over the mauzas mentioned in the lists of B, C, and D transferred from thana Surajgarh, Shaikpura and Sikandra respectively; the transfer of the mauzas mentioned in the list E from the jurisdiction of thana Shaikpura to that of thana Sikandra; the transfer of the mauzas mentioned in the list F from the jurisdiction of thana Sikandra to that of thana Surajgarh; the transfer of the mauzas mentioned in the list G from the jurisdiction of thana Surajgarh to that of thana Jamui; the transfer of the mauzas mentioned in the list H from the jurisdiction of thana Jamui to that of thana Sikandra; the transfer of the mauzas mentioned in the list J from the jurisdiction of thana Jamui to that of thana Chakri.

Abolition of a Sub-Registrar Office.—The Lieutenant-Governor sanctions the abolition of the office of the Sub-Registrar of Lohardaga, in the district of Ranchi. Thana Lohardaga will henceforth be attached to the sub-district of Ranchi, and thanas Pakkot, Gumla, Chhainpur, Kochdaga, Ghagra, Kurdeg and Sisi to the new sub-district of Gumla. This notification will take effect on and from the 5th April 1904.

Bridge over the Hooghly River at Calcutta.—It is not unlikely that the question of a new bridge will come up again for consideration. The present floating bridge has outlived its allotted span, and has proved the necessity of a permanent structure. The Tower Bridge of London affords a good type of what might be adopted for ordinary traffic. If it is to be erected to serve railway needs also, an entirely new type will be necessary; but our great Engineers are fully capable of designing such a bridge.—"Indian Engineering."

A Treacherous Disciple Convicted.—On Monday, before Babu Gopal Chandra Mukerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, one Huro Mohan Ghose of Dasadpore was charged with criminal breach of trust and misappropriation in respect of some gold ornaments and cash belonging to his spiritual guide. The complainant entrusted all his valuables to the accused and went on a pilgrimage. On his return home, the complainant demanded back his articles but the accused denied all knowledge of them. The accused was found guilty and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment.

Weather and Crop Report.—Rain is reported from every district except Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Bogra, Mymensingh, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, and Purnea. The fall was heavy in Rajshahi and moderately heavy in parts of Lower Bengal, Orissa, and Chota Nagpur. Slight damage to crops has been caused by hail in Gaya, Bhagalpur, and Palamau. Prospects are otherwise good. Harvesting of "rabi" crops, pressing of sugarcane, and transplantation of summer rice continue. Ploughing and sowing are in progress. Cattle-disease is reported from ten districts. Fodder and water are generally sufficient. The price of common rice has risen in two districts, has fallen in five, and is stationary in the remainder.

Assam Crop Report.—The following is the report on the state and prospects of the crops in Assam for the week ending the 8th March: There has been slight rain in Surma Valley, Upper Assam, Nowgong, Naga Hills, and Manipur. Rain is wanted for tea in Kamrup. Tea pruning, sugarcane pressing, ploughing for rice and jute, and gathering of mustard are in progress. The outturn of mustard and sugarcane is fair to good. Sowing of early rice has begun in Cachar and Naga Hills. Cattle-disease is prevalent in four districts. Fodder is insufficient in parts of Sylhet and in the hills. Water is insufficient in the hills. Prices of common rice are:—Silehar 19, Sylhet 18, Tezpur 17, Dhubri, Gauhati, and Nowgong 16, Sibsagar 14, and Dibrugarh 12 seers per rupee.

A Curious Case Under the Arms Act.—Writes our Hooghly correspondent:—One Amulaya Biswas, a native of Arambagh sub-division, has got a license for his double-barrelled gun. He stops at Calcutta on business. His servant one Haripada Das fired the gun to scare away monkeys from his master's garden. The Police Sub-Inspector who happened to be present at the village at that time, arrested the man and sent him up under Clause F. section 19 of the Arms Act, but as it requires previous sanction of the Magistrate, the S.D.O. convicted Haripada under Clause E. section 19 i.e., going about armed with gun without a license. The man was fined Rs. 10 and the gun was ordered to be confiscated. There was a motion to the Sessions Judge of Hooghly. The main ground was that the confiscation of the gun was bad in law as it did not belong to the accused. The Sessions Judge however refused to interfere.

Departmental Examinations.—In connection with the first half-yearly Departmental Examination in 1904 of Assistant Magistrates and others, to be held on the 2nd May next, and the two following days, it is notified that there will be a local centre at Dacca for officers employed in the districts of the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions. The Examination will be held in the Dacca Commissioner's Court-room and will begin at 11 A. M. and 2 P. M. each day. It is notified that for the ensuing 3 days. It is notified that for the ensuing half-yearly departmental examination of Junior Civils, Deputy Magistrates and others, to be held at 11 A. M., on the 2nd May next and the two following days, a local Examination Committee will be convened at the Office of the Commissioner, Presidency Division, at No. 3 Charnock Place, Calcutta, for officers employed in the districts of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions. It is notified that the first half-yearly departmental examination in 1904 of Assistant Collectors and others serving in the Orissa Division will be held at the Orissa Commissioner's Office at Cuttack at 11 A. M. on Monday, the 2nd May next, and two following days.

Lord Curzon's Surprise Visit at Kalighat.—On Friday last at dusk, His Excellency Lord Curzon paid, what we would like to call, a surprise visit to the Kali's temple at Kalighat. The doors of the temple were hastily thrown open to enable His Excellency to have a view of the famous shrine. Usually the Shebais of the temple do not remain there at that time. And as none of them had any previous intimation of His Excellency's visit, they lost the opportunity thus presented of paying homage to the representative of their august Sovereign. This, we believe, is the first instance of a Viceroy visiting Kali temple at Kalighat, though it lies within a couple of miles from the Government House. Lord Curzon's solicitude for the preservation of our ancient temples and monuments is known to all, and we are deeply grateful to him for it. Perhaps it may not be out of our readers' recollection that some time ago, His Excellency presented a lantern to a Mahomedan place of worship in the Punjab as a keepsake of his visit there. Is it too much to expect that the Viceroyal visit to the famous Hindu temple at Kalighat will leave behind it a more useful memento, as, for example, the broadening of the paved way which leads from the main road to the temple, and the extreme narrowness of which must have struck His Excellency?

The German Emperor's broad and disinterested views, before and since the war began, are, says Reuter's Tokio correspondent, creating a favourable impression there, and tending to remove existing prejudices against him.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, Mar. 13.

Admiral Togo's report of Thursday's attack on Port Arthur states that the flotilla reached the harbour at midnight and laid mines despite the Russian fire. Six Russian torpedo boats moved out and a terrific engagement of thirty minutes took place. The ships almost touched one another.

The Japanese fire burst one of the ship's boilers and set another fire. They lost twenty men. Later the Japanese bombarded the fortress of Samshantan and Tchienwan, damaging buildings.—"Englishman."

Telegrams from Chirra appearing in the "Cologne Gazette" state that the Japanese landed at Tatungkan where they drove back the Russians, the Japanese then occupied Kalientse and Antung. It is reported that to avoid surrender the commander blew up the "Stereogutty."—"Daily News."

According to Admiral Togo's report of the fight at Port Arthur on 10th, the Japanese took the crew of the "Stereogutty" aboard the Japanese ships; another Russian ship was seen to be on fire. The Japanese losses were seven killed and eight wounded. The Japanese vessels were somewhat damaged. The subsequent bombardment is declared to have been remarkably effective. The report does not mention anything about the sinking of a Japanese torpedo-boat.

Reuter's correspondent at Tientsin says the serious anti-foreign riots have taken place on the Belgian Railway at Shansi. The mob captured a Frenchman, named M. Periot. Anxiety felt among the twenty foreigners employed on the railway.

Baron Suematsu, a Japanese statesman, has arrived at Liverpool. It is believed he has some mission.

General Kuropatkin had a magnificent senn off from St. Petersburg. Immense crowds assembled and wildly ovated him. The Grand Dukes, military authorities and Foreign Attaches bid farewell to him at the station.

London, Mar. 14.

The Russians have practically evacuated Korea. It is rumoured that the Japanese have occupied Antung after persistent resistance.—"Englishman."

Reports are afloat in various quarters that Port Arthur has fallen.—"Ibid."

Admiral Togo's attack on Port Arthur on the 10th inst., was the most effective made since the 9th ultimo. While one section of the Japanese flotilla of destroyers was engaged in sinking mechanical mines at the mouth of the harbour, the remainder engaged the Russian destroyers at close quarters. A furious conflict lasted for twenty minutes until the Russians retired upon the Japanese squadron approaching. The operations finished with the bombardment of Port Arthur by the battleships which fired 120 shells from the twelve-inch guns over the promontory at an unseen target, the cruisers at sea directing the aim by signals. The Japanese had previously destroyed the signal station and the mines depot upon the Island of Samshantan in Talieuwan Bay.

Admiral Togo telegraphs that owing to the deadly fire of the batteries and the approach of the "Novik" the Japanese were able to rescue only four from the disabled Russian destroyers, but these did not belong to the "Stereogutty" on which only dead bodies were found. It is believed that the rest of crew jumped overboard and perished.

Rumours of the evacuation of Port Arthur have proved to be baseless.

Relative to the arrest of the Naval Petty Officer, Martin, in Paris on the 11th instant, "suspicion" is being diverted to the Italian Naval Attaché, who, it is reported, has been recalled owing to the representations of the French Government. The Paris papers are now hinting that he only attempted to enter into relations with the Japanese Legation.

The sinking of the Japanese torpedo-boat and damage to the "Takasago" on the 10th instant are officially denied at Tokio. The damaged torpedo-boat will be repaired in a week and it will not be necessary to dock them.

Admiral Togo's full text of the report on the fighting of the 10th instant at Port Arthur says:—The Japanese flotilla sustained some damage but not serious. The ships had no damage done to them the fight between the Torpedo-boats was hottest; three of the Japanese almost touching the enemy's Torpedo-boats and pouring a heavy fire which lasted for twenty minutes.

Prior to the night the Japanese mines had been successfully laid at various points outside the harbour. The wreck of the destroyer sunk in Pigeon Bay on the 25th February was ascertained to be the Yushitani.

A Tokio official despatch states that the first issue of one hundred million Yen of war bonds has been covered four and a half times.

The Russian warship Dmitrievskii is patrolling the north Egyptian Coast and has stopped the German steamer Stuttgart and the British steamer Mortlake. The latter from Batoum for India was fired across by the Russians over her bows. She then stopped and the Russians went aboard and inspected her papers.

The Russian gunboat Mandjour at Shanghai has had her munitions, breech blocks and portions of her machinery removed to the Chinese arsenal at Shanghai.

Marquis Ito has started for Korea. A Press steamer from Cairu on Saturday approached to within a close view of the first two ports at Port Arthur. The upper part of them apparently had suffered terribly. A vast cloud of smoke was ascending from the new city in three columns but no troops, flags or other signs of life were visible.

Rumours are current among the Japanese at Tientsin, Shanghai and Tokio that the Russians virtually evacuated Port Arthur since Thursday.

London, Mar. 15.

The Prize Court at Sæboe has condemned the Russian steamer "Manchuria" with a cargo, chiefly of Ceylon tea.

Reuter's Yngkok correspondent says that prominent Russians at Port Arthur and Niuchwang admit that the Government intends to retire indefinitely until 300,000 men are mobilized to oppose the Japanese.

The Russian warships Pallada, Tsarevitch and Retvisan, damaged in action at Port Arthur, cannot be repaired inside of six months.

TELEGRAMS:

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

Baron Suematsu, who was interviewed by Reuter's representative yesterday, said he wished the world would understand that Japan was not waging war for the purpose of material gain and enlarging her territory; what was called the yellow peril was a kind of nightmare. Japan would do her work in such a way as to secure peace for some decades.

A Russian official despatch reports that four of the enemy's posts have been discovered on Chongchongang river which is north of Pingyang and declares that the Japanese cavalry patrol fell into an ambush and was dispersed.

The thorough re-organisation of the Korean administration is actively proceeding under the supervision of the Japanese, stringent measures being taken to check corruption.

It is rumoured at Tokio that the Russian fleet left Port Arthur after the fight on the 10th instant and was making a dash to join the squadron at Vladivostok, but a foreign ship which arrived at Neuchwang from Port Arthur reports that a short engagement took place there on Sunday, the two fleets exchanging twenty to thirty shots, the cruiser Dians being damaged.

A telegram from Port Said says the Dmetri Donskoi is visible from the shore patrolling, and yesterday she fired a blank shot and stopped the Italian cruiser, Marco Polo, en route to the Far East and apologised. She also stopped a Norwegian steamer alleged to be within three miles of the shore.

A Tokio telegram says that during the destroyer engagement on the tenth the vessels came so close that a Japanese sailor jumped aboard a Russian boat, cut the captain over the head with a cutlass and kicked him overboard.—"Englishman."

The Russian cruiser Diana was damaged at the Port Arthur engagement on Sunday.

Twenty disguised Japanese were captured signalling to the Japanese fleet.—"Englishman."

London, Mar. 16.

Reuter wires from Seoul that the Japanese authorities have ordered the correspondents at Pingyang and Anju to return to Seoul and have withdrawn their permits to go to the front.

London, Mar. 11.

Mr. Brodriok made a full statement regarding the use to which the sales of Council Bills and Telegraphic Transfers in 1903-04 were put, and added that it was not intended to hamper trade by restricting drawings in 1904-05 to a fixed amount in consequence of the large remittances in 1903-04.

The "Times" computes this year's deficit at £2,000,000 and next year's expenditure at £142,376,067, so that the prospect for the taxpayer is not a cheerful one.

It is officially announced that it is the King's pleasure not to disallow the Transvaal Labour Ordinance, but it cannot be brought into operation at present. It is understood that this means pending the completion of negotiations with China in reference to the regulations.

Kaiser William has left Bremerhaven for a tour in the Mediterranean.

London, Mar. 12.

In the match against South Australia at Adelaide South Australia made 269 in the first innings, and Warner's so far nine for one wicket.

In the Association football match between Scotland and Wales each team scored one goal. England scored 3 goals against Ireland who scored one.

In the Rugby match between Ireland and Wales the former made 14 points and the latter 12.

London, Mar. 13.

Kaiser William, on his way to the Mediterranean, spent half an hour off Dover and had a good view of the harbour in which he is keenly interested.

The Washington Senate has ratified the treaty with Abyssinia establishing trading ports as means of transport and communication.

London, Mar. 14.

A sensation took place in the Italian Chamber to-day, the Foreign Minister stating that an investigation by the Consul at Zanzibar appeared to confirm the report that the Naval Officer recently appointed Consul-General at Aden had a Somali beaten to death and thirty prisoners killed without a trial while at Bender waiting to be tried.

In the match against South Australia, England made 154 in first innings, Warner scoring fifty, South Australia were out in their second innings for 77.

London, Mar. 15.

England has beaten South Australia by nine wickets.

The Governor of Damaland telegraphs that 5,000 Hereros are still under arms and occupying a good position.

The Government has asked the Reichstag to sanction the speedy and effective measures.

In Italian Chamber yesterday the foreign minister announced that negotiations were proceeding with a view to purchasing Bender which at present was leased from Zanzibar.

The Begum of Bhopal has sailed from Jeddah homeward bound.

London, Mar. 16.

The French Government was yesterday defeated by a majority of eleven. An amendment was adopted by 282 against 271 making the period for suppressing clerical teaching ten years instead of five as proposed by the Government.

M. Pelletan, Minister of Marine, replying to the recent attacks made on the efficiency of Navy said, that since his taking charge of the office he had reinforced the squadron in the Far East; which would be completed with the destroyer division. He had also provided for the safety of the Colonies by an organisation of the mobile defences in the shape of destroyers and submarines, wherein nothing had been previously done. The delays in the construction of the ships was, he said, due to improvement in the designs. The personal was fairly satisfactory and the Channel and the Mediterranean squadrons could sail at a moment's notice.

A mass meeting was held yesterday of the Lancashire Cotton Trade, when it was decided to continue for a short time until further notice.

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

Colombo, Mar. 14.

Captain Takenochi, late Japanese Naval Attaché in Paris, is appointed Commander of the new cruiser "Nishin," and Captain Ornyone of the "Kasuga." The latter is being equipped at Korea; the former at Tokio.

A correspondent who visited Port Arthur by special permission, states that less than thirty per cent. of the inhabitants remain, many leaving by trains which are crowded with refugees. The officials have taken possession of all the food stuffs in the large stores which the Chinese and other merchants deserted. The authorities are making further provision to seize wheat and milling machinery; they claim the ability to hold out for two years.

Repairs to the Russian fleet are proceeding. The "Novik" has been docked. The condition of the "Retvisan" and "Isarevitch" is unchanged.

Shippers regard Dainy harbour as unsafe for years on account of stray mines from the "Yenisei." The city is plunged in darkness nightly.

Captain Robertson, Royal Scots Fusiliers stationed at Aldershot, has been selected by the War Office for appointment as Additional Military Attaché to the British Legation in Japan.

In consequence of the rush of orders from the Japanese Government for railway engines, the railway works at Philadelphia have beaten the record by the construction of seven engines in one day. These are wanted for the military railway connecting Fusan with Seoul.

Mr. Okura, founder and head of the firm bearing his name, one of largest import firms and Government and public works contractors, has offered to sell his private museum with a view to giving the proceeds to the War Fund. The collection took thirty years to get together and cost a million yen.

Admiral Alexeeff has issued a proclamation in Chinese, which is posted in every village and town in Manchuria and the Liaotung Peninsula, explaining the causes which led to the treacherous beginning of the war by Japan, and calling for assistance for maintaining the railway untouched. The Viceroy states that Russia has always been a friend of the Chinese, and the railway is necessary for the future agricultural and commercial development of the country. The proclamation has been issued in reply to scurrilous placards by Japanese and Chinese authors, alleging that Russia provoked the war.

Colombo, Mar. 15.

Telegrams received from Mukden by the local Russian Consuls state that, on the night of the 9th, at the torpedo attack on Port Arthur, a Japanese torpedo-boat sunk the Russian torpedo-boat "Stereogutty," which had been damaged in the morning. Admiral Makaroff boarded the "Novik" and hastened to help, but the approach of the Japanese squadron obliged him to retire. Four Russian officers were wounded in the attack. The enemy, concealed behind a head-land, began to bombard Port Arthur at nine in the morning till one. The losses were considerable, one civilian lawyer, two women, a Chinaman, and a sailor were killed, and one officer, a coachman, and four sailors were wounded. Shells damaged the cruiser "Takasago."

Russian advance scouts in Korea reached Pingyang near Ichow and took a Japanese Major and five soldiers prisoners and sent them to Irkutsk.

After the attack on Port Arthur, at low tide a Japanese destroyer was found sunk and six unexploded Whitehead torpedoes were also found.

The German Mail steamer "Seyllitz," which arrived yesterday from the East, several Japanese warships were seen in the docks, one of which was severely damaged. She also passed five Japanese cruisers lying in wait for the Russian gunboat "Maudjour," which was expected after being expelled from Shanghai. The gunboat has since decided to dismantle and remain inside.

The "Seyllitz" has on board the crew of the "Kasuga," which is returning home.

The British gunboat "Chio" arrived yesterday bound for the Australian station to displace the "Sparrow," which reports having being shadowed by a Russian torpedo-boat near Suez. About fifty miles off Suez she sighted a fleet of Russian battleships, which was continually flashing searchlights.

Allahabad, Mr. 15.

The "Pioneer's" London correspondent cables on the 14th:—"The 'Times' Seoul correspondent states that military preparations are secretly afoot, but some time must elapse before a great achievement is attempted."

The "Time's" military expert strongly advises the Japanese to regard the seizure of Port Arthur, Korea and Vladivostok as the ending of the Russian dominion in Eastern Asia, and deprecates an advance upon Kharbin.

Chittagong, Mar. 12.

At a committee meeting of the Chittagong Association it was resolved that the people were not convinced of the utility and necessity of the partition of Bengal. Fifteen delegates were elected to attend the Town Hall meeting to be held in Calcutta on the 18th instant. Five delegates were elected for the Provincial Conference.

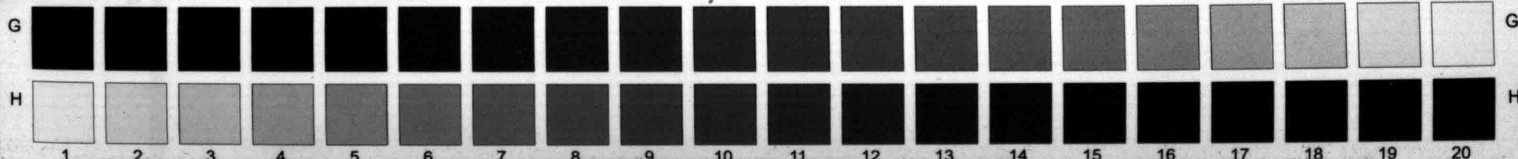
THE TIBET MISSION.

Pharjong (Tibet), Mar. 15.

Mr. Lewis, Post Office Clerk, who had both his feet amputated for frost bite, has died at Tuna.

Snow has fallen every day in Chumbi for the past week, and as a result both Jelpa and the Gorge above Guntso have been temporarily blocked.

Captain Drake-Brockman succeeds Major Beynon in command of the coolies corps, the latter being appointed special service officer vice Major Stuart, 5th Gurkhas, whose services cannot be spared.



TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

Bombay, Mar. 14.

The following telegram was received last night from the Japanese Government, being an official report from Admiral Ito, the Commander-in-Chief of our United Squadron: "As was intended, we attacked Port Arthur on the 10th. Our destroyers were divided into two squadrons. They reached the outside of the port about midnight, but found no enemy. At daybreak the second squadron was engaged in laying mechanical mines of a special nature in various places, and was able to finish the work in spite of repeated firing from the fortress. At 4-30 a.m. the first squadron met six Russian destroyers south of Laot-shan, and a fierce fight of twenty minutes followed. Our 'Asasuiwo, Kasumi' and 'Akatsuki' gave them a close and exciting battle. By our tremendous shelling some of the enemy's vessels sustained severe damage to their engines, and on others a fire broke out. Our losses were: Killed, seven non-commissioned officers, and wounded, 1st Engineer Minamisawa and eight others. The 'Akatsuki's' auxiliary steam-pipe was destroyed and four sailors were killed, but none of the vessels lost their fighting or navigable power.

"At 7 a.m. the second squadron was about to leave outside the port, when two of the Russian destroyers were seen to try to get into the harbour. Our destroyers at once went to meet and attack them. One of them escaped but the other, the 'Stereogutsh,' was captured by the 'Sazanami,' on account of a leak and a high sea, the rope broke. So she took four captives on board and left the vessel to her fate. She sank at 10 a.m. The losses of the second squadron were: killed, two sailors, and wounded, 2nd Lieutenant Shima and three others. Meanwhile the Norik and the Bayan came out towards our second squadron, but seeing the approach of our cruisers, retreated into harbour. At 1 a.m. our main squadron and cruisers proceeded to Kar port. The cruisers in front of the entrance protected our destroyers. The main squadron made an indirect bombardment towards the entrance from the position near Laotshwan. From 10 a.m. to 1-40 p.m. an occasional fire from the fortress made no damage to us. A part of the cruisers went to Talenwan and bombarded and destroyed the enemy's buildings on Sansan Island. The 'Takasago' and 'Chisaya' scouted the western coast. The upper parts of the mast and chimney of the Russian destroyer 'Unushitchnus,' which was sunk in Pigeon Bay, were to be seen above water at 2 p.m. We all then retired.

Bombay, Mar. 15.

The following news later than the mail has been received:—

The Russians declare that of the four Japanese vessels they sank at Port Arthur on Wednesday the one nearest the harbour mouth was ablaze for some time. Electric battery wires were apparently connected with an internal machine abroad. According to the Japs' account the vessels sunk were merely laden with stones and painted to resemble warships. Each carried a captain, engineer, and three seamen. Ten of the seamen were drowned.

Admiral Alexieff reports that the Japanese attacked again on Thursday, but that the land batteries sank their torpedo boats.

A war correspondent at Port Arthur states that the Japanese squadron came along on Friday, apparently conveying transports. For forty minutes an artillery engagement followed with no definite result.

Mr. Bennett Burleigh, at Shanghai, states that 100,000 Japanese troops, with light stores and field guns, have embarked at Nagasaki for Umi (on the Korean mainland); 50,000 more, he asserts, will follow in a few days. The same authority declares that the Russians are evacuating Dally in order to concentrate all their energies on the defence of Port Arthur. The rest of the Russian troops are being despatched to the Yalu River, whence, if pressed, they will retreat to Harbin. The Russ ans boast, Mr. Burleigh alleges, that they have undermined the Dally breakwater, wharves, and railway sidings to prevent their use by the enemy.

Port Arthur advices state all the telegraph and cables are in the hands of the Japanese.

A London telegram, dated February 29th, says that three hundred Russian engineers are leaving Nijni Novgorod to repair the damage done by the Japanese at Port Arthur. Repeated instances of corruption in the Russian Administration are coming to light.

Count von Zepelin, Commander of a German Army Corps, considers that Russia will not be ready to begin hostilities against Japan before the end of April. He says that if she does so, she will commit a grave mistake. The Japanese infantry and artillery, he considers, are superior to the Russian.

Count Benckendorff's explanations of British policy have lessened the feeling of Anglophobia in St. Petersburg.

Yi-Chi-Koek, the pro-Russian Minister of Korea, has been stripped of his offices, and banished.

Bombay, Mar. 15.

The following telegram was received yesterday evening from the Japanese Government by the Consul in Bombay:—"According to a later report about our destroyers in connection with the attack on Port Arthur on the 10th, the captives taken from the 'Stereogutsh' and thereabouts were found to be a torpedo workman and three sailor engineers. Two of them were wounded on board the 'Stereogutsh.' No others were found except those killed. It is presumed that the crew jumped into the water to escape being captured. We tried to rescue those in the water, but as the fire from the fortress did not cease and the 'Novik' was seen coming near, we were obliged to abandon them. After medical treatment of the wounded captives, they are improving and in good spirits.

Bombay, Mar. 16.

The mortality in Bombay from all causes for the week ended 15th March was 1,491 and deaths recorded from plague 906, a decrease of 62 in the latter and 83 in the total. The total in the corresponding week in the preceding year was 1,775 and that of cases of plague recorded 1,036.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Council was held at the Council Chamber, Writers' Buildings, on Saturday. The Hon. Sir Andrew Fraser, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, presided, and there were present, the Hon. Mr. O. E. Buckland, the Hon. Mr. L. Hare, the Hon. Mr. B. L. Gupta, the Hon. Mr. J. T. Woodroffe, the Hon. Mr. W. C. Macpherson, the Hon. Mr. D. B. Hare, the Hon. Mr. L. P. Shirres, the Hon. Mr. A. Earle, the Hon. Mr. R. T. Greer, the Hon. Mr. T. K. Ghose, the Hon. Mr. H. Elworthy, the Hon. Mr. A. A. Apar, the Hon. Maulvi Seraj-ul-Islam, Khan Bahadur, the Hon. Dr. Ashutosh Mukhopadhyaya, the Hon. Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu, and the Hon. Babu Saligram Singh.

MINISTERIAL ESTABLISHMENTS OF CIVIL COURTS.

The Hon. Rai Tarini Pershad asked the following questions:—I beg to draw the attention of Government to the following:—

That according to the rules now in force (vide Government Memorandum No. 1280J, dated the 14th March, 1902, addressed to District Judges under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal on the report of the Commission of the ministerial establishments of the Civil Courts) the ministerial officers for the record-room of the District Courts are:—one record-keeper; three muharrirs for each record-room receiving 15,000 records a year; and, for record-rooms receiving more than 15,000 records a year, one extra muharrir for every 10,000 records received in a year. That the Commission expressed an opinion substantially to the effect that there should be one muharrir for every 5,000 records in each district. The duties now falling upon the ministerial staff in the record-rooms are too numerous and heavy, and the officers now working are very much overworked. That, owing to the very heavy work falling upon the ministerial officers of the record-rooms in several District and Subordinate Courts, such as those of Bhagalpur, Patna, Burdwan, Muzaffarpur, Mymensingh, etc., most of these officers are obliged to stay in office till late hours, and also to attend office and work there even on Sundays and other close holidays; and, although extra hands are sometimes provided, such temporary provision does not sufficiently answer the purpose.

In view of the hardship pointed out, will the Government be pleased to make an inquiry in this connection from the District Officers, and consult the High Court, and kindly consider the advisability of removing this grievance by making necessary additions to the staff?

The Hon. Mr. Macpherson replied as follows:—This matter is one which ought in the first instance to be represented to the Judge of any district in which the record-room staff is too small. It would be most inexpedient for the Government to make a general inquiry of this nature without having authentic and definite information of a general necessity for increase of the staff. The Lieutenant-Governor must look to the District Judge to inform him of any need for additional establishment in any particular district.

APPRENTICES IN DISTRICT COURTS.

The Hon. Rai Tarini Pershad asked the following question:—I beg to draw the attention of Government to the following:—

According to the practice now in force, the apprentices in the District Courts (Civil, Criminal and Revenue) get nothing in the shape of remuneration for their services extending over several years, before they are employed as ministerial officers or section-writers. Many persons come to be admitted as apprentices from distant parts of the district, and in very many instances, though qualified for apprenticeships, they are unable to seek admission for want of means of livelihood in places where they could be admitted as such.

Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of making such provisions as to it may seem fit to remove the difficulties pointed out above?

The Hon. Mr. Shirres replied as follows:—The question of granting some allowance or remuneration to apprentices in the Civil Criminal and Revenue Courts and Offices, in the mofussil has already engaged the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor and is under consideration.

COPIISTS IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COURTS.

The Hon. Rai Tarini Pershad asked the following question:—I beg to draw the attention of Government to the following:—

That copyists or section-writers are employed in Civil and Criminal Courts, and are paid from out of the income derived from the Copying Department in a certain proportion, and that all its intents and purposes they are much in the same position as paid ministerial officers in other departments. There are numerous instances of such copyists or section-writers leaving office after a service of 30 years and upwards, without getting anything in the shape of a pension or a gratuity for the support and maintenance of themselves and the families depending upon them. There is no provision in the Civil Service Regulations for such officers after their retirement.

Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of making some provision for them on their retirement from the service?

The Hon. Mr. Shirres replied as follows:—The Lieutenant-Governor hopes to be able to effect some improvement in the position of the officers referred to by the Hon. Member, and the matter forms the subject of a correspondence with the Government of India. No further information can be given at present on the subject.

The Hon. Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu asked the following questions:—

(a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact, as stated in the "Englishman" of the 15th February last, that a private Conference is sitting to consider the subject of the improvement of Calcutta?

(b) Is it a fact that there are no representatives of the rate-payers in this Conference?

(c) Is it a fact, as stated in the "Hindu Patriot" of the 17th February, that it was proposed at this Conference to levy a death duty of 5 per cent. on house property in Calcutta?

The Hon. Mr. Shirres replied as follows:—Correspondence which showed some tendency to become protracted has been in progress between the Government of India and the Local Government regarding the Calcutta Improvement Scheme. To avoid unnecessary delay, and to have the best available assistance in framing proposals for submission to the Government of India, the Lieutenant-

Governor invited certain gentlemen to discuss the matter with him. The Conference consisted of two Bengal officers serving in the Government of India (Mr. H. H. Risley, C.I.E., and Mr. E. N. Baker, C.S.I.), the Financial Secretary to the Bengal Government, the Commissioner of Police, an officer of the Public Works Department, the Chairman of the Corporation, and three non-official Members of the Corporation, one of whom was at that time also President of the Chamber of Commerce, namely, the Hon. Mr. E. Cable, the Hon. Dr. Ashutosh Mukhopadhyaya and Mr. Nalin Behary Sircar, C.I.E. These non-official gentlemen were selected by the Lieutenant-Governor as representing the interests and views of the different classes of rate-payers. The Lieutenant-Governor presided, and Mr. C. G. H. Allen acted as Secretary. The proceedings were entirely confidential, and were only intended to assist the Lieutenant-Governor in placing his proposals before the Government of India. The matter is now being placed before that Government; and no information can be given for the present.

CONDUCT OF LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

The Hon. Mr. Macpherson presented the Report of the Select Committee on the suggested amendments in the Rules for the Conduct of the Legislative Business of the Bengal Council, and moved that the Report of the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to. The Hon. Mr. Macpherson moved that the amendments be considered in the form recommended by the Select Committee.

The motion was put and agreed to. The Hon. Mr. Macpherson then moved that the amendments, as revised, be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

BENGAL EXCISE BILL.

The Hon. Mr. Buckland presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bengal Excise Bill, 1903.

The Hon. Mr. Woodroffe moved that the Bill be re-committed to the Select Committee, with instructions to reconsider (a) so amend the same as to secure by express and direct legislative enactment (a) that the principles of the policy of the Government of India enunciated in paragraph 103, principles (3) and (4) of their Despatch to the Secretary of State for India, No. 29, dated 4th February, 1890, be given legislative effect, with due regard to the present system of local and Municipal institutions prevailing in Bengal; (b) that intoxicating liquors and drugs may not be sold at any house licensed for the sale of such liquors and drugs, to women or to children under the age of 14; and (c) that reasonably adequate provision be made therein so as to prevent as far as possible the spread of drunkenness in Bengal. He read extracts from this despatch of the Government of India which, he said, were that the number of places at which liquor or drugs can be purchased should be strictly limited, with regard to the circumstances of each locality, and that efforts should be made to ascertain the existence of local public sentiment, and that a reasonable amount of deference should be paid to such opinion when ascertained. He severely condemned the existing Excise system and said that the Board of Revenue was an Arcadian institution and a relic of the times when the system of a paternal or "ma bap" Government prevailed.

The Board consisted of two senior members of the Bengal Civil Service, and he knew of no appointment or post in this country which was a more desirable one than that of being a Member of the Board of Revenue. The Board of Revenue answered to the description which was applied by Lord Elgin, who said that it had not a body to be kicked nor a soul to be damned. The Board were not subject to any Court and none of their decisions were open to appeal. The Board were subject, he understood, to the administrative control alone of His Honour. But the Board had, besides their multifarious duties, other duties connected with the Excise Department, and it seemed to him, therefore, that they were the last body in the world to which should be given this extraordinary power of rule-making which was given in this Act. The Hon. Member then said, it would seem that the number of public houses, liquor shops, and drug shops were to a very great extent in excess of the needs of the locality, more especially in Calcutta. It was stated, and anyone could verify the statement for himself, that they abounded in the neighbourhood of Bentinck Street. There were numbers also at the Docks, and it was stated that at the Allah Waterworks, in opposition to the express wish of the residents, a grog shop was there opened. He found also that these shops for the sale of liquor and intoxicating drugs had been set down opposite schools, colleges, places of worship, hospitals and dispensaries. He believed he was right in saying that the location of them in such places was contrary to the express wish of Government. They had it stated in the Council of His Excellency the Viceroy that enormous evil had followed from the setting down of these shops in the neighbourhood of the tea gardens. He was not one of those fanatics or fastidists who considered that drink in itself "per se" was wrong. It was, as all the creations of God were, good in itself, but it was the abuse which led to evil. In itself there was no greater harm in drinking wine or beer than eating bread or butter. But yet the one or the other may be taken to excess, and in the case of the former there was an excess, the evils which followed from that excess were of a most deadly character. What then was the result? It was an increase in drink and a great increase in the excise revenue of the country. But what was the condition of the people? Was not their material and their moral condition of far greater value to this country than the rise in the revenue of the Excise Department? What was the remedy? Did this Bill supply any remedy? He submitted it did not.

The Hon. Mr. Buckland opposed the motion as being unnecessary and undesirable, and as

likely, to prove not only infructuous but harmful. It was infructuous because all that it proposed to do could be done perfectly well without it. There was no need whatever to have it inserted in their legislation that the principles of the policy of the Government of India should be given effect to by Municipal or other local institutions in Bengal. Nor was there any need for legislature to give effect to the other claim of this motion, and he thought it was a very excellent principle of Government and of legislature that legislation should not be incurred unless the necessity for it was shown. The hon. member then read extracts from the Government of India's Despatch No. 29 of 1890, dated the 4th February, 1890, to show that local option was impracticable and the difficulty of ascertaining public opinion on the question of drink, also extracts from the Government of India's Despatch No. 157, dated the 26th May, 1899, and the Bengal Government's letter No. 102-7 E., dated 19th February, 1899, in support of his contention. In the face of these expressions of opinion on the part of the Government of India only fourteen years ago, the circumstances had not changed to any material degree, but that it would be perfectly useless to address the Government of India and ask them to agree to any system involving local option. The hon. member then went on to say that the Select Committee expressed their willingness to recommend to the Board that power should be given to the Board to frame a rule for the prohibition of the sale of liquor to children under the age of fourteen. One reason why they could not legislate on the subject without reference to the Government of India was that they had express orders of the Government of India not to do so. That was contained in the Despatch of the Government of India last autumn. But there was another very good reason why they should not introduce this into the Bill, and that was that they could do all they required without it. The great objection to putting it in the law was that it would apply to the whole of the country. There were many parts of the country where women and possibly children were accustomed to buy liquor, and if that power of buying liquor were taken away from women and children in districts, say, inhabited by Sonthals and other aborigines, he thought he was not pressing the point too far when he said that they might have a rebellion. At any rate they could, with the greatest ease, when this Bill was passed, pass a rule that no liquor should be sold to women or children under fourteen. The hon. member then quoted figures to show that during the last twelve years the number of country liquor shops had remained stationary at about 135, while during the last twenty years the number of licenses for country liquor shops had been reduced from 6,284 to 3,286. It had often been said that the Board of Revenue looked to the revenue and did not care what else happened. There never was a more injudicious statement. Even now revenue had been sacrificed when it was seen that good would come from the sacrifice. Replying to the comments passed on the Board of Revenue, the hon. member said he was not there to defend the Board of Revenue. The Hon. Mr. Woodroffe seemed to think that because under the law, as it at present stood, and under the Bill, as drafted, rule-making powers were invested in the Board, that therefore the Board could do as they liked and make any rules without the cognizance of any authority. He could assure the Hon. Mr. Woodroffe that the latter was entirely and absolutely mistaken in that view. The Board being under the control of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, were unable to pass any rules of an importance whatever without the authority of the Government of Bengal. And when such rules as might be drafted by the Board for submission to the Government dealt with legal points, legal advisers of Government were consulted before those rules were passed or given legal effect to.

The Hon. Dr. Ashutosh Mookerjee and the Hon. Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose strongly supported the motion.

The American Minister at Seoul cables that Japan and Korea have negotiated a treaty whereby Japan guarantees the independence and integrity of Korea. Japan takes charge of the Korean military establishment.

A Russian Imperial Order is issued permitting political suspects under police supervision to enter the active army as privates, when, with the assent of the Ministers of the Interior and of Justice, the police supervision will be removed.

It is understood that an action has been commenced by Messrs. George Philip and Son, Limited, the publishers of the "Daily Mail" special map of the Far East, against the printers of a war map which is being extensively sold in the streets of London and elsewhere, claiming damages for infringement of copyright.

The net capital outlay of the Indo-European Telegraph Department during 1902-03 under the head of capital was Rs. 8,09,744, which raised the capital expenditure to end of the year to Rs. 1,30,90,940. Out of the sum of Rs. 8,09,744, Rs. 6,64,397 represent the Cash and Stores outlay incurred in the construction of the Central Persia line. The earnings amounted to Rs. 14,87,365, or a decrease of Rs. 3,41,070 as compared with 1901-1902, when the sum realised was Rs. 18,29,035. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 8,97,794, against Rs. 8,59,653 in the previous year, or an increase of Rs. 38,141. The net result is a profit of Rs. 5,89,571 on the year's working against that of Rs. 9,69,382 in 1901-1902, or a decrease of Rs. 3,79,811 as compared with that year. Nothing of interest seems to have happened during the year under report.

One Odki Budhiye was charged before the Sessions Judge of Ganjam with house-breaking and theft of two Bell-metal vessels. The complainant left his house in the morning having locked it up and went out for reaping. When he came back at midday he found his door open, the padlock lying on the floor and the accused inside with the two vessels under his arm. He raised an outcry and three men who were passing by came to his assistance. Accused dropped down the vessels. He was seized and handed over to the Police. The Jury found him guilty of house-breaking and not guilty of theft. Accused was remanded pending orders of the High Court on a reference by the Sessions Judge of the case under Section 307 Cr. P. C. The Lordships Justices Sir James Davies and Mr. Justice Benson convicted the accused and sentenced him to five years' imprisonment.

Smith, Stanstreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., Abdol Wahman and Abdool Kream, Calcutta.

THE SOMALI CAMPAIGN.

Bombay, Mar. 14.

General Egerton is going to make one more advance against the Mullah, and it is supposed that this will, whether successful or not, close this phase of the campaign. There are several reasons why this must necessarily be so. First and foremost, in a couple of months the rainy season will have begun and then the Mullah cannot possibly be caught or even dealt a severe blow with the present forces, because he could then move in any direction. At the present moment his peregrinations are more or less restricted to certain well-known watering routes, and good grazing centres. In the rainy season water is found in ballis (shallow pools and puddles) all over the country, and there is grazing for his ponies, camels, cows and goats everywhere. Just now grazing is very scarce in most places, and being an exceptionally dry season, it is very poor where there is any at all. The second reason why this phase must close after this movement is that most of the camels will be either dead or dying or unfit for further work. This coming six weeks' work will just about bring them to the very end of their tether. Yet another point is that the troops in the country will require changing and replacing. Somaliland is not the country for a prolonged stay for any man. The climate is excellent in the uplands, much better than India, but three of the native regiments in Somaliland will have been out there eighteen months, and a very hard working, hard marching time it has been for the most of them. But it is not hard work and not hard marching that affects John Sepoy. This makes him hard and keeps him fit and khush, but it is the absence of fresh vegetables for such a length of time that has given him scurvy. A great number of men have been invalided from this complaint, and very nearly 75 per cent. of the Indians who have been in the country for a year have scurvy in a more or less aggravated form.

The British Mounted Infantry, about 250 men, about 150 Bikanir Camelry and 100 mounted Levies were to leave Barbers and join the 2nd Brigade under General Fasken on March 9th at Las Dureh, a place about 80 miles due east of Sheikh. The Second Brigade was to march from Sheikh reaching Las Dureh on the 8th March and was to consist of 250 of the Hants Regiment, 350 Sepoys, and two maxims of the 27th Punjab Infantry, 250 Sepoys and two maxims of 52nd Sikhs, 150 Sepoys and two maxims of the 107th Pioneers, two maxims of the 101st Grenadiers, and 100 Illaios (Somali Scouts).

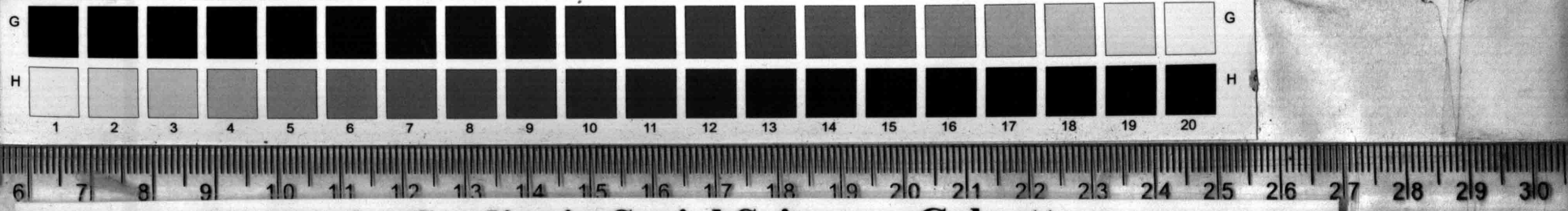
There will therefore be three columns to begin with. General Manning has about 1,000 fighting men in his brigade; Major Brooke has 650 fighting men with him and joins the 2nd Brigade at a place called Eyl Afweina, about 100 miles east of Las Dureh. General Fasken will have 1,050 infantry with him to start with, and Colonel Kenna will start from Barbers with about 500 mounted troops under his command. At Eyl Afweina, where these columns meet, there will be a force of 1,400 infantry and 800 mounted men, and the Mullah is reported to be somewhere about four days' march from Eyl Afweina.

PARASITISM OF SANDAL SEEDLINGS.

The sandalwood ("Santalum album") is not a native of the Circars, of the Vizagapatam district at any rate. But having found it doing well some years ago in Agneri, writes Mr. G. W. Thompson in the "Indian Forester," I got out four seeds of fresh seed from Mysore in October last year, and put the seeds down in beds under shade. Only some three hundred young seedlings came up, which I potted and am having put out in different places this year. The nursery was made under a clump of "Eugenia jambolana" trees. When lifting up the seedlings from the beds, I noticed that their young root fibres had already attached themselves to the roots of the "E. jambolana," little cushions indicating the points of attachment. The connections were always made with the small root-fibres of the "Eugenia" and not with the larger roots. The soil of the seed beds being a more or less stiffish clay, I was not successful in attempting to secure specimens showing the root-attachments sufficiently clearly. However, since the observations were carefully made by me, I have no doubt about the root-connections. There is, therefore, one more species to be added to the list of "hosts" of the sandalwood tree already given in the "Indian Forester." In this connection I also noted that such of the seedlings as had not formed root-attachments always appeared sickly, with scanty yellowish leaves; whereas the others were always vigorous and healthy looking plants. Those in the pots are doing well, although they have no opportunity of forming root-connections with other species, and this I attribute to the leaf mould mixed with the soil in the pots.

SEQUEL TO THE RECENT SOLDIERS' AFFRAY.

Superintendent Bradbury on the 11th inst. prosecuted Ponnusamy and Co., the proprietors of a Refreshment Room on the Mount Road, Madras, for having on Christmas Day sold two dozen bottles of beer to certain soldiers without the permission of their Commanding Officer. The matter came out in connection with the recent affray at Mylapore, in which seven fishermen were charged with rioting and assaulting soldiers. The proprietor of the shop, through his Vakils, pleaded guilty to the charge and asked the Court to take into consideration the youth of the accused, who had taken charge of the business only recently, and that the sale was made on Christmas Day. His Worship passed the following order:—"Accused pleads guilty to a deliberate breach of a very important condition contained in his license as a liquor vendor, viz., that he shall not supply European soldiers with liquor. In spite of this condition he supplied five soldiers last Christmas Day with 24 bottles of beer and this led to serious consequences, the soldiers becoming intoxicated and misbehaving themselves under the influence of liquor. Doubtless accused's supply of beer to them contributed to this result. I can see no extenuating circumstance in this case, though accused's Vakils urge accused's age and his long established business and Christmas Day as presenting such. All these facts seem to me to tell against and not for accused. Knowledge should have been acquired by long experience as a liquor vendor. Accused is of age to judge the consequences of his act and he should have been particularly careful at a season of festivity like Christmas not to furnish soldiers with means of indulgence. It seems to me a bad case and I impose the penalty of Rs. 10. It will be for the Commissioner to decide if the license should be forfeited."



INDIA AND THE FAR EAST IN
PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, Feb. 19.

The Control of Native States by Political Agents.—Mr. Mander asked the Secretary of State for India:—(1) If he has received from the Government of India information, as promised by the Secretary of State on June 25 last in answer to a question as to how many of the native states of India, the territory of which exceeds 100 square miles, are, or up to the end of last year were, under the administrative control of political agents on account of the minority or incapacity of the chiefs of such states; and what has been the increase in their number during the last five years.

Mr. Brodick: I have been informed by the Government of India that the local governments and administrations have been instructed to furnish the information. I am asking that the matter may be expedited.

Indian Contributions for Home Charges.—Mr. Buchanan asked the Secretary of State for War: Whether he will state how much of the 200,000,000 Rs. in the Army Supplementary Estimate comes from India and under what charge, and from which of the colonies does the remainder come.

Mr. Arnold Forster: The amount is made up as follows:—

Balance due from India on contribution for effective home charges for 1902-03 (only three of the quarterly payments have been brought to account in that year)	£65,000
Increase in military contributions from Hong Kong 11,000, and Straits Settlements 24,000, owing to rise in dollar and growth of revenues	35,000
Miscellaneous credits arising in the adjustment of the South African War Accounts	100,000

Monday, Feb. 22.—The Japanese and Wei-hai-wei.—Mr. Plummer: I beg to ask the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs a question of which I have given him private notice—namely, whether his attention has been drawn to the report of the presence of Japanese battleships at Wei-hai-wei, previous to the attack on Port Arthur, and, if so, whether he is in a position to contradict the report. (Hear, hear.)

Early Percy: Yes, sir. We have been informed by the Commander-in-Chief in Chinese waters that the Japanese men-of-war on their way to Port Arthur were not even sighted at Wei-hai-wei, and no Japanese ships of war have visited that port since August, when two vessels went there on a complimentary visit for a few hours. (Cheers.)

Indebted Coolies in Assam.—Mr. Markham asked the Secretary of State for India: Will he say the number of coolies working under indentures in the tea plantations, and the dates of the Acts sanctioning their employment; and will he lay upon the table the regulations under which these indentured labourers work.

Mr. Brodick: The latest returns received by me are for the year 1902-1903, and show that at the end of June last there were 33,278 coolies in Assam under indenture (out of a total labour population of 650,997). The Acts under which these persons are indentured are Act I. of 1882 and Act VI. of 1901, the latter Act superseding the former except as regards contracts made under the Act of 1882 not yet expired. The regulations applicable to indentured labourers are contained in the Acts, which will be found in the Library of the House. I may also refer to the return presented by my predecessor in April last in compliance with the address moved by the hon. member for the Northern Division of Manchester, which is likewise in the Library.

The Aden Boundary Commission.—Mr. Charles Hobhouse asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he can state the cost up to the present date of the Aden Boundary Commission, including the cost for troops employed in the protectorate of Aden; and what has been the total loss of life since the delimitation began.

Mr. Brodick: The normal garrison of Aden is about 2,400 men. The total numbers of troops in the Aden Protectorate on Jan. 1 last were 2,077 British officers and men and 1,891 native officers and men. Of these, the troops employed at the present moment in connection with the delimitation are 1,016 British infantry, 1,038 native infantry, 90 native cavalry, 461 native sappers, with six guns of British mule battery and six guns of native camel battery. The casualties reported since the commencement of the delimitation have been:—Killed—non-commissioned officers and men, four British, seven native, and one native surveyor. Wounded—officers, two British, one native; non-commissioned officers and men, 17 British, 14 native. I have not yet received full accounts of the expenditure.

The Official Secrets Bill.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he will state the nature of the modifications proposed by the Select Committee in the Official Secrets Bill; and whether he can now give the House an assurance that the Bill will be confined to naval and military matters, and that the modifications referred to will provide for the retention in the Bill of those clauses in the original Act of 1888 which define the conditions under which prosecution can be instituted, and which place the onus of proving guilty intention upon the prosecution.

Mr. Brodick: I have not received the report of the Select Committee on the Bill, and do not know whether they have reported any modifications they have proposed in it.

Village Councils in India.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether his attention has been drawn to an appeal made to the Viceroy by Mr. Malabar, editor of "East and West," to reconstitute village councils in India, and to the reply given by Lord Curzon, and whether he will give support to a scheme for increasing the usefulness of these village councils.

Mr. Brodick: I am not acquainted with the paper referred to, but have no doubt that the Government of India will give careful consideration to any scheme of the nature indicated.

British Indians in the Transvaal.—Sir Manchester Mander asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies: Whether he has drawn the attention of Lord Milner to the fact that Clause 34 in the Ordinance relating to Chinese labour for the mines, relates to British Indian subjects, to whom the Ordinance itself is not applicable; and whether he would advise the Crown to veto that clause if the Transvaal Legislative Council does not take steps to abrogate it.

Mr. Lytton said he had already stated it was not proposed to employ British Indians in the Witwatersrand mines under the Ordinance. Clause 34 (relating to British Indian subjects) was intended to be a temporary provision pending the passing of special legislation in regard to Indian labour, and to provide for the possible contingency of Indian labour being employed on the railways and other works under the control of the Government.

Major Seely asked if the right hon. gentleman would lay on the table the communication received from the Indian Government with reference to the proposed importation of Chinese labour and the applicability of the Ordinance to British Indian subjects.

The Speaker: Notice must be given of that question.

Wednesday, Feb. 24.—The "Mandjur".—Mr. Malcolm asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs a question of which he had given private notice—namely, whether there was any foundation for the report that his Majesty's Consul-General at Shanghai associated himself with the demand that the Russian cruiser "Mandjur" should leave that port.

Earl Percy: His Majesty's Consul-General took no part whatever in the demand for the withdrawal of the "Mandjur".

Thursday, Feb. 25.—Robbing Pilgrims to Mecca and Medina.—Mr. Yoxall asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he has now obtained from the Turkish Government the amount, influenced by Turkish Indian subjects robbed by brigands on the highway between Jeddah and Mecca in the years 1889 to 1902; and whether his Majesty's Government will confer with the Netherlands Government as to the measures to be taken for the protection of the Mahomedan, Dutch, and British subjects who are this year preparing to visit the shrines at Mecca and Medina on their journey between Jeddah and those places.

Mr. Brodick: As stated in this House by my predecessor, in reply to a question on March 18 last, the claims of British Indian pilgrims for losses by robbery in the Hedjaz, between 1892 and 1898, have been settled. His Majesty's Government have not, since that date, received any further information in regard to such claims. His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople will be requested to inquire into the matter, and to report whether, in his opinion, there is any necessity for the adoption of measures such as those suggested in the last paragraph of the question.

Russian Sailors in Ceylon.—Mr. Gibson Bowles asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies: Has he instructed the colonial authorities at Colombo to detain in Ceylon the 325 Russian sailors rescued from the naval action at Chemulpho; and, if so, will he state by virtue of what authority his Majesty's Government propose to detain these men; will they be treated in the same way as prisoners of war, and how will their detention be enforced.

Earl Percy: The sailors in question took refuge on board a British man-of-war at Chemulpho. In these circumstances, should no other arrangement be arrived at by mutual consent between the combatants, his Majesty's Government believe that they would best fulfil the obligation of a neutral Power by internment of these men in British territory until the conclusion of the war. The Japanese Government have, however, intimated that they are willing that the men should be allowed to return to Russia on their giving their parole that they will take no further part in the war. His Majesty's Government are in correspondence with the Russian Government as to the possibility of disposing of the matter upon this basis.

Russia, Germany, and the Baghdad Railway.—Mr. Gibson Bowles asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs: Have his Majesty's Government any information that negotiations have recently been begun and are now proceeding between the German and the Russian Governments for an arrangement whereby, in return for certain advantages afforded to Russia by Germany, during the hostilities with Japan, Russia will give support to Germany in respect of the construction of the Baghdad Railway and of the general extension of German predominance in Asia Minor.

Earl Percy: The answer is in the negative.

OPERATION ON A LEOPARD.

Paris, Monday, Feb. 22.—About a score of ladies and gentlemen assembled at Bostock's Hippodrome this morning to witness a surgical operation on a wounded leopard named Cora, which was injured about two months ago in defending her mistress, Mlle. Morale, the Queen of Jaguars, from a savage attack by Prince, the most vicious and ugly-tempered brute in the menagerie.

After Cora had been without difficulty lassoed and thrown on her side, she was drawn towards the door of the cage, and her four hind paws secured by ropes held outside. A. Dramard, the veterinary surgeon, and his assistants then entered the cage, and while two of the latter kept Cora's head down the surgeon tried to render her unconscious with ether.

The task, however, was no easy one, for, by now and again the excited animal would jerk her head up with a snarl and a snap at the surgeon, and his assistants would retire with precipitation.

Finally a rope was passed round Cora's muzzle, and the operation, which consisted in the removal of an abscess, was proceeded with.

At each incision of the scalpel the suffering brute made desperate efforts to regain her freedom, and before he had finished big drops of perspiration were visible on the surgeon's forehead.

After more than an hour's hard work the operation was declared at an end. The wound was sewn up, the rope slackened, and the half-lazy animal bounded joyfully to her feet.

It is expected that the wound will be completely healed in about three weeks.

NOTES BY THE MAIL.

RUSSIA AND GREAT BRITAIN.

The "Novosti" points out that it would be wrong to establish a direct connection between the Tibet Question and the Russo-Japanese war, as the former had its origin as far back as the year 1902, when there was no indication of a conflict between Russia and Japan, a conflict which the whole European Press believed, up to only a few weeks ago, would be settled peacefully. "Even Mr. Balfour," adds the "Novosti," "made several statements in that sense, and, except in connection with Lord Curzon's visit to the Persian Gulf, we have no right to accuse Great Britain of seeking to create difficulties for Russia. We must await further compromising 'data' before forming a definite opinion on the subject."

THE TIBET EXPEDITION.

In the House of Lords this afternoon 26th Feb. Lord Reay called attention to affairs in Tibet and moved for further papers. He referred to the differences which had arisen, and argued that there was nothing to justify an advance into Tibet. With a little patience and delay it would have been quite possible to have adjusted these differences. A great deal of commotion was caused by the attempt to force the Tibetans out of that isolation to which they had a perfect right. He could not conceive that any declaration could be more clear than that of the Russian Government, for they had stated that they had no agent to Tibet, nor had they any intention of sending either agents or a mission there. The Russian Government had stated that they were disposed to enter into amicable discussion with regard to Tibet to remove once and for all any distrust which existed between England and themselves. Lord Hardwicke defended the Government policy. Lord Ripon and Lord Rosebery made critical speeches, but the latter admitted that the mission having been sent, could not be recalled until it could leave an impression upon the Tibetan mind and imagination. Lord Lansdowne followed.

THE SOMALILAND EXPEDITION.

An angry debate on a vote for Somaliland sprang up in Committee of Supply in the Commons last night. The Opposition wanted to know how long we are to go on spending £115,000 a month in chasing the Mullah? What will be the approximate cost of capturing him, and what will be done with him when he is caught, and how many Mullahs will spring up then? Mr. Ritchie, while deprecating the exaggerated language, did not believe the Ministers would have entered upon an expedition of that kind had they dreamt for a moment it was going to reach its present size. (Liberal cheers.) It was a great pity, he thought, that we should enter as freely as we do on obligations of that kind. Mr. Arnold-Forster expressed some astonishment at the speech of one who was responsible for the first and second expeditions to Somaliland. There had been two definite appeals from natives to this country for protection. Government were now carrying on the campaign with some anticipation of a favourable result, and the time to stop was when they had achieved success, but he declined to give any pledge. While Mr. W. Redmond was speaking, Sir George Bartley, Member for Islington, moved the closure. The Chairman put the motion amid loud cries of "No" and "Shame" from the Nationalists. Mr. W. Redmond remained standing endeavouring to speak while votes were being taken. He was heard to say: "I beg to give notice that I will make Government pay for this and over again." ("Order," cheers and laughter.) Another Nationalist, Mr. Mc. Veagh, shouted out, "Why did not you give Bartley the job when you were at it. Send him to Somaliland. He will do your dirty work." (Nationalist cheers and uproar.) Mr. W. Redmond: Thank goodness, I shall not be asked, as the member for Islington will be at the next election "Where's your pigtail?" (Laughter and Nationalist cheers.) The closure was carried by a majority of 70. In a subsequent division on another item of the estimates the Government majority was only fourteen. Three line whips have been since issued to Unionist members requesting them to be at the House punctually at the hour named in the daily whin.

The betrothal of the Maharaj Rana of Dholpur to the daughter of the Raja of Nabha has just been concluded. The marriage is arranged for next month.

Scarcity has become so much of a chronic feature of the Central Provinces of late years that the succeeding acute phases of the calamity, though they have their own sad interest and can never fail to awake sympathy, inevitably find the public mind in that unsuggestive mood which is the natural result of a more inspiring than any portion of the now-famous story told of the last four years is the assurance of the present with its bumper crop, materially helped by judicious "takari" advances for the purchase of seed. The Chief Commissioner in the last resolution published on the subject repeats the hope so often expressed by predecessors, when they too have been cheered by exceptionally good seasons, that the tide has turned. The reader can but echo the wish heartily. It is pitiful to read of the way in which a land of hills and of dales has been scourged by famine. But there is no grander story in all the annals of British Rule in India than that of the way in which the white man has borne his burden here—"Indian Engineering."

It is now known to be imperative that Russia must borrow one thousand million francs, and that the Russian Government finds it difficult to get credit. It is reported that Russia is arranging a loan of twenty millions sterling at five per cent. The Vanderbilts are interested in these negotiations. France for years past has been advancing money to Russia. The 900,000,000 roubles expended during the last ten years in constructing the 10,000 kilometres of railway connecting Europe with Vladivostok and Port Arthur, were mostly subscribed by France. French capital invested in Russia was stated within the past month to amount to eleven milliards of francs (£440,000,000), and that must be accepted as a moderate estimate, because others have calculated it at 20,000,000,000 francs, or £800,000,000. Attempts from time to time have been made to stop the flow, but Russian policy always contended that the investment was a capital one and brought 5 per cent. on the investors. It is for payment of the interest on this vast sum that Russia will now feel pressed in view of her tremendous war expenses.

WHEN JAPANESE MAIDS ARE
JILTED.

A Japanese woman, when abandoned by her lover, takes a peculiar and picturesque revenge. When she no longer has any doubt as to his faithlessness, she gets up in the middle of the night, and puts on a pleasing and wooden sandals. Attached to her head she carries three lighted candles, and suspended to her neck hangs a small mirror. She takes in her left hand a small straw effigy of the faithless one, and in her right a hammer and nails. Walking gravely to the sanctuary she selects one of the sacred trees and nails the effigy securely to the trunk. She then prays for the death of the traitor, vowing that if her wish is granted she will take out the nail which trouble her god since they are fastened to a sacred tree. Night after night she comes to the tree adding one or two nails and repeating her prayers persuaded that the good will not hesitate to sacrifice the man to save the tree.

AGRICULTURE IN MADRAS.

In the report on the Operations of the Department of Agriculture in Madras, it is stated that it was brought to the notice of Government that indigo sarcoptes is a superior kind of indigo, containing up to 1 per cent. indigotine as against 68 maximum of the inferior; that it stands both drought and rain better, produces more leaf and yields more cuttings per annum; and that, being a perennial, it should stand for five years or more. A small quantity of the seed of this variety was obtained, and arrangements were made for its experimental cultivation at the Sadakpet Farm, with such local varieties as could be found by the Government Botanist. A small quantity of the seed was forwarded to the Superintendent, Demonstration Farm, Irivandrum. On the report of Major Fram that indigo sarcoptes has the greatest reputation of all the varieties, and that it is preferred in Madras to all other kinds, Government have directed that arrangements should be made for the collection of specimens of all the varieties of the indigo plant grown in the Presidency, and that the Government Botanist should examine the specimens in order to determine whether they comprise the sarcoptes variety. Arrangements have been made accordingly. The reports of the progress of agricultural education are encouraging—and a scholarship of Rs. 40 per annum has been established at the Agricultural College for the best student of the year. Dr. Leather, we note, is unable to be spared in future to give his course of lectures at the College, and the Principal of the College will deliver the special course of lectures hitherto assigned to Dr. Leather pending the appointment of an Agricultural Chemist in this Presidency. The usual lectures on veterinary matters to the agricultural students were delivered by Veterinary-Major Gunn, Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, between 11th November and 12th December, 1902. He took two practical classes weekly and lectured once a week. His lectures were confined to the various forms of contagious disease and their prophylactic treatment. Five lectures were given on these subjects and ten with practical demonstrations on the more simple disease and injuries.

PASSION WHICH COOLED COSTS
£500 DAMAGES.

Eight hundred love letters, without a resulting wedding ceremony, have cost a Newcastle man £500—i.e., 12s. 6d. per letter.

Mr. Gilbert Charles Ward, the son of a Newcastle coal exporter, and employed in his father's business, kept a diary. Here are three inspiring extracts:—

"Went to Sunderland; mother spoke parter, quite agreeable."—July 2, 1900.

"Asked her to be my wife."—July 4, 1900.

"Successful!"—July 5, 1900.

"Result: glorious" was the entry at a later date, after Mr. Ward had had the necessary interview with the lady's father, who had acquiesced in the engagement.

Miss May Elizabeth Cowell, the daughter of a wholesale wine merchant of Sunderland, was the plaintiff in an action for breach of promise which she brought against Mr. Ward at the Newcastle Assizes on Saturday. Fashionably attired, and wearing a large hat with loose blue veil, she gave her evidence with self-possession and confidence.

She is twenty-seven, while the young man with whom she had been acquainted for upwards of five years is two years younger. After the engagement so succinctly and passionately described in Mr. Ward's diary there came the interminable love-letters. Counsel spared the court the reading of the whole of the eight hundred, but gave extracts. "There is no specimen in the world like you," Mr. Ward fervently declared in one, and in another he protested, "My love for you is deep, deep down, and I will never get to the bottom of it."

Sometimes, said counsel, he seemed to be quoting from minor poets, varied by occasional bursts into the vernacular. The defendant comported himself as the devoted lover until the latter part of last year, when the loving communications suddenly ceased, and his mother wrote that the correspondence should terminate, as her son was not in a position to be engaged.

Meanwhile Miss Cowell had prepared her trousseau, and everything was ready for the wedding. After the collapse of the love-making she was compelled to take a situation as lady's companion.

The defence was that there had been no engagement—only an "understanding." In his evidence the defendant said that he told the plaintiff and her father that he hoped he would be in a position to marry in about five years. He was a clerk in his father's office, and his present salary was between £6 and £7 a month.

The jury awarded Miss Cowell £500 damages.

A Press Note issued by the Bombay Revenue Department says that an influentially signed representation on the subject of the improvement of horticulture and agriculture in Bombay Presidency was received by the Bombay Government early in September, 1903. For a considerable period before that date the subject

had been under consideration by this Government and had been discussed with the Government of India. As a result of this consideration given to the matter on receipt of the representation of August, 1903, proposals for the extension of agricultural research and improvement of agricultural education in Bombay Presidency have been made to the Government of India, but cannot be published until they have been dealt with by that Government, and until such sanctions of the Secretary of State for India as are required have been received.

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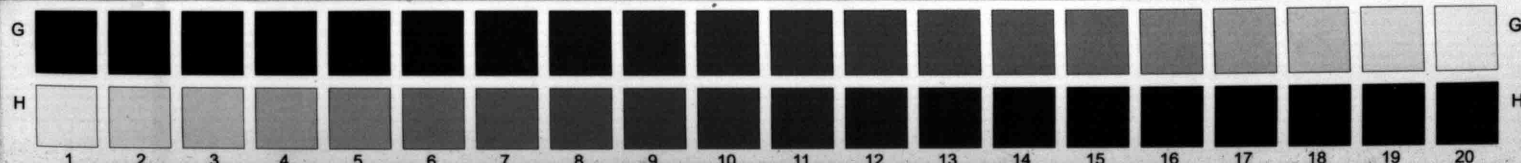
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MEDICAL OPINION:—

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Dr. A. N. Roy Chowdhury, M. B., Calcutta, writes:—"I have tried your 'Phtisis 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."

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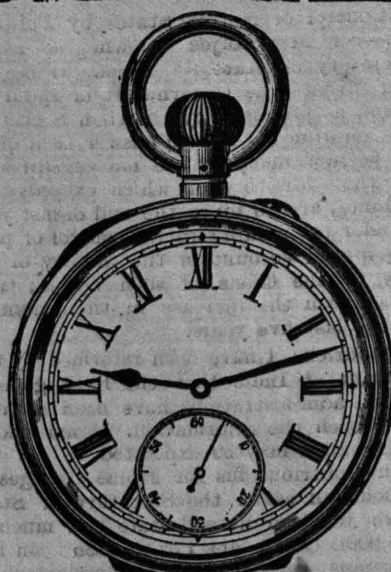
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(Continued from page 2.)

carried in the locality, and in which improvement can be effected by instructing pupils or workmen by means of superior appliances, methods, or designs. Instruction in these arts or art industries should be directed to their expansion through the improvement of the skill and capacity of the pupil or workman, but it should not be pushed to the point of competing with local industries, or doing within the school what can equally well be done outside, or of usurping the sphere of private enterprise. The schools should not be converted into shops, nor should the officers of the Education Department be responsible for extensive commercial transactions; but samples of the wares produced may legitimately be kept for sale or for orders, and may be exhibited in public museums. A register of the workmen or pupils trained in school should be kept, with the object of enabling orders which may be received to be placed with advantage. The teaching should be in the hands of experts, trained as a rule in Indian Colleges or in Art Schools. The specialization of a limited number of arts and art industries in the several schools should be preferred to the simultaneous teaching of a large number. Free admission and scholarships should, as a general rule, be discouraged, and should gradually be replaced by payment of fees; but this is compatible with giving necessary assistance to promising pupils, and with the payment of wages to students as soon as their work becomes of value.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

33. Industrial schools are intended to train intelligent artisans or foremen, and to further or develop those local industries which are capable of expansion by the application of improved methods or implements. Schools of this type are not numerous, nor have they at present succeeded in doing much to promote the growth of industries. A recent enumeration gives their total number as 123, with 8,405 pupils in attendance, and the number of different trades taught as 48. Some are conducted by Government, either as separate institutions or attached to Schools of Art, while others are managed by local authorities, or by private persons under a system of grants-in-aid. Their shortcomings are obvious and admitted. A large proportion of the pupils who attend them have no intention of practising the trade they learn, but pass into clerical and other employments, using the industrial schools merely in order to obtain that general education which they could acquire in ordinary schools at less cost to the State, but at greater cost to themselves. Even for those who do intend to follow the trades taught in the industrial schools, it is feared that in some cases the teaching given does not provide a training of a sufficiently high standard to enable them to hold their own with artisans who have learnt their craft in the bazaar. The industries selected are frequently not those which are locally of most importance, and there is an undue predominance of carpentry and blacksmiths' work amongst them.

34. An attempt will now be made to remedy these defects. The Government of India do not expect a large immediate increase in the number of industrial schools, and they desire rather to encourage experiment than to prescribe fixed types for this form of education. Admission will be confined to those boys who are known by their caste or occupation to be likely to practise in after life the handicrafts taught in the schools, and the courses of study will be so ordered as not to lend themselves to the manufacture of clerks, but to bear exclusively upon carefully selected industries. A distinction will be drawn between those types of school which will be suitable for the large centres of industry, where capital is invested on a great scale and the need of trained artisans is already recognized by the employers, and those adapted to places where hand industries prevail, and where the better in the value of technical training has yet to make its way. In the former the prospects are favourable for the establishment of completely equipped trade schools, such as are found in other countries; in the latter, search has still to be made for the kind of institution which will take root in Indian soil. Suggestions for experiment based upon observation of the habits and tendencies of Indian artisans have been placed before the Local Governments. They will be pursued further under the advice of skilled experts in particular industries.

COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

35. A system of education intended to impart "useful and practical knowledge, suitable to every station in life," cannot be considered complete without ample provision than exists at present in India for school training definitely adapted to commercial life. There is at present no University course of training of a specialized description for business men; in the field of secondary education the inclusion of commercial subjects in the optional lists of subjects for examination have outstripped the progress made in the organization of courses of instruction. The beginnings which have been made at Bombay, Lucknow, Calcutta, Amritsar, and elsewhere, show that the attempt to provide suitable courses meets with encouraging response; and increased attention will now be given to the extension of such teaching in large centres of commerce and population. The proper development of the teaching demands that it should be adapted to Indian needs, and should not be based merely upon English text-books. The London Chamber of Commerce examinations supply a convenient test for those pupils (especially Europeans) who are likely to proceed to England. Commercial courses, leading up to this or other examinations, are now being placed upon an equality with purely literary courses as a qualification for Government service. But their chief aim will be to supply practical training for those who are to enter business houses either in a superior or subordinate capacity. Registers will be kept of the pupils who have been so trained, and endeavours will be made to find employment for them by communication with Chambers of Commerce and mercantile firms. The Government of India trust that they may look for the co-operation of the mercantile

community in framing suitable courses of instruction, and in giving preference in selecting employees to those who have qualified themselves by directing their studies towards those subjects which will be useful in commercial life.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

36. For a country where two-thirds of the population are dependent for their livelihood on the produce of the soil, it must be admitted that the provision for agricultural education in India is at present meagre and stands in serious need of expansion and reorganization. At Poona in Bombay and Saidapet in Madras there are colleges teaching a three years' course which is fairly satisfactory at Poona, though the staff is hardly strong enough, while at Saidapet the training is somewhat defective on the practical side. In the United Provinces the school at Cawnpore has a two years' course, especially intended for the training of subordinate revenue officials in which direction it has done and is doing very good work, but the teaching staff is weak and the equipment inadequate. At Nagpur a school with a two years' course gives good practical education, and special arrangements are made for a vernacular class for sons of landowners and others. Bengal has added to the Engineering College at Bampur, near Calcutta, classes which give a two years' agricultural training to students who have taken their B. A. degree at the University or have passed the F. E. standard in the college; but the conditions are not such as to admit of a thoroughly satisfactory course. In the Punjab and Burma no attempt has as yet been made to teach agriculture. In all these institutions instruction is given almost entirely in English, and until advanced text-books have been compiled in the vernacular this must continue to be the case in all but the most elementary classes.

37. At present, therefore, while the necessity for developing the agricultural resources of the country is generally recognized, India possesses no institution capable of imparting a complete agricultural education. The existing schools and colleges have not wholly succeeded, either in theory or in practice. They have neither produced scientific experts, nor succeeded in attracting members of the land-holding classes to qualify themselves as practical agriculturists. Both of these defects must be supplied before any real progress can be looked for. In the first place an organization must be created by which men qualified to carry on the work of research, and to raise the standard of teaching, can be trained in India itself. Before agriculture can be adequately taught in the vernacular, suitable text-books must be produced, and this can only be done by men who have learnt the subject in English. The Government of India have therefore under their consideration a scheme for the establishment of an Imperial Agricultural College in connection with an Experimental Farm and Research Laboratory, to be carried on under the general direction of the Inspector General of Agriculture, at which it is intended to provide a thorough training in all branches of agricultural science, combined with constant practice in farming work and estate management. In addition to shorter courses for those students who are intended for lower posts, there will be courses of instruction extending to five years, which will qualify men to fill posts in the Department of Agriculture itself, such as those of Assistant Directors, Research Experts, Superintendents of Farms, Professors, Teachers, and Managers of Court of Wards and Encumbered Estates. It is hoped that a demand may arise among the landowning classes for men with agricultural attainments and that the proposed institution may succeed in meeting that demand. Arrangements will also be made to admit to the higher courses those who have undergone preliminary training at the Provincial colleges; and thereby to exercise upon those colleges an influence tending gradually to raise their standard of efficiency.

TRAINING COLLEGES.

38. If the teaching in secondary schools is to be raised to a higher level, if the pupils are to be cured of their tendency to rely upon learning notes and text-books by heart, if, in a word, European knowledge is to be diffused by the methods proper to it, then it is most necessary that the teachers should themselves be trained in the art of teaching. Even in England divided councils have till recent times prevented due progress from being made with this most essential condition, of the reform of secondary education. The Indian Education Commission referred to the conflict of opinion upon this fundamental principle, and to the diversity of practice which prevailed; and, while hesitating to lay down a general rule requiring secondary teachers to be trained, recommended "as an inadequate, but the only practicable alternative" that an examination in the principles and practice of teaching should be instituted, success in which should hereafter be made a condition of permanent employment as a teacher in any secondary school. Other and larger views of the subject are now in the ascendant, and the Government of India are glad to know that the principle of providing training institutions for secondary teachers meets with universal acceptance among the Local Governments and Administrations. There already exist at Madras, Kurseong, Allahabad, Lahore, and Jubbulpore, institutions in which students are trained for service as teachers in the highest classes of secondary schools. Such students have either passed the Entrance or the Intermediate Examination of the University or are graduates. These institutions have done good work, and the time has come to extend the system to the provinces where it does not exist, notably Bombay, and to endeavour to create a supply of trained teachers which shall be adequate to the needs of the secondary schools throughout the country. Not only must the supply be increased, but the quality of the training given must be improved.

39. The details of the measures taken with that object are already engaging the attention of the various Local Governments. But the general principles upon which the Government of India desire to see the training institutions developed are these. An adequate staff of well-trained members of the Indian Education Service is required, and for this purpose it will be necessary to enlist more men of ability and experience in the work of higher training. The equipment of a Training College for secondary teachers is at least as important as that of an Arts College, and the work calls for the exercise of abilities as great as those required in any branch of the Educational Service. The period of training for students must be at least two years, except in the case of graduates, for whom one year's training may suffice. For the graduates the course of instruction will be chiefly

directed towards imparting to them a knowledge of the principles which underlie the art of teaching, and some degree of technical skill in the practice of the art. It should be a University course, culminating in a University degree of diploma. For the others, the course should embrace the extension, consolidation, and revision of their general studies; but the main object should be to render them capable teachers, and no attempt should be made to prepare them for any higher external examination. The scheme of instruction should be determined by the authorities of the Training College and by the Education Department; and the examination at the close of it should be controlled by the same authorities. The training in the theory of teaching should be closely associated with its practice, and for this purpose good practising schools should be attached to each college, and should be under the control of the same authority. The practising school should be fully equipped with well trained teachers, and the students should see examples of the best teaching, and should teach under capable supervision. It is desirable that the Training College should be furnished with a good library, and with a museum in which should be exhibited samples, models, illustrations, or records of the school work of the province. Every possible care should be taken to maintain a connection between the Training College and the school, so that the student on leaving the college and entering upon his career as a teacher may not neglect to practise the methods which he has been taught, and may not (as sometimes happens) be prevented from doing so and forced to fall into line with the moral mechanical methods of his untrained colleagues. The trained students whom the college has sent out should be occasionally brought together again, and the inspecting staff should co-operate with the Training College authorities in seeing that the influence of the college makes itself felt in the schools.

SCHOOLS FOR PRIMARY TEACHERS.

40. The institution of Normal Schools for primary teachers, which was enjoyed by the Despatch of 1864, has been very generally carried out. Recent enquiries into the sufficiency of their number have shown that an increase is called for in some provinces, notably in Bengal; and provision is being made for this increase, its possibility depending partly upon the salaries paid to primary teachers being sufficient to induce men to undergo a course of training. The usual type of normal school is a boarding school, where students who have received a vernacular education are maintained by stipends and receive further general education, combined with instruction in the methods of teaching, and practice in teaching, under supervision. The course differs in length in the different provinces. In future it will as a general rule be for not less than two years.

41. Steps are also being taken to supply courses of training specially suited for teachers of rural schools. These do not attempt the impossible task of reforming the agricultural practice of the peasantry by the agency of village school masters imbued with a smattering of scientific theory. They serve the more limited and practical purpose of supplying the village schools with teachers whose stock-in-trade is not mere book learning, and whose interests have been aroused in the study of rural things, so that they may be able to connect their teaching with the objects which are familiar to the children in the country schools. Various plans are being tried, such as drafting the teachers from the normal school to a Government farm and training them there for six months, or giving a continuous course at the normal school itself by means of lectures combined with practice in cultivating plots of ground or school gardens. Experience will show which methods work best in different provinces, and it is not necessary to pronounce in favour of one plan to the exclusion of others.

HOSTELS.

42. Great importance is attached by the Government of India to the provision of hostels or boarding-houses, under proper supervisions, in connection with colleges and secondary schools. These institutions protect the students who live in them from the moral dangers of life in large towns; they provide common interests and create a spirit of health companionship; and they are in accord not only with the usage of English public schools and colleges but also with the ancient Indian tradition that the pupil should live in the charge of his teacher. Missionary bodies have joined with alacrity in the extension of this movement. The credit for the first hostel established in India is claimed by the Madras Christian College, which still continues to add others; and a striking example of the success of the residential system is to be found in the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh. The Local Governments have been active both in founding hostels for Government colleges and schools and in aiding their provision. In Madras at the present time a large hostel, the result of private munificence aided by Government, is nearing completion; in Bombay, Calcutta, Allahabad and Lahore signs are to be seen of the growth of similar institutions. The returns for the year 1901-02 showed that there were then 1,415 hostels, with 47,362 boarders; while the extent to which they derive their funds from sources independent of Government is made clear by the fact that more than two-fifths of the boarders were in unaided hostels, and that of the total expenditure upon all hostels, ten lakhs were derived from subscriptions and endowments, as compared with two lakhs sixty-three thousand rupees from public funds. The Government of India believe that the system of hostels, if extended with due regard to its essential principles, which include direct supervision by resident teachers, is destined to exercise a profound influence on student life in India and to correct many of the shortcomings which now attend our educational methods.

INSPECTING STAFF.

43. The reduction in the number of examinations which is being carried out, and the general raising of educational standards which is contemplated, demand an increased stringency in inspection and a substantial strengthening of the inspecting staff. In the Despatch of 1864, it was enjoined that inspectors should

"conduct, or assist at, the examination of the scholars . . . and generally, by their advice, aid the managers and schoolmasters in conducting colleges and schools of every description throughout the country." The latter function is no less important than the former, and calls for wider educational knowledge, greater initiative, and the exercise of a wise discretion in adapting means to ends. It is a task which will provide worthy occupation for men who are imbued with the best traditions in the matter of school management, and it is through the influence of such men alone that there is any real prospect of its accomplishment. Their assistance can only be enlisted by increasing the cadre of the Indian Educational Service. Some additions in the lower branches of the inspectorate are also needed in order to provide for a complete system of inspection "in situ" instead of collective examinations. The Government of India do not require that inspectors should be precluded from having recourse to examination as a means of inspection; but they desire that inspectors should be much more than mere examiners. They should not only judge the results of teaching, but should guide and advise as to its methods; and it is essential that they should be familiar with the schools in their ordinary working conditions. The work of schools should be defined with reference rather to the courses of instruction followed than to the examinations that have to be passed, and rigid uniformity either in the arrangement of subjects or in the classification of the scholars should be avoided, free play being given to the proper adaptation of the working of the schools to their local circumstances.

ADMINISTRATION.

44. The more active and progressive policy that is now being adopted in educational matters will throw a constantly increasing burden of work and responsibility upon the Directors of Public Instruction. The wider the influence that these officers exercise, the more essential is it that they should not be prevented by the growth of their routine duties from making frequent tours of inspection and thus acquiring a direct and intimate knowledge of the educational conditions of their provinces and the circumstances of the numerous schools under their control. Four officers are therefore to be added to the Indian Educational Service, in order to provide the Directors of Public Instruction in Madras, Bombay, Bengal, and the United Provinces with assistants upon whom part of their duties may be devolved. Arrangements will also be made for periodical meetings of the Directors in conference, in order that they may compare their experience of the results of different methods of work, and may discuss matters of common interest.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

45. The Education Department is divided into the superior and the subordinate services. The superior service consists of two branches, called respectively the Indian and the Provincial educational services, of which the former is recruited in England and the latter in India. The opportunities and responsibilities which work in the Department brings to an officer of this service give scope for a wide range of intellectual activity. Such an officer takes an active part in the profoundly interesting experiment of introducing an Eastern people to Western knowledge and modern methods of research; he comes into contact with the remains of an earlier civilization and the traditions of ancient learning; he can choose between the career of a professor and that of an educational administrator; and in either capacity he has great opportunity of exercising personal influence and promoting the best interests of genuine education. In order that members of the Indian educational service may keep themselves abreast of the advances which are now being made in other countries in the science of education, facilities are given to them while on furlough to study the theory and practice of all branches of education both in England and in other parts of the world. The part, already considerable, that is taken by natives of India in the advancement of their countrymen in modern methods of intellectual training will, it is hoped, assume an even greater importance in the future. If the reforms now contemplated in the whole system of instruction are successfully carried out, it may be expected that the Educational Service will offer steadily increasing attractions to the best educational talent. Where the problems to be solved are so complex, and the interests at stake so momentous, India is entitled to ask for the highest intellect and culture that either English or Indian seats of learning can furnish for her needs.

CONCLUSION.

46. The Governor General in Council has now passed in review the history and progress of western education under British rule in India, the objects which it seeks to accomplish and the means which it employs. It has been shown how indigenous methods of instruction were tried and found wanting; how in 1854 the broad outlines of a comprehensive scheme of national education were for the first time determined; how the principles then accepted have been consistently followed ever since; how they were affirmed by the Education Commission of 1882, and how they are now being further extended and developed, in response to the growing needs of the country by the combined efforts of the Government of India and the Provincial Governments. The system of education thus extended makes provision in varying degrees for all forms of intellectual activity that appeal to a civilized community. It seeks to satisfy the aspirations of students in the domains of learning and research; it supplies the Government with a succession of upright and intelligent public servants; it trains workers in every branch of commercial enterprise that has made good its footing in India; it attempts to develop the resources of the country and to stimulate and improve indigenous arts and industries; it offers to all classes of society a training suited to their position in life; and for these ends it is organized on lines which admit of indefinite expansion as the demand for education grows and public funds or private liberality afford a larger measure of support. It rests with the people themselves to make a wise use of the opportunities that are offered to them and to realise that education in the true sense means something more than the acquisition of so much positive knowledge, something higher than the mere passing of examinations, that it aims at the progressive and orderly development of all the faculties of the mind, that it should form character and teach right conduct—that it is, in fact, a preparation for the

business of life. If this essential truth is overlooked or imperfectly appreciated, the labours of the Government of India to elevate the standard of education in this country and to inspire it with higher ideals will assuredly fail to produce substantial and enduring results. Those labours have been undertaken in the hope that they will command the hearty support of the leaders of native thought and of the great body of workers in the field of Indian Education. On them the Governor General in Council relies to carry on and complete a task which the Government can do no more than begin.

WAR NEWS.

Nearly forty foreign war correspondents are waiting at Tokio for permission to go to the front. With the exception of two Germans and one Frenchman, all of them are either English or Americans, and more are expected.

The "Novoe Vremya," says Laffan, is urging the Russian Government, in view of the great loss entailed by the destruction of warships in the Far East, to cease building ironclads and return to wooden vessels. The paper opens a subscription list to build for the Government some of the new wooden warships.

A telegram to the "Times of India" dated Singapore, March 11th says:—The Liverpool Collier Oriol bound to Singapore, which Ketter reported to have been seized in the Red Sea by the Jibuti squadron, has arrived here. The captain emphatically denies having ever seen the Russian vessels. The Oriol is heavily laden with coal for Japan.

The "Tungwen Hupao" learns from Manchuria that the Russians have been lately enlisting numbers of unemployed Chinese in Vladivostok and other places in Eastern Siberia and dressing them up in Russian uniforms. Further, that out of 15,000 men lately arrived at Harbin, no less than one-fifth are Chinese recruits dressed and armed like any Russian soldier.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Express" reports this incident:—"After the attack by the Japanese torpedo-boats at Port Arthur on the 9th instant, Admiral Alexeff summoned before him the Russian officers whose culpable negligence was the main cause of the defeat. The Admiral, convinced of the guilt of a lieutenant among them, is declared to have drawn his revolver and shot the young officer dead in front of his comrades."

The cruiser "Pallada" has entered dock. It is announced that repairs to the battleships "Retvisan" and "Osarevitch" can only be fully carried out in the dock at Vladivostok. These vessels will remain at Port Arthur for the present. With a view, however, to utilizing their formidable artillery, it has been decided after temporary repairs have been effected, to employ them as coast guardships until an opportunity is afforded of sending them to Vladivostok to be completely overhauled.

Reuter's correspondent telegraphs from St. Petersburg (Feb. 20):—"The Russian Baltic Squadron, composed of the 15 following vessels; will, it is stated, leave for the East at the end of June:—The eight battleships Borodino, Orel, Imperator Alexander III., Kniaz Suvoroff, Oslabya, Navarin, Sissoi Veliky, and Imperator Alexander II.; the two armoured cruisers Dmitri Donskoi and Oleg; the three protected cruisers Aurora, Jemchug, and Znamrud, the two latter being of the Novik type and the two larger transports Kamchatka and Ocean, which recently returned from the Far East. This squadron, which will also be accompanied by 30 torpedo-boats, will be commanded by Rear-Admiral Roystevsky."

The Russian correspondent at Port Arthur telegraphs a description of the Japanese attack on the harbour. He says:—"About 1 o'clock on the morning of the 24th the Japanese made a desperate attack to block the entrance to the inner harbour and dock. With this object four merchant steamers, accompanied by torpedo vessels, were sent from two sides towards the entrance of the channel. The movement was perceived by the Retvisan, which was lying in the channel, and which opened fire immediately. At the same time the guns of the forts on the Tiger Peninsula, Golden Hill and Electric Cliff were turned upon the enemy, and a furious cannonade ensued, lasting until 6 in the morning. Then the firing slackened and became desultory. The Japanese failed to effect their purpose. All four steamers were sunk. One is lying behind Golden Hill, one near the Retvisan, and two others are between the entrance of the channel and Liaotshan. Two of the steamers are still on fire. The cruisers Bayan and Novik pursued the Japanese torpedo flotilla. It was said that one torpedo-boat was sunk. About 9 in the morning a considerable Japanese squadron approached Port Arthur, and the Bayan and the Novik were ordered to return. The Japanese squadron, which had not opened fire, then steamed away, in the direction of Dally."

Reuter's correspondent telegraphed from Ying-kau on Feb. 20:—"By special permission of Major-General Pligg, the Viceroy's chief of staff, and accompanied by an official escort I passed through the lines to-day and visited Port Arthur, which is closed to all civilians. Less than 30 per cent. of the inhabitants of the town have remained; and many of them are leaving by trains, which are still crowded with refugees. The whole of the Liaotung peninsula is quiet, and the railway is adequately guarded. The troops are active in the vicinity of Kin-chau, where the peninsula narrows down, and a strong force is guarding the spot. Officials have taken possession of all foodstuffs in the large stores, which Chinese and other merchants have deserted. The authorities are making further provision for a siege by sending wheat and milling machinery to Port Arthur. They claim that they will be able to hold out for two years. The Russian military authorities, who are thoroughly aware of their unpreparedness, are now hurrying up reinforcements. Incredible numbers of artillery are reported to be 'en route' from Russia. Some of the military state unhesitatingly that throughout Manchuria and at Vladivostok there were not over 125,000 troops when war broke out, and assert that Japan's opportunity for a successful attack was the autumn."

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NOTES ON THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

FOR A TWO-YEARS' SIEGE.

A message from Kinnow (Newchwang), says that the authorities are making further provision for a siege by sending wheat and milling machinery to Port Arthur. They claim that they will be able to hold out for two years, although the Russians have re-opened the Liaotung harbours, further arrivals are not expected, since the Japanese fleet, which is sighted at intervals from Golden Hill is in full control of the Gulf, and also on account of the imperfect police system under which all persons are treated as spies. Repairs on the Russian fleet are proceeding. The Novik has been docked, but the condition of the Tsarevitch and Retvisan is unchanged, although the engineers say that the Retvisan was refloated for a few days. Skippers regard Dalny Harbour as unsafe for years to come on account of the stray mines from the Yenisei, some of which are reported by the last merchant ships which have arrived at Port Arthur to be drifting in the open sea. The city is plunged in darkness nightly. Admiral Alexieff's house is lighted, but the people understand that the Admiral himself has gone to Harbin.

SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS.

A telegraphic summary of the latest war news from England, wired by the "Times of India" Colombo correspondent from the Australian papers dated the 29th ultimo, contains the following items:—

The Russians declare that of the four Japanese vessels sunk off Port Arthur the one nearest the harbour was ablaze for some time. Electric wires, apparently connected with an infernal machine, were discovered aboard. According to Japanese accounts the vessels were laden with stones and painted to represent warships. Each carried a captain, an engineer, and three seamen. Ten of the latter were drowned.

The "New York Herald" states that the Japanese on Thursday silenced five of the Port Arthur fort guns. The town was seriously damaged, and a shell struck the anchorage and many junks were destroyed. Some shells fell close to the arsenal where several of the guards were killed.

Admiral Alexieff reports that on the early morning of the 26th February, the Retvisan repelled several attacks by Japanese torpedo boats, two of which were subsequently sunk in the open sea.

Mr. Bennett Burleigh states the Russians are evacuating Dalny with the object of more efficiently defending Port Arthur.

The Russians boast they have ruined the Dalny breakwater, wharves, and railway sidings to prevent their use by the Japanese.

Seventy miles of railway and some important bridges on the Harbin-Vladivostok section have been destroyed. All the mechanics at Port Arthur, Dalny, and Vladivostok are Chinese who are escaping and the Russians in consequence find difficulty in repairing the damaged warships.

Owing to their inability to repair the Retvisan and Tsarevitch both are being utilised as coastguard ships.

Russia has thanked Great Britain for the help rendered by the crew of the Talbot in rescuing the survivors at Chemulpo.

The Tsar has decorated General Kuropatkin and given him an autograph letter acknowledging the General's self-sacrifice.

ELEVEN DAMAGED WARSHIPS.

The ship Wenchow, which was at Port Arthur during the bombardment, has arrived at Chifu with the following interesting particulars, which are quoted by the "Daily Mail" correspondent, of the damaged Russian warships:—

"The Askold was lying in the mud in the eastern basin with a gaping hole amidships where a shell had gone through her hull. Half one funnel had also been shot away."

"The Sevastopol has a hole in her, three feet above the hawsepipe."

"The Novik was badly shattered, the left part of her port side near the sternpost being damaged above the water-line."

"The Retvisan was at the harbour entrance, with her stern on the beach and her bows in the water, a complete wreck."

"A cruiser, believed to be the Pallada, had been torpedoed on her starboard side just abaft the engine-room."

"Altogether eleven ships were hit, and they presented a more or less battered appearance as they entered the harbour."

This account seems to show that the damage to the Russian squadron was even greater than had been reported. It is confirmed by the special correspondent of the "Times" at Port Arthur, who also declares that eleven Russian ships were put out of action. In addition to those of which we have been officially informed, he mentions that the Sevastopol and the Petropavlovsk, twin ships to the Volga, were disabled, and that the cruiser Boyarin was also slightly damaged.

ALEXIEFF'S LIST OF HONOURS.

In a diplomatic despatch, forwarded in a Reuter message from St. Petersburg, Admiral Alexieff gives his version of the naval battle at Port Arthur on the 9th ultimo.

This was the attack by the Japanese fleet following the successful night torpedo work on the 8th.

After enumerating the warships engaged, among which he names the Tsarevitch and the Retvisan, Admiral Alexieff betrays the fact that no attempt was made to bring the Russian torpedo boats into effect.

"Throughout the fight," he states, "the torpedo division lay to the right of the squadron, at a distance of ten to fifteen cables' length, awaiting orders to attack the enemy."

"It may be assumed that several vessels of the enemy's fleet sustained damage, which explains why they avoided further fighting, though they were much superior to us in strength."

The chief function of the fight seems to have been the bestowal of a basketful of decorations by the Viceroy.

"According to the reports of the ships' commanders," says Alexieff, "the men fought exceedingly well, on which account I have, in virtue of the imperial authorisation, conferred the following crosses of the Order of St. George:—

"Six fourth class crosses for each company on board first and second class warships having crews of over 300 men.

"Four crosses for each company of all other ships of the second class."

"One cross for each torpedo-boat and one for the signal station on Golden Hill, which was operated under a heavy fire from the enemy."

"Four St. George Crosses for Battery No. 15, three for Battery No. 13, and one cross for Gunner Nikifor Alechia personally, he having, though severely wounded, returned to his battery after having had his wounds dressed."

"In announcing the above to your Majesty," the Admiral concludes, "I am pleased to be able to add that the naval and land forces in the Far East are inspired with the most heartfelt wish to meet their insolent foe breast to breast in order to fulfil their duty in the sight of their adorned ruler, and, firm and unshakable, to fight for the honour and glory of their beloved fatherland."

It is significant that Admiral Alexieff makes no mention whatever of the material losses sustained by his squadron.

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

The military "Wochenblatt" of Berlin draws attention to the enormous difficulties with which Russia has to contend in the mobilisation of her land forces. When once the sea route is closed, the only line of communication with the home base open to Russia is by way of the Trans-Siberian and the East-China Railways, a distance of nearly 6,000 versts (4,000 miles). The comparative inability of the Railway to cope with the probable requirements of military transport may endanger its effectiveness far more seriously than any menace of destruction by Chinese marauders. The longest distance between any two stations is about 34 versts (about 23 miles). With the single track only seven trains can be despatched daily each way. The transport of a German army corps, numbering 25,000 men with 144 guns, would require 112 trains, and would therefore take 16 days to entertain. The two brigades which were transferred last summer from Russia in Europe to China, east of Lake Baital, were conveyed by the railway at the average speed of 13 versts between eight and nine miles an hour. The duration of the journey to the province of Kwan Tung would thus be about 20 days. At this rate, therefore, the first contingent of reinforcements of 25,000 men would arrive at Mukden or Vladivostok after 35 days. The German military periodical calculates that if Russia could command a force of 133,000 men in the Far East, on February 10th, it would be March 3rd before she could raise it to 158,000 men, March 19th before she could bring it up to 183,000 men, and April 4th before the army could be increased to 208,000 men. Not until April 20th could the Russian forces number 233,000. Moreover, this purely mechanical calculation is based upon the assumption that the railway proves equal to the strain, and that no part of the track is destroyed by the enemy.

GENERAL LINIEVITCH.

General Linievitch, who has been appointed to the supreme command of the Russian Manchurian army, commanded the Russian troops in the advance of the Allies on Peking. At Tung Chau, fourteen miles from the Imperial City, General Linievitch insisted that his troops must have rest. He suggested, therefore, that the following day be spent in recuperation. From this, however, the Martial General Fukushima, the Japanese commander, strongly dissented. The Chinese, he pointed out, were in a state of demoralisation, and could be the more easily rushed at once. The Japanese warrior had his way, and that same night the city was assaulted. The Russians breached the walls, and by seven o'clock in the morning were inside the walls. They were not able to advance into the city with the rest of the troops, however, having sustained terrific damage. General Linievitch, by summoning reinforcements to the spot, upset the pre-arranged plan which was to completely surround the city and cut off the escape of all within it. The Russian leader did not, therefore, win the unqualified confidence of the allied troops. As a man he is popular. He displayed humanity, showed refinement and great personal valour, and his conduct in regard to his troops, was on the whole distinguished by thoughtfulness and care; while he was affability itself on most occasions. It is said that he was greatly pained at the looting carried on under his notice by subordinate officers of the armies of other Powers.

YUAN-SHI-KAI.

General Yuan-Shi-Kai, who has issued a proclamation of neutrality into his troops, and is doing his best to preserve tranquillity in China, is one of the great men of the Celestial Empire, and one of whom the world will yet hear much. He is the one man who appreciates Western methods for the army. He has good enough reason for that appreciation, for, although he did not, as was reported at the time, bring about the war between China and Japan, he saw sufficient of the fighting to make him realise the hopelessness of the regime under which Chinese methods languish. Yuan-Shi-Kai was the strong friend of the foreigners in the Boxer troubles. The Allies, while on the march, got a telegram bearing his signature. It told them that the Legations could hold out so long as food and ammunition lasted. The news seemed too good to be true, it was disbelieved. But that was not his only kindly act. He had under him the best-drilled force in China, men trained by a Norwegian and a German, and the equal, so far as could be judged, of European troops. These he held in hand when they wanted to join the general attacks on the foreigners. His life has been one long romance. He has made incredible progress in a land where only age is merit. Li Hung Chang found in him a valuable lieutenant; sent him to Korea as Minister-Resident, brought him home to take military command; allowed him to train his troops as he would; saw him exert all his influence to save the lives of the Legations. It was Yuan who entrusted with a plot to kidnap the Empress and murder Kang Yu-Wei, saved the Empress and the Emperor's adviser, although in doing so he risked his own life. Fifty such men as he would make China a new Japan.

THE WAR FUND.

As the result of recent events, many applications for permission contribute to the War Funds of the country are now being received by the authorities, and the amount so far offered has reached over 2,000,000 yen, which sum is increasing daily. It is now confidently expected that when bonds are issued the

whole amount will be immediately subscribed. The Kokumin observes that the amount of money borrowed by the Government from the Bank of Japan has now reached 29,000,000 yen, showing an increase of 19,000 yen over the amount as it stood before the situation became so critical. The sum spent by the Government so far as war expenses is about 23,000,000 yen, which includes the purchase of the cruisers Kasuga and Nishin, which cost 15,000,000 yen. In addition to this about 4,000,000 yen is already appropriated for certain purposes, making a total of about 27,000,000 yen.

THE NEAR EAST CRISIS.

Matters are rapidly drifting towards a crisis in the Near East, whence some reports go so far as to declare that war between Turkey and Bulgaria is only a matter of a few weeks. The most striking evidence of the imminence of a rupture is provided by the "New York Times," which states that Turkey, in a Note to the Powers, after making various charges against Bulgaria, which is accused of preparing for war, declares that the Porte prefers to undertake military operations against Bulgaria, as the source of the disorders, rather than against the Albanians, who are in revolt against the foreign reforms. The Note intimates that no further communication is likely to be made to the Powers before an actual rupture occurs. Turkey declares to have finally decided not to carry out the Austro-Russian Reform Scheme, and seems bent upon provoking an outbreak. It appears that the Sultan, feeling the loss of prestige by the manner in which the Austro-Russian reforms have been forced upon him, has privately instructed his Ministers to place every obstacle in the way of the reforms being duly carried out. Hilmi Pasha, commanding in the insurrectionist districts, is doing all in his power to prevent the reforms. Officers learning the true state of affairs are secretly pushing forward the making of military roads leading to Bulgaria. In the Adrianople and Kirk Kilisse districts, the Porte declares the reform scheme to be impracticable, and states that the Manchurians themselves make its application impossible. All is being done to stir up the population in the Monastir district in order to blotter up the Turkish case. Bakia Pasha, who is hated by reason of the part he played in the pillage and slaughter of Kuchovo last year, has been appointed Commander.

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