

# Amrita Bazar Patrika

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

VOLV XXXVI.

CALCUTTA SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 1904.

No. 26

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**INTERESTING AND UPTO DATE**

The INDIAN REVIEW for February contains amongst others the following interesting articles: Mr. Kipling and his World By Mr. John M. Robertson. What's in a Name? By Mr. H. G. Keene. C. I. E., I. C. Mr. G. S. Aiyar on "Some Economic Aspects of British Rule in India" By Prof Ambika Charan Ukil, M. A., Herbert Spencer and his Teachings By Doctor Guglielmo E. Salvadori, Maitreyi: A Vedic Story By Pandit Sitanath Tattvabhushan, The Tariff Problem. By Mr. C. I. Morrison, M. A. The Indian Govt. on Preferential Tariffs. By "An Indian Publicist." Current Events By Rajduri Tolstoy on "Peace and War" The War between Russia and Japan By 'Britaudicus' The Indian Universities' Bill By the Editor, Herbert Spencer's Advice to Japan, with this number is issued a war map which is given free to subscribers and another noteworthy feature is that it contains the fertials of the czar Russia, the Empera, of Japan, king Edward, Herbert spence, court foistatory, Lord Curzon and the frible me Gobehall.  
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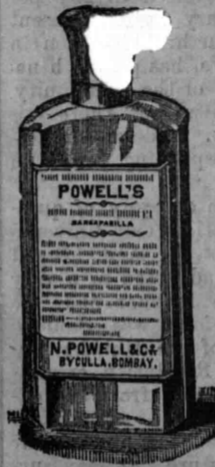
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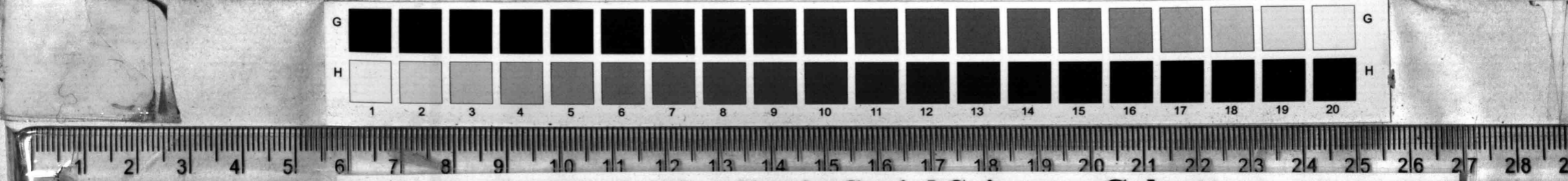
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 Babu Nityananda Biswas of Rampur-Basilah has executed my orders with great promptness, and the workmanship he has exhibited is highly creditable. He is, as far as I am able to judge, honest and fully deserves encouragement and patronage. He is true, worthy in his dealings with his customers.  
 Dated 4-2-90. Professor, Presidency College,



H. E. THE VICEROY'S SPEECH.

I do not propose to say much about the figures of the Budget. They speak for themselves. Hon'ble Members have found no complaint to make; and nearly every speech to which we have listened has been in the nature of a benediction. In my remarks I propose to look rather at the Budget as the culminating point for the moment in an era of recuperation which has now been proceeding for five years almost without a halt, and to contrast the position which we occupy to-day with that which was presented when I came to India at the end of 1898. My predecessor had to fight—and he fought with great courage and cool-headedness—against many drawbacks, famine, pestilence, earthquake, and war. Recurrent deficits appeared in the Budget. The exchange value of the rupee touched its lowest point, only a fraction over 1s. in 1895. In the summer of 1898 it was proposed to borrow 20 millions sterling in order to strengthen exchange. The year 1898-9 witnessed the turn of the tide and the first of a series of surpluses that have never since failed us. But even then exchange was an uncertain quantity, and we had no guarantee that the pendulum would not swing back. It was in the summer of 1899 that Sir Henry Fowler's Committee reported, and in September of that year we introduced and passed the legislation at Simla which gave us a gold standard in India, and started our present currency system on its way. Nearly five years have gone by, and we have almost forgotten the anxieties of those days. We have secured practical fixity of exchange at the rate of 16d. to the rupee. The lowest point touched has been 1s. 2/27/32d. in July 1901, and the highest 1s. 4 1/2d. in January 1900; but the ordinary fluctuations have been within much narrower limits. This has been the first and most beneficial result of the change. Hon'ble Members will recollect that another of the Committee's proposals was the creation of a Gold Reserve Fund from the profits of Indian coinage. It was reserved for Sir E. Law to put that plan into execution in 1900. We began with 3 millions in the first year; but we now have nearly 6 1/2 millions invested in Consols and other gold securities in England, and bringing in an interest of £166,000 per annum. Before many years have passed I anticipate that this reserve will have reached the figure of 10 millions sterling, which will be sufficiently for our purpose, and will give us a permanent guarantee for stability of exchange. The fund is valuable to my mind from another point of view. Constituted as it is from the profits on coinage, it points to a steadily-growing demand for currency, and, therefore, to an increase in the industrial activity and prosperity of the country. While I am speaking of our reserves, I must also not lose sight of our Currency Reserve, which, though it exists for a different purpose, viz., to secure the stability of our note circulation, and to provide for a demand for gold as distinguished from rupees is yet an important buttress to our financial position. This fund now contains upwards of 10 1/2 millions sterling in gold.

But it is in my power to point to other and more direct symptoms of progress in a comparison of our present Budget with its predecessors. Our revenue has risen from 68 1/2 millions in 1899 to 83 millions in 1904, and this notwithstanding one very severe year of famine and in parts of India two years, as well as the continued prevalence of plague. Nevertheless, whatever head of revenue you examine you will find the same marks of growth. The only heads under which there is a decrease in the present year are those of Salt and Assessed Taxes, and that only because of our reduction of taxation a year ago. For five years we have had a succession of surpluses, amounting to an average of 3 millions sterling per annum. Last year we gave to India the first remission of taxation that she has enjoyed for 20 years. We sacrificed thereby about £1,400,000 annually in respect of the Salt Tax and the Income Tax; but we gave to the people what in my judgment was their due, and we so arranged our remissions as to bring relief as far as possible to those classes that best deserved it. If our resources continue to expand, I should like to look forward to a day when we may proceed even further. It would, perhaps, be too much good luck for one Viceroy to give two considerable reductions of taxation in his time. But if I am not so fortunate, then I shall hope to bequeath the opportunity to my successor.

Another evidence of our improving credit has been the figures at which we have been able to issue our rupee paper loans for Public Works expenditure. In 1900 the average rate was just over 9 1/2 per cent.; last year it was a fraction over 9 1/2 per cent. The Bank rate has never exceeded 8 per cent., nor fallen below 3 per cent. During the past year it has not exceeded 7 per cent.

During the quinquennium our total debt, both here and in England, has been increased by less than 16 millions. But against this must be set an expenditure on capital account of nearly 20 millions on Railways and 2 1/2 millions on Irrigation, the increased revenue from which more than repays the interest on the capital outlay. As regards Railways and Irrigation, let me analyse a little more closely. At the end of this year 27,150 miles of railway will be open, or an increase of 4,650 miles in my time—the largest total that has yet been recorded. But a more important feature still is that having for the first time obtained a surplus on our Railways in 1899-1900—a modest banking of £76,000—our net Railway revenue has now risen to £855,000—a most healthy adult-of an average surplus of 468,000 in each of the five years.

In the same period the average net revenues from Irrigation has been £283,000. Thus on the two accounts we obtain an annual surplus of 1 1/2 millions sterling. In fact, we have now secured the whole of our Indian railways and canals for nothing, and instead of costing us money they have become a steady source of income to the State. These figures, I think, encourage us to borrow with even greater confidence in the future.

From a calculation that has been made for me I further learn that the net imports of gold and silver into India, which between the years 1804-1899 amounted to 25 millions sterling, have risen to over 46 millions sterling in the succeeding five years. I do not say that I regard this influx of the precious metals with unqualified satisfaction. For I often wonder what becomes of it all, how much of it goes below the ground, and how much is left above, and what proportion is reproductive. But when I read the familiar jeremiads about the alleged drain of capital away from India, it is at least open to me to remark that

there is also a great deal coming in, and the drain always seems to me to resemble a flow at one end of a pipe which is perpetually being replenished at the other. Again, I do not see how it is possible to overlook the enormous increase in Savings Banks deposits in India. In India these have risen from less than 1 million sterling in 1870 to over 7 1/2 millions sterling in 1903, out of which 9/10ths are owned by natives. Within the same period the private deposits in the Presidency, Exchange, and other Private Banks have risen from £6,600,000 to £28,500,000; and the quantity of Government paper held by natives has risen from 13 1/2 millions to 43 1/2 millions sterling.

Is it not time, therefore, that instead of repeating hypothetical figures and calculations that have been exposed until exposure has become tedious, our critics should recognize the fact that India is, on the contrary, exhibiting every mark of robust vitality and prosperity? These gentlemen remind me rather of an amiable eccentric whom I saw at school, and who always put up his umbrella and insisted that it was raining when the sun shone. In my view there are few, even among the most advanced countries of the world, that would not welcome an economic position as sound as that which India now enjoys. There are, no doubt, calls coming upon us urgent, incessant, and irresistible; for, as I shall presently show, we are raising the administrative standard all round; and administrative efficiency is merely another word for financial outlay. But so far as I can forecast, we shall be able to meet these calls without any addition to the burdens of the people; and if I were to leave India to-morrow, I should yet be proud of the good fortune that had enabled me to indulge in the brief analysis of our financial position which I have undertaken this afternoon.

There are two other items in the Budget to which I desire to refer, and they are both aspects of the same question, viz., our attitude to Local Governments. One theory I hope that we have effectively killed; and that is the old idea that Local Governments are stunted by the Supreme Government when money is forthcoming. Year by year we have subsidised them for the many calls, administrative and otherwise, that are made upon their purses and there is not a Governor or a Lieutenant-Governor in India from whom I have not received frequent expressions of gratitude. In the present Budget our bounty has reached its maximum; for in addition to the 1 1/2 crores or 1 million sterling which has been given to four of the Local Governments to start their new settlements, and the 40 lakhs which we have supplied for education, we have given them 13 lakhs for the increase of minor establishments, and 87 lakhs for such purposes as the Calcutta improvement scheme in Bengal, the Simla improvement scheme in the Punjab, and important public works in other provinces. Finally, I had been so much struck in my various tours by the degree to which local institutions, such as hospitals, museums, libraries, public parks, and the like, have been starved or cold-shouldered for more urgent needs that I persuaded Sir E. Law to give a grant aggregating 22 lakhs for these purposes, carefully framed lists having been submitted to me by the various Heads of Administrations. These are just the sort of object that ought, in my view, to profit when funds are available; for they represent the less material and more cultured aspects of the national life. The Hon'ble Dr. Bhandarkar seemed to think that Bombay and other parts of India had been neglected in this respect, and that Calcutta, from its proximity to the Government of India, had alone got its fingers into the national purse. I think that he must have overlooked the items to which I have referred. We have endeavoured to give proportionate treatment to every province; although the fact that Calcutta is an imperial as well as a provincial capital, necessarily enhances its claim.

The second subject is the new Provincial Settlements, which have been explained in considerable detail both by Sir E. Law and by Mr. Baker. I alluded last year to the hope that we were on the eve of a noteworthy change in this respect—no less than the substitution of a permanent, or relatively permanent, settlement for the present five years plan. The latter has existed for a quarter of a century. It was better than the system that preceded it, but it admitted of much improvement. It was not an economical plan, because it encouraged extravagance in the concluding years of each term, and it was not a satisfactory plan, because it led to a rather unseemly squabble with the Supreme Government at the end. The better method was clearly to give to Local Governments a permanent instead of a temporary interest in the revenue and expenditure under their control, subject to certain broad principles in fixing the provincial assignments. This we have succeeded in doing in the cases of Madras, Bengal, the United Provinces, and Assam, and have thereby laid the foundations of a financial autonomy that, I hope, will steadily develop and will enable the Local Governments in the future to undertake enterprises from which they are now debarred. I mention the matter here, both because of its intrinsic importance, and because I agree with the Lieutenant-Governor in thinking that it furnishes a conclusive answer to those who are always accusing the Government of India of undue centralisation. I would point out that efficiency of administrative control is not centralisation, though it is often mistaken for it. Centralisation is the absorption by a central body of powers or privileges hitherto enjoyed, or capable, if created, of being exercised, by subordinate bodies. I acknowledge no such tendency. We have kept Local Governments up to the mark, because I do not believe in lax or sluggish control, or in the abdication of powers which have been provided for special objects. But if an occasion has anywhere arisen where it was possible to develop or depute powers we have gladly taken it, and these new settlements constitute, in my view, the most important step in the nature of decentralisation that has been adopted for many years, and will, I hope, be the forerunner of others in the future.

Five years ago at this table I spoke of a category of questions which I hoped to take up and press to solution in my time. Two years later I indicated the progress that we had then made. I have not the time, and there is no present need to complete the review now. But a few remarks may be made distinguishing between those that have been more or less disposed of, and those that will occupy us during the forthcoming year. Of course, the task would not then be complete. There is no standing still in administration

and no administrator can mark the point at which his work is done. New spirits start up as soon as old ones are laid; and the horizon lengthens out as we proceed. I think however, that it is possible to frame a category of cases in which we have either definitely carried our object or reached such a point that continuity is assured. The first of these I desire to detach for special consideration in a few moments. It is Frontier Policy. I have already dealt with the second, and third, and fourth, namely, Currency Reform, Provincial Settlements, and Reduction of taxation. A few days ago I was expaining what we had been able to do in respect of the preservation of antiquities and archaeological reform; and there the lines have laid down from which no departure should now be possible. The same applies to the changes in the Leave Rules, that were designed to prevent the frequency of official transfers, and to the reduction of Reports. I have lately had conducted a special examination of every Report that reaches the Government of India from whatever quarter, and I am gratified to find that the orders about reduction have been faithfully carried out, with the result of an immense saving of work to overburdened men, and at no sacrifice of value or merit in the reports themselves. The reduction in the Telegraphic rates to Europe, to which I pledged myself in 1899, and which brought the charge from 4s. to 2s. 6d. a word has been so successful that we have lately addressed the Secretary of State with a proposal for a further reduction to 2s., with a corresponding reduction in the Press rate. I do not know if we shall succeed. But I think that the result of the first experiment is distinctly encouraging. We were prepared for a loss on the first year's working of 467,000. It was only £33,000. We estimated for a 10 per cent. increase in the traffic. The increase amounted to 26 1/2 per cent. On the 1st of January 1904, the present year we carried out a further reduction in inland rates which, I believe, has proved beneficial to all classes of the community. The figures of January show that there was an increase of 25 per cent. in deferred messages alone over the corresponding month in the previous year.

Next I pass to the large category of question connected with Education. Our Universities Bill is now the law of the land. But I should have felt that we had acted in a very one-sided and inconclusive manner had we held that Educational Reform was summed up in the reconstitution of the Universities. Our recent Educational Resolution crystallises the principles that result from an examination of every inch of educational activity, and that will, we hope, inspire our educational policy in the future. It may surprise these Hon. Members at this table who sometimes hint at the Simla Conference of 1901, as though it had been a sort of Star Chamber that promulgated dark and sinister decrees, to learn that the results of the Simla Conference, as finally shaped after consultation with Local Governments, are embodied in the recent Resolution. I observe in India that if people do not approve of a policy, they denounce it as reactionary. If they cannot disapprove of the official statement of it, they describe it as apathetic. As our Educational Resolution has had the good fortune to be so designated, I conclude that it has been found generally satisfactory. Perhaps, however, I may point out that so far from being a perfunctory statement of obvious principles, it is really the result of nearly two years' hard work. It summarises for the public information the position which we have at present reached in educational progress, and it endeavours to lay down the lines of future advance. Many important aspects of the subject, such as Education in European Schools, Agricultural Education, Commercial Education, Industrial and Technical Education, Examinations for Government service, as well as the entire problem of Primary and Secondary Education in India, find a place in it. Some of these matters we have also dealt with independently. Our scheme for Industrial Schools and for State Technical Scholarships has gone to Local Governments, and is before the public. I rather agree with those Hon'ble Members who were arguing here the other day and who repeated to-day that educational reform in India is mainly a matter of money. I think it is. We have shown this by the extra grant of 40 lakhs, or nearly £270,000 a year, that we have now made for three years running to the Local Governments. These grants are in addition to the ordinary Educational assignments in the Provincial Settlements. We have also, as is known, promised a contribution of 25 lakhs to the Universities. I should like, however, to go further, and to provide for a serious and sustained expenditure upon educational improvement extending over a long series of years.

There is another very important group of subjects to which we have given great attention. I allude to Economic Development, which may again be subdivided into Agriculture, Industries, and Commerce. Our recent Resolution on Agriculture sums up the practical steps that have been taken for the encouragement and improvement of agriculture, and for the active prosecution of scientific research. We now have our Inspector-General of Agriculture with a staff of scientific experts, we have the new institution, at Pusa springing into being, where research, the training of students, and experimental farming will be simultaneously taken in hand, we have strengthened the Provincial Agricultural Departments, reorganised the Civil Veterinary Department, so as to undertake the investigation of cattle diseases and the improvement of breeds of cattle, and created a Board of Scientific Advice to co-ordinate the work that is being done in these and all other branches of scientific research in India. We have centralised bacteriological research at Kasauli and Muktesar. Then I pass to those measures that more directly affect the economic condition of the agrarian classes. We have dealt with the system of Land Revenue Assessments in India, tracing the historical growth of the present system and its steady modifications in the interests of the land-owning or land-cultivating classes, and formulating reasonable and lenient principles for observance in the future. By legislation in the United Provinces we have endeavoured to improve the relations between landlord and tenant. We have tackled the problem of the increasing indebtedness and gradual expropriation of the proprietary body from many sides, by the Land Allotment Bills in the Punjab and Bundelkhand, and by the Bill to institute Co-operative Credit Societies, which we passed in this Council last week. We have endeavoured to

provide against the break up of landed properties by legislation instituting a modified system of entails in Oudh, in the Punjab, in Madras, and in Bengal. Finally, in 1902 we gave direct benefit to the cultivators by remissions of Land Revenue amounting to nearly 2 crores of rupees, while, in the past five years we have advanced between 5 and 6 crores to the people for the purchase of seed and the provision of capital.

The Government of India have watched with anxious interest, and have done all in their power to develop, the commerce and industries of this country, some of them securely established, others struggling but hopeful, others again nascent or still in embryo. I might refer to our legislation in the interests of tea-gardens, and the institution of a tea-tax, the passing of the Mines Act, the institution of a Mining Department, and the issue of more liberal Mining rules, the countervailing Sugar Duties, grants for indigo-research, the opening of an Electricity Act, the opening up of the Jherriah coal-fields, reductions in coal freights, the steady increase in railway rolling-stock, for which, as Sir A. Arundel has mentioned in his Memorandum, no less a sum than 3 crores, or 2 millions sterling, have been set aside. We are proposing the creation of an Imperial Customs Service. We have also endeavoured to develop our trade with adjoining countries, by the Nushki route with Seistan, by a Commercial Mission which we are arranging to send to South Eastern Persia, and by new contracts with the British India Company for improvements in their service to the Persian Gulf. I am also hopeful that the Tibet Mission will result in an improvement of trading relations with that country. We have succeeded in obtaining greater advantages in the new contract with the P. and O. Company. We also have a proposal now before the Secretary of State to supersede the Commercial Bureau, for which we at first asked, but to which he objected, by some larger and more powerful organisation, involving the creation of a new Department of the Government of India for Commerce and Industry, and the appointment of a new Member of Council for those purposes. It is to me almost incredible that the Government of India should have got along for all these years with functions and duties huddled together in such haphazard fashion and thrust upon the shoulders of ever-worked Departments and harassed men. Commerce has got mixed up with Finance; Industries and Emigration have been grouped with Revenue and Agriculture. The Post Office has been under one Department, and Telegraphs under another. These are only casual illustrations. But they indicate a want of method and co-ordination in our system that are inconsistent either with businesslike administration or with the progress that lies before us. If I can get this new Department created while I am at home, I shall return with greater confidence in our capacity to meet the demands of the future.

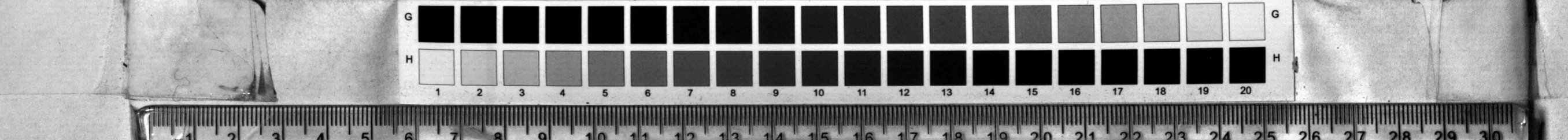
I remarked just now that I should have something to say about Frontier Policy. I have, I think, only spoken twice about this subject in these Debates in six consecutive sessions. It is perhaps scarcely realised in this country that the Foreign Department, which is under the direct charge of the Viceroy, is the most laborious of all. But it pursues its path in a silence which I should be the last to regret, and which is only broken by the storm of criticism that bursts forth when there is an outbreak of trans-frontier war. It is not without some feeling of congratulation that I look back upon five years, unmarked by a single expedition on the entire North-West Frontier, unless the brief military sallies that were undertaken in order to close the Mahsud Waziri Blockade can be so described. This is the first time that such a claim could be made for a quarter of a century. In the petty operations that have taken place on a frontier over 1,200 miles in length only 42 of our men have been killed during that time; 67 more lost their lives in the course of the Mahsud Blockade. But I should be reluctant to measure results by lives alone, or even by money alone, although the economies that have resulted both from withdrawal of troops and from absence of fighting have been very great. I would prefer to look at the spirit of increasing harmony and contentment among the tribes and at the relation that are growing up along the entire border.

At the end of 1898 the embers of the Tirah conflagration were only just cooling down. New agreements had not yet been entered into with the tribes. Large garrisons of British troops were cantoned in posts far beyond the frontier, at Chitral, at Lundi Kotal, and in the Tochi; great schemes for costly fortifications were on foot, and we seemed likely once more to tread the vicious circle that has beguiled us so often before. My Councilors and I set ourselves not so much to prevent future war by preparing for it as to produce peace by creating the requisite conditions. Our policy was summed up in these principles: withdrawal of British forces from advanced positions, employment of tribal forces in the defence of tribal country, concentration of British forces in British territory behind them, as a safeguard and a support, improvement of communications in the year. A necessary condition of the successful execution of this policy was the creation of a new administration on the frontier, specially equipped for the purpose, and invested with a more direct responsibility than a Local Government of the old type. Perhaps those who are so severely denouncing the Government of India as a province-maker just now might cast their eyes back to the events of three years ago. We were scarcely less attacked in some quarters for the creation of the Frontier Province then. But who would now go back from it? or who would dispute that Frontier affairs are conducted under it with infinitely superior despatch, with greater smoothness, and so far with better results, than under the former system.

Let me now ask Hon'ble Members to accompany me on a brief tour round the North-West Frontier from Gilgit to Beluchistan, so that they may see in each case how we stand. We have withdrawn all regular troops, from Gilgit, which is exclusively garrisoned, along with its subordinate posts, by Kashmir Imperial Service Troops. If we pursue our way westwards towards Chitral, we come to Mastuj, which is the head-quarters of a corps of Chitrali irregulars, or scouts, whom we are training up for the defence against invasion of the many defensible positions in their narrow and rugged ravines. Chitral itself is a point upon which I look with some satisfaction. Before I came out to India I was one of the foremost combatants in the move-

ment to retain that place within our political and strategical boundary. We won the day in England, though only by the accident of Lord Rosebery's Government being turned out at the critical moment. However even when I arrived here I remember being warned that Chitral was the point of danger, that the line of communication between Dir and Chitral was one of extreme tenuity and risk, and that if the connection gradually faded into nothing, no one would be the worse. I, on the contrary declared my fervent intention to maintain this connection, as absolutely essential to our scheme of frontier defence, and my conviction that it could be done. I will not say without risk, but with success. Since that time we have five times marched our reliefs up and down the Dir Road—quite the most fanatical corner of the mountain border—without a shot being fired. Our troops have been concentrated at the extreme southern end of the Chitral country at Drosli, and the force has been reduced by one-third; while the posts vacated and all outlying posts are now held by levies raised for the purpose from the Chitralis themselves. The young Mehtar of Chitral has three times been down to see me in India, and if anyone were to propose a British withdrawal from Chitral, I know very well from whom the first protest would come. Further, we have just connected Chitral by telegraph with Gilgit. Continuing southwards, I find that in Dir and Swat we had a garrison, in 1899, of 3,550 men. I withdrew the Khar Mobile Column in 1902, and our troops, who are now concentrated at Chaklarr, where is the bridge over the Swat River and the starting point of the Dir-Chitral road, at the Malakand and at Daragai, have been reduced by more than one-half, the outlying posts being held by levies from Dir and Swat. The Chiefs of Dir and Nawagai have twice visited me in India, and they in common with all the border chieftains from Hunza to Swat, were included among our guests at the Delhi Durbar. We have fortified the Malakand, and connected Daragai by a narrow-gauge line with Weshera on the Peshawar Railway, the Kabul river being bridged at Nowshera for the purpose. We are, therefore, in an immeasurably stronger position to meet any sudden or fanatical outbreak in those parts. The elements of unrest are always there, and we shall probably some day have trouble again. But for the moment the omens are favourable; and trade, which has sprung up in a surprising manner, is a great pacificator. Then I come to the Khyber, where in 1899 we had a British garrison of 3,700 men. The whole of these have long ago been withdrawn; and the Khyber Rifles, raised from the Pass Afridis and neighbouring tribes, which had dwindled to a total of 800 after the campaign, have now been reorganised into two battalions officered by Englishmen. With them we hold the entire Pass with its connected posts and fortifications. These we rebuilt at an outlay of 5 lakhs, instead of the 15 which had been estimated for in 1898. We have also made, by agreement with the tribes and by local labour, the alternative route from Peshawar to Lundi Kotal through the Mullagori country that was so vainly pressed for 15 years ago, and have connected Peshawar by the broad gauge with Jamrud. We have opened the route through the Kohat Pass from Peshawar to Kohat by arrangement with the tribes; and Kohat has been connected with the Indian railway system at Kushalgarh by a 2 1/2 line, which as soon as we have completed the new bridge over the Indus at Kushalgarh, will be converted into broad gauge. Continuing southwards we have created a body called the Samana Rifles, nearly 500 strong, who have a ready taken over nearly the whole of the posts upon and below the Samana that were held by regulars ago. Our own forces there, which were 1,700 strong, have now been reduced to 600, and will, I expect before long be altogether withdrawn. Simultaneously we have created a flank support to this position by running the railway from Kohat to Thal at the mouth of the Kurram Valley. From this the regulars have been a together withdrawn, and the two battalions of the Kurram Militia, 1,400 strong, organised on the same lines as the Khyber Rifles, and commanded by British Officers, are its sole garrison. In the troubled mountain region between the head of the Kurram and Waziristan we have also settled our border disputes by friendly arrangement with the Amir. Then we come to Waziristan. Here we have cleared out, at the second attempt, the nest of murderous outlaws who had created an Aslatia at Gumatti near Bannu. We have made agreements with the tribes for the opening up of the turbulent corner between Thal and the Tochi, and we have thus been able to proceed at leisure with our policy of conciliation and concentration in the Waziri country. There we were delayed for a long time by the turbulent contumacy of the Mahsuds; and the militia experiment, which we had introduced, also proceeded somewhat evenly. The Blockade, however, vigorously and unremittently pursued, and flowed by a series of sharp and unsuspected punitive counter-raids into the Mahsud valleys, brought the tribe to reason, and matters are now proceeding so evenly that we have recently raised the North Waziristan Militia, which holds the line of the Tochi, to a strength of 1,200 men and the South Waziristan militia which hold the line of the Gomal, to strength of 1,450. In 1899 the British garrisons of these two valleys numbered 4,000. Before next cold weather the whole of these will have been withdrawn. Waziristan will for some years to come be a section of the frontier that will require careful watching. But the consciousness of the tribes that they are trusted to bear arms in defence of their country, the security of good employment and regular pay, the tranquillising influence of improved communications, and the knowledge that we want to live at peace with them, rather than at war are all agencies on the right side. The withdrawal of the garrisons that I have named has been balanced by the concentration at Kohat and Bannu, and the military garrisons in these two Districts number 4,200 and 2,700, respectively. Similarly the Gomal is supported from Dera Ismail Khan with a garrison of 3,000. Thus along the entire sketch of frontier which I have been describing the situation is completely revolutionised since 1899. If we regard the case from the point of view of British troops, there are now only 5,000 across the administrative border of British India as against 10,200; but the supporting garrisons within our border have been increased from

(Continued 2 page 9)



Calcutta and Motussil.

Bank of Bengal.—The Directors of the Bank of Bengal at their last meeting made no change in the rate of interest.

Calcutta University.—The Governor General in Council has been pleased to appoint the Honorable Mr. Alexander Pedler, C.I.E., to be Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, in succession to the Honorable Sir Thomas Raleigh, K.C.S.I., resigned.

Public Works Department.—Mr. C. A. White, Executive Engineer, first grade, Bengal, is appointed to officiate as a Superintending Engineer of the Gandak Circle, Mr. J. Zorab, Executive Engineer, third grade, is appointed Executive Engineer of the Gandak Division.

University Examination at Hooghly.—At the Hooghly Centre there appeared this year 119 candidates at the last F. A. and 161 at the Entrance Examinations in the Hall of the Hooghly College under the superintendence of Mr. Shaw, the principal, assisted by the professional staff of the College.

Howrah Goods Traffic.—The use of Motor Lorries for the distribution of goods traffic received at Howrah and destined for the Calcutta side of the river and town, is a question which, it is understood, is receiving the consideration of the East Indian Railway authorities.

Plague Diary.—On the 31st ultimo, 69 cases and 59 deaths from plague were reported in Calcutta; the total mortality being 149 against a quinquennial average of 166. The seizures and deaths as distributed among the four Districts were as follows: No. 1,—18 and 15; No. 2,—30 and 25; No. 3,—16 and 14; and No. 4,—5 and 5.

Heavy Hail.—The "Shanti" of Madaripur reports that on the 26th "Falgun" last there was slight rain in several villages, which was accompanied by a copious shower of stones. The meadows and fields were covered with stones nine inches deep, some of which were so big that they struck down two Mahomedan youths senseless on the ground.

The Circus Case.—On Thursday, before Moulvi Bazil Karim, Messrs Gray and Kendall, two canvassers of advertisement in the programme of Warren's Circus, were re-arraigned on a charge of criminal breach of trust in respect of two sums of money, which they had realized and misappropriated. Accused were found guilty and were sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment each.

Finance and Commerce Department.—The following promotions of officers of the Account Department during the month of Feb. 1904 are notified:—With effect from the 11th of February 1904, in consequence of the grant of privilege leave to Mr. K. B. Wagle, Mr. G. C. Ray to officiate in Class II; Mr. J. C. Mitra to officiate in class III, and Mr. N. Vijayaraghavan to officiate in class IV, of the Enrolled List.

Proposed Krishnagar Ry. Station.—The site of the proposed Krishnagar station is selected at a distance of two-and-a-half miles from the populous part of the town. The people of this place submitted a memorial to Mr. Haughton, Engineer-in-Chief, R. M. Ry., for reconsideration, but to no effect. Another memorial, signed by several hundreds of people of Krishnagar and adjoining villages, has been submitted to the Private Secretary to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Alleged Causing Hurt by a Woman.—On Thursday, before Moulvi Bazil Karim, Babu Puro Nath Lahiri, on behalf of a woman applied for a process against another woman under the following circumstances. The complainant had given evidence against a man under whose protection the defendant lived. This annoyed the latter so much that she struck the complainant on the forehead with a knife. The court ordered the issue of a summons against the defendant on a charge of hurt.

Weather and Crop in Bengal.—Light showers are reported from parts of Orissa and Chota Nagpur. Prospects generally good, but rain is wanted in Rajshahi and Malda. Harvesting of rabi crops and pressing of sugarcane approaching completion. Collection of opium is almost over. Ploughing and sowing in progress. Cattle disease reported from eight districts. Fodder and water generally sufficient. The price of common rice has risen in three districts, has fallen in four, and is stationary in the remainder.

The Cossipore Murder Case.—The case in which Sub-Inspector B. G. Bhattarjee of the Bhangore Thanna charged a young man, named Panchan Das with having killed a girl wife of his cousin, and attempted to take his own life with a dao under circumstances already reported, was concluded on Thursday, before Mr. Chotzner, Joint Magistrate of Alipore. The accused pleaded not guilty and stated in his defence that his cousin and not he was the culprit and that he and his aunt were the victims of an unfounded jealousy which the cousin entertained against him on the suspicion of the deceased girl having had dishonourable connection with himself, which, the cousin thought, was connived at by the old woman. The Magistrate, however, found that a prima facie case had been made out against the accused, and accordingly committed him to the Court of Sessions.

A Serious Allegation Against Magistrates.—On Thursday, Babu Bende Behari Sanjal appeared before Mr. Stevenson-Moore, District Magistrate of Alipore, for a rule which the case against his client pending before Babu Sadanand Bannerjee and J. N. Singh, Honorary Magistrates of Alipore should not be transferred to the file of some other Magistrate. It is stated supported by an affidavit that the said Magistrates did not record certain important statements made by Dr. Daley, assistant to the Civil Surgeon of 24-Perganahs in his cross-examination and certain important facts elicited in cross-examination from one of the witnesses for the prosecution. The pleader urged that his client apprehended that he would not get a fair and impartial trial if the said case was tried by the said Bench inasmuch as the said Magistrates did not record the statements which would have greatly favoured the case for the defence. The Magistrate after hearing the pleader issued a rule prayed for and fixed 25th instant for hearing.

GAZETTE OF INDIA.—APRIL 2.

The services of Mr. B. P. Standen, C.I.E., of the Indian Civil Service, are replaced at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, with effect from the date on which he was relieved of his duties under the Foreign Department.

The services of Mr. C.G.H. Allen, of the Indian Civil Service, are placed at the disposal of the Government of Bengal, with effect from the 4th March 1904.

Mr. F. W. Letimer, C.I.E., Assistant Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General has been permitted to retire from the service, with effect from the 1st April 1904.

Mr. A. J. Curgiven, of the Indian Civil Service, Madras Establishment, is appointed to officiate as First Assistant Commissioner and District Magistrate of Coorg, during the absence on leave of Mr. P. A. Booty, or until further orders.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Charles, M.D. F.R.C.S. I.M.S., (Bengal), Professor of Surgical and Descriptive Anatomy in the Medical College, Calcutta, and "ex-officio" Surgeon to the College Hospital, is granted special leave on urgent private affairs, out of India for six months, with effect from the 7th April 1904.

Major D. M. Moir, M.D., I.M.S. (Bengal), Officiating Civil Surgeon, Monghyr, is appointed to officiate as Professor of Surgical and Descriptive Anatomy in the Medical College, Calcutta, and "ex-officio" Surgeon to the College Hospital, during the absence on special leave of Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Charles, or until further orders.

Mr. W. R. H. Merk, C.S.I. of the Indian Civil Service, is appointed Superintendent of Port Blair and Chief Commissioner of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with effect from the date on which he assumes charge of his duties.

The services of Lieutenant A. W. Greig, I.M.S., are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of the United Provinces for employment in the Jail Department.

The services of Lieutenant J. E. Flements, I.M.S., are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of the United Provinces for employment in the Jail Department.

Mr. F. E. Pargitar, I.C.S., took his seat as an officiating Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, on the 14th March 1904.

The Honourable Justice Sir Henry Prinsep, Kt., having tendered the resignation of his office of Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, the Governor General in Council is pleased, under the provisions of the Indian High Courts Act, 1861 (24 and 25 Vict., Cap. 104), section 7, to appoint the Honourable Mr. F. E. Pargitar, I.C.S., to officiate as a Judge of the said Court until His Majesty's pleasure is known. Under the provisions of the Indian High Courts Act, 1861 (24 and 25 Vict., Cap. 104) the Governor General in Council is pleased to appoint Mr. A. E. Staley, I.C.S., to officiate as a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal in place of the Honourable Mr. Justice Pargitar.

Mr. Bernard Coventry is appointed to be Director of the Agricultural Research Institute and Principal of the Agricultural College at Pusa, with effect from the 1st April 1904.

Mr. F. W. Eicke, officiating Examiner of Public Works Accounts, Bombay is granted privilege leave for three months, in combination with special leave on urgent private affairs for three months with effect from 18th April 1904 or subsequent date.

Mr. V. C. French, Examiner of Accounts, attached to the office of the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, Bombay, is appointed to officiate as Examiner, Public Works Accounts, Bombay.

Mr. E. G. Stanley, Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India in the Public Works Department, is appointed Under Secretary, sub pro tem., with effect from the 1st March 1904.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Marrett, Superintendent, Army Clothing, Bengal, is granted combined leave out of India on private affairs from the 12th April 1904 to 15th November 1904.

Mr. G. B. Goyder, Examiner of Accounts, is granted privilege leave for 2 months and 2 days, in combination with leave on private affairs for 3 months and 28 days with effect from 29th March 1904 or subsequent date.

The services of Mr. H. Davis, Deputy Examiner of Accounts, are placed at the disposal of the Foreign Department for employment under the Jodhpur State.

Mr. H. G. S. Savory, Executive Engineer, 1st grade, State Railways, is, on return from leave, appointed, as a temporary measure, to officiate as Consulting Engineer for Railways, Madras, with temporary rank of Superintending Engineer 3rd class.

Mr. J. CF. Lyle, Executive Engineer, 1st grade, State Railways, is appointed to officiate as Deputy Manager, Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, with temporary rank in class 1, grade 3, of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways, until further orders.

No. 186.—The following promotion and reversion are ordered in the Superior Account Branch:—Mr. P. C. Mole, Examiner, class IV, 2nd grade, to Examiner, class III, officiating, and Mr. F. F. W. Dover, Examiner, class III, temporary, to Examiner, class IV, 1st grade.

It is stated by an Anglo-Indian contemporary that the Raja of Shahpura has written a letter to Colonel Youngusband offering him two sons and other Rajas have asked to be allowed to accompany the Tibet Mission. The next thing we will hear, in spite of the unanimous denunciation of the movement by Indian press, is that the people have notified their appreciation of the aims of the mission and are not opposed to it.

His Excellency Lord Kitchener will arrive at Mysore on the 6th April, and will move to Gundalpet and then to Arsikera. From Arsikera the party go on to Devarayadroor and eventually to Shmoga. Such is the outline of the programme, but the arrangements will be regulated by the prospects of shikar. The Durbar having everything ready for a rapid concentration on any point where the presence of the enemy may be reported. Lord Kitchener will leave Mysore territory on the 10th.

PROVINCIAL STATEMENTS.

SIR EDWARD LAW'S STATEMENT.

39. An important step has been taken during the past financial year in connection with the question of Provincial Settlements. In 1871 a great reform was inaugurated by Lord Mayo by the introduction of a system of provincial finance, having for its object to secure to the provincial authorities greater independence and control over expenditure. The system then introduced was revised in 1877 with the object of removing certain defects which had been disclosed by experience, and from that date until now it has been customary to revise the settlements every five years, the primary object of such revision having been to secure to the Central Government what might be considered their fair proportion in the growth of assigned revenues. In the earlier revisions, considerable reductions were made in the assignments, but on the occasion of the last, in 1897, the aggregate change was insignificant, reductions in certain provinces having been approximately balanced by increase allowed in others.

It cannot be said that the system of quinquennial revisions proved satisfactory, for with such a short period of settlement, it inevitably occurred that in the first year of the term the Local Government was necessarily feeling its way under new conditions and cautious about expenditure, whilst in the last year, if, as was generally the case, balances were large, there was a natural tendency to extravagance, lest the terms of a new settlement might reduce resources for expenditure.

The object of the arrangements now proposed is to give as great permanence as possible to settlements, so that Local Governments may be able to form plans involving expenditure, with greater certainty as to future means of providing for their execution, and at the same time have a more permanent interest in the growth of assigned revenues. It is evident that the Imperial Government cannot undertake any absolute obligation to maintain at all times a definite proportion between the share of increase of revenues, assigned to provincial administration and that which it is necessary to retain to meet the growth of Imperial expenditure, and it must always reserve the right to make either special temporary, or more permanent reductions from provincial revenues, if the exigencies of the State should require such measures. It must also be borne in mind in apportioning shares of revenue to different provinces, that a larger proportionate assignment is required in those which are older, established and more highly developed. Subject to such considerations every effort has now been made to treat Provincial Governments with reasonable liberality, and it is to be hoped that from this point of view they will find the new settlements equally satisfactory both at the outset and in future working.

For the present the new system will be applied only to the provinces of Bengal, Madras, Assam, and the United Provinces. It is proposed to extend it in 1905-1906 to Bombay, the Punjab, and probably the Central Provinces, but it has been thought undesirable to enter into new arrangements with these until the lapse of another year, and the re-establishment of a normal financial situation which was entirely dislocated by recent famines.

We have been obliged to consider with special care, the proportions of revenue to be assigned since any undue liberality in a settlement, which it is desired should be of long duration, would, even without abnormal circumstances, inevitably lead to a necessity for revision at a relatively early date; to enable Local Governments, pending the realisation of increased resources through the natural growth of the assigned revenues, to meet certain immediate requirements, in any circumstances, it has been decided to accompany the new conditions by large initial grants amounting for the four provinces now dealt with to an aggregate of 150 lakhs.

It is unnecessary to enter here on questions of detail in connection with the new arrangements. Full details are given in the appended statement by the Secretary in the Finance Department.

SECTION VI.—PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

206. During the year an important step in advance was made in the development of Provincial finance. As it is possible that this new departure may have important and far reaching consequences, it is desirable to explain its nature in some detail.

207. When the system of provincialisation was first introduced in 1871 by the Government of Lord Mayo, the method adopted was briefly as follows:—Certain heads of expenditure, of which the more important were Police, Education, Jails, Medical Services (in part), Printing, Roads and Civil Buildings, were made over to the Local Governments. To meet these charges, there were assigned to the latter the departmental receipts under the corresponding heads, and also a fixed lump grant from Imperial Revenues: the Local Governments being left to make up the deficiency, if any, by local taxation.

208. This system remained in force without material change till 1877. In that year at important modification was introduced by the Government of Lord Lytton. In the first place, a considerable addition was made to the heads of expenditure transferred to Provincial management, the new heads (in most Provinces) including Land Revenue, General Administration, Law and Justice, and Miscellaneous. Secondly, certain principal heads of revenue, including Stamps and Excise, were provincialised, the growing receipts from these sources taking the place, "pro tanto," of the former fixed lump grant. Since 1877, a number of changes of detail have been effected, mostly in the direction of adding to the heads (or shares of heads) of expenditure and revenue which are under Provincial control. But no alteration of principle has been introduced, and broadly speaking it may be stated that the present position is as follows:—Each Local Government is responsible for the whole of the expenditure recorded under "Salaries and Expenses of Civil Departments," "Miscellaneous Civil Charges," "Irrigation" (in part), and "Civil Public Works," as well as some charges under "Interest." It receives the whole of the corresponding departmental receipts, and a certain share (which is different in different Provinces, and under

different heads) of each of the "Principal heads of Revenue" except Salt, Customs, Opium, and Tributes. In some Provinces, irrigation revenue is also Provincial in whole or in part. The excess of expenditure over revenue is made up by a fixed assignment from Imperial Revenues.

209. Under this system the Provincial shares of growing revenue have usually (though not uniformly) increased more rapidly than the sum which could properly be spared for expenditure under the Provincial heads, having regard to the general needs of Imperial finance. It was therefore necessary to revise the terms of the settlements from time to time, ordinarily at five-year intervals, with a view to adjust inequalities that had arisen, either between the Provinces themselves, or between the Provinces as a whole and the Imperial Government. These quinquennial revisions have usually, though not invariably, resulted in the resumption of a certain amount of revenue for Imperial purposes. When the settlement of 1877 was made, a total retrenchment of 40 lakhs was enforced; in 1882 the finances were in a prosperous condition and the Imperial Government surrendered an additional 26 lakhs net; in 1887 they resumed 34 lakhs; and in 1892, 46 lakhs. The last revision, made in 1897, effected little change in the aggregate, increases to some Provinces being almost exactly counterbalanced by resumptions from others.

210. The system is marred by several grave defects:— (1) The periodical revisions interfere with the continuity of Provincial finance, and each revision involves a protracted and sometimes controversial discussion with the Local Governments. (2) A still more serious evil is that the system tends to encourage extravagance rather than economy. "It has been described as a system of five-year budgets; and this definition indicates the root of the evil. Each Local Government is supposed to be free to enjoy the fruits of its economy, or of the successful musing of its revenues. But in practice its term of enjoyment is limited to five years, or, more correctly, to the last two or three years of the term of settlement, for during the earlier years it has usually little margin to spend. It is therefore under constant temptation to spend its money, not on carefully matured schemes of well-thought-out improvement, but on such as can be carried through before the close of the settlement, in order to leave as small a balance as possible for resumption at the impending revision."

(3) The apportionment of revenue to the several Provinces has never been made on any definite or logical principle.

THE NEW SYSTEM.

211. To remove these defects, and in particular to introduce an element of relative permanence into the settlements, the following arrangement has been made. Firstly, it has been decided to give the Local Governments a permanent, instead of a merely temporary interest in the revenue and expenditure under their control. Secondly, the assignments to the Local Governments will include a slightly smaller share of growing revenues. Thirdly, this share has been calculated so that each Province separately, and all the Provinces taken together, shall be placed in possession of an amount of growing proportion to the Provincial expenditure, as the Imperial share of growing revenues bears approximately the same bears to Imperial expenditure. With some small exceptions the actual heads of revenue which are either Imperial, Provincial, or divided, have been left unchanged, but the Provincial shares of the divided heads have been altered in accordance with the principle stated above. When any head of revenue is divided between Imperial and Provincial, the corresponding head of expenditure has ordinarily been divided in the same proportion.

MODIFICATIONS OF DETAIL.

212. In applying these principles to the actual figures, it was found that the aggregate Provincial expenditure represented rather less than one-fourth of the whole, while the Imperial expenditure, which includes the army and the home charges, was in excess of three-fourths. These proportions have accordingly been taken as the basis of the division of revenue between Imperial and Provincial, but numerous adjustments have been necessary— (1) to make allowance for the heads of revenue which are wholly Imperial or wholly Provincial as the case might be; (2) to allow for a larger assignment to the more backward Provinces than to those which are more advanced; and (3) to permit of provision being made for various administrative reforms and works of improvement which it is desired to undertake. Subject to these adjustments, which are specified below, it has been decided that the divided heads of revenue, and of the corresponding heads of expenditure, shall be shared as follows:—

(1) In Bengal, United Provinces, Bombay, and Madras, three-fourths Imperial and one-fourth Provincial; (2) in the Punjab and Burma, five-eighths Imperial and three-eighths Provincial; and (3) in the Central Provinces and Assam, half Imperial and half Provincial.

213. It is intended that the settlements thus made shall be permanent, in the sense that they shall not be subject to revision at the end of fixed periods. The Government of India necessarily reserve to itself, as the final authority in India responsible for the finances and administration of the country, the power to revise the settlement of any or all Provinces at any time whenever necessity may demand it. It is however the intention of Government only to exercise this power when the variations from the initial relative standards of revenue and expenditure in any Province have, over a substantial term of years, been so great as to result in unfairness either to the Province itself, to other Provinces, or to the Government of India; or in the event of the Government of India being confronted with the alternatives of either imposing additional taxation or of seeking assistance from the Provinces.

214. For the present, the scheme has been applied to four Provinces, viz., Bengal, Madras, Assam, and the United Provinces. In the ensuing year it is proposed to extend it to Bombay and the Punjab, and possibly also to the Central Provinces.

215. The modifications that have been made in applying the scheme to these four Provinces are as follows:—

Bengal.—The Provincial share of revenue and expenditure has been taken at one-half under Stamps, and at seven-sixteenths under Excise, while Registration receipts and charges have been made wholly Provincial; and the expenditure recorded under 3.—Land Revenue which really represents the cost of the ordinary district administration, is also made wholly Provincial. An addition of 4 lakhs has been made to the fixed assignment to enable the Local Government to improve the pay of ministerial establishments, and a further addition, not exceeding 2½ lakhs, will be made when a scheme has been prepared and sanctioned for strengthening the staff of Deputy Collectors.

Madras.—The Provincial share of Stamp revenue and expenditure has been raised to one-half. The revenue and expenditure under Registration, and expenditure under 3.—Land Revenue have been made wholly Provincial. Special provision has been made in the form of a lump non-recurring grant of 20 lakhs for surveys and settlement. Grants of Rs. 75,000 and Rs. 50,000 a year have been made for the relief of certain local bodies, and for agricultural experiments, and the fixed assignment has been placed at a specially high figure. The Government of India have also undertaken to provide for the cost of reorganising the district administration.

United Provinces.—The Provincial share of Stamp revenue and expenditure, and of the expenditure under 3.—Land Revenue has been raised to one-half: Irrigation revenue has been made wholly Provincial, subject to a guarantee from the Government of India that the net receipts shall not fall below 40 lakhs a year; and special grants of 2½ lakhs and 1½ lakhs per annum respectively, have been made to enable the Local Government to relieve Municipalities from the charges for municipal police, and to reform the system of District Board finance.

216. The net result of the new settlements in these four Provinces is an increase of the Imperial contribution to Provincial of Rs. 23,89,000 per annum as follows:— Bengal Provincial assignment less minus Rs. 5,00,000 Madras Provincial assignment more plus Rs. 16,55,000 United Provinces Provincial assignment more plus Rs. 2,25,000 Assam Provincial assignment more plus Rs. 4,08,000. Total Rs. plus 23,89,000.

GENERAL RESULT.

217. The shares of growing revenue and the fixed assignments from Imperial to Provincial stand as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: Province, Growing Revenue, Fixed Assignment. Rows: Madras (2,90,82, 59,66), Bengal (4,49,84, 49,03), United Province (3,62,64, 4,00), Assam (60,07, 12,00).

The provincialisation of the whole of the Irrigation Revenue in the United Provinces, and the assignment of half shares of the Principal Heads of Revenue in Assam, account or the large proportion which the growing revenue bear to the total in those Provinces.

EFFECT OF THE ALTERATION IN THE SHARES.

218. The following table shows the share of the average annual increments of revenue (calculated on the basis of the figures for the years 1892-93 to 1902-03), which the Local Governments would have received if the terms of the old settlements had remained unchanged, with the share which they will receive under the new settlements:—

Table with 3 columns: Province, Under the new Settlements, Under the old Settlements. Rows: Madras (5,60, 4,89), Bengal (9,00, 7,33), United Provinces (3,93, 3,91), Assam (1,60, 1,24).

In other words, out of the annual increment of revenue of the four Provinces taken together, the Imperial Government will receive Rs. 2,06,000 more than it has hitherto done. On the other hand, owing to the division of expenditure under the heads corresponding to the Principal Heads of Revenue, the Government of India will bear Rs. 36,000 of the present Provincial increment of expenditure. On the whole, therefore, the Imperial Government receives an additional net increment of revenue of only Rs. 1,70,000.

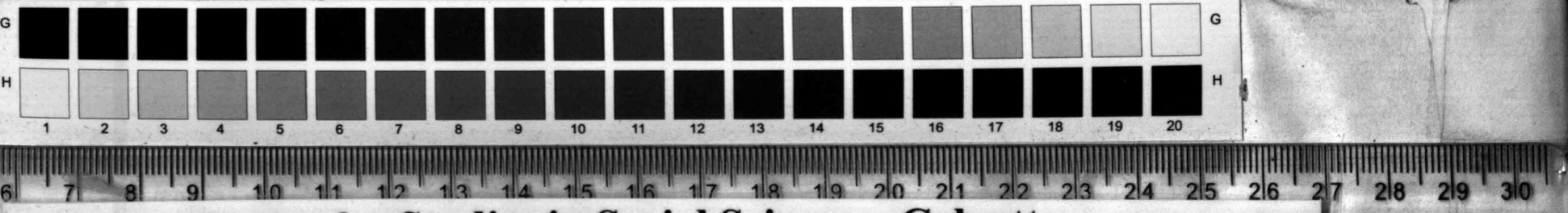
219. Finally, in order that the Local Governments may start the new settlement under favourable conditions, the Government of India have sanctioned the following initial grants, viz.:—

Table with 2 columns: Province, Lakhs. Rows: To Bengal (50), Madras (60), United Provinces (30), Assam (20).

The grant to Bengal is exclusive of a grant of 50 lakhs which has been separately sanctioned for the Calcutta Improvement scheme, and which is conditional on an acceptable scheme being framed and sanctioned. The grant to Madras includes 20 lakhs on account of special survey and settlement expenditure which is likely to be spread over several years, but will not recur permanently. These grants have been made in the Revised Estimate of 1903-04, and will go to increase the Provincial opening balances of the ensuing year. It is not contemplated that the Local Governments will desire to spend more than a portion of these during 1904-05, and the following provision has accordingly been made by addition to the Provincial Budgets under 45.—Civil Works, viz.:— Bengal 15 Lakhs, Madras 10 " " " " " " United Provinces 6 " " " " " " Assam 4 " " " " " "

SIR A. MACKENZIE'S SPEECH ON PROVINCIAL CONTRACTS, MARCH, 27, 1897.

I must, however, be allowed to throw out one general suggestion with reference to the policy of Provincial Contracts as at present worked. I do not entirely accept Mr. Savani's



views of the contracts, but there is really a good deal of force in some of his trenchant criticism. We have, as he has pointed out, the authority of Sir David Barbour in his evidence before Lord Welby's Commission for the statement that their present practice is not in accordance with the original intention. He says: "I must say that when the Provincial system was started, I do not really think it was intended that the Provincial Government should have a portion of their resources taken away periodically."

ledge what the Hon. Finance Member has with his becoming modesty, called the reasonable liberality with which the Government of Bengal has been treated in the new Provincial Contract. I am very glad indeed that this step forward has been taken in regard to decentralisation so as to call forth, as I believed it must, the best efforts of Local Governments and of their officers in regard to efficiency and economy of administration: and I acknowledge gratefully that in starting us off on the new system the Government of India has treated us with reasonable liberality. We had very considerable discussion over the Provincial Contract before the Government of India settled it, and I am bound to say that the impression which that discussion left on my mind confirmed the impression which I have of the Government of India in its relation to the Local Governments both while I was connected with the Government of India as Home Secretary and also during the more than four years in which I have occupied the position of the head of the Local Government. I recognise fully that not only do we who are Local Governments maintain that we belong to the same great work; and the Government of India cordially recognise this and meet us in a sympathetic and kindly way. We did not of course get all we asked because we asked for all that it was possible to hope for, but we got, and when we had got it and looked round and saw what other people had got, we were bound to admit that we got at all events reasonable treatment, and I am sure that nothing that it was our duty to urge in regard to the necessary expenditure, and the expedient expenditure, of Bengal was lost sight of by your Excellency and Your Excellency's Government.

lines of the late Universities Bill which has now become the Act under what we are all working. Two other matters only, My Lord, I shall refer to and that very briefly: one is public works under the Public Works Department and under the District Board. It is hardly credible that the impression which has been created in my mind in the course of my somewhat extended tours in this Province during this cold weather of the backwardness of this forward Province of Bengal in regard to communication and building and also with regard to the important matter of water supply in the interior. That is a matter to which we shall have to give our finances, and I do trust that despite the existence in certain limited localities of an opposite spirit that it will be found that when the Government either directly or through the local Boards and Municipalities expends its own money the public will also be ready to come forward and assist as they have done in the Province to which I have so long belonged. The second point on which I should like to say a word is the question of agriculture. I think it must be very gratifying to your Excellency's Government to find that a matter which occupies so large a place in a Financial Statement has also occupied so large a place in the discussion to-day and that the policy which has been inaugurated or at all events pushed forward to so great an extent as to be practically the only policy under Your Excellency's Government is one which commends itself so much to the critical members of this Council. I have myself visited the Pusa Estate and discussed with my friend Mr. Morison the object which the work at Pusa has before it, and I am fully satisfied that the advantage to our Province of Bengal from the work which is going to be carried out at Pusa will be of the very highest; but I am very strongly of opinion with my Hon. friend Sir Denzil Ibbotson that it would be absolutely madness to pursue an agricultural experiment and agricultural education until we have the men to conduct the experiment and to give the instructions. That is the very first work which the Pusa establishment will have to do to give us the men that will be able to carry on our administration forms and to give the instruction that is required in agriculture. There is, however, another point to which I should like to refer in regard to agriculture. I feel very gratified indeed to think that the Central Provinces and its agricultural work should receive such honourable mention as it has from my Hon. friend Sir Edward Law in the Budget Statement, and I feel very strongly that no recognition of that kind could be too high for the excellent work that has been done by my friend and late colleague Mr. Sly. One great feature of that work, however, is one which I should like to see carried out here. We have had valuable hints from Mr. Hamilton in regard to agriculture and we have also had valuable statements from the Hon. Mr. Cable about the connection between agriculture and commerce in this country. What I should like to see would be an Association not a great big unwieldy uninteresting Association, but a good sound working Association such as we have in the Central Provinces composed of agriculturists and of commercial men and of manufacturers to criticise our experiments suggest experiments and help us in our work. Now I shall be very glad if when they have leisure my Hon. Colleagues, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Cable, will give me some hints in regard to the formation of such an Association. I shall not touch on the question of excise. I thoroughly concur in what has been said by the Hon. Finance Member in the Budget Statement in regard to excise. The views of Your Excellency and of the Government of India are well known. It is our duty as loyal though subordinate collaborators with the Government of India to enforce that policy and we shall certainly do our best to carry it out. As is well known the question of excise is now before the Legislative Council of the Government of Bengal, and I trust we shall be able to work out a measure which will meet with the approval not only of the public but also of the Government of Bengal. In conclusion I join heartily in congratulating the Finance Member and Your Excellency's Government on this Budget.

TELEGRAMS. THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR. London, Mar. 30. The Japanese account of the action at Chongju says that 600 Cossacks occupied a fortified position. The Japanese attacked them in considerable force. The Russians eventually abandoned the position, and the Japanese entered the town cheering the Emperor. The Japanese had twelve casualties. Admiral Togo's despatch describes glowingly the splendid audacity of the attempt made on the 27th instant to block Port Arthur. The merchant ships, filled with stores and explosives, were commanded by the same officers as made the attempt on the 24th ultimo. The torpedo boats picked up almost all the officers and men from the sunken vessels and escaped unscathed. Lieutenant Hirose was the hero of the day, and was blown to atoms by a shell while escaping in a boat. Russia through the French Minister at Tokio has protested against the destruction of the quarantine station at Sanshantaou, during the fourth attack on Port Arthur, as a violation of the Hague Convention. M. Kuruma, Foreign Minister replying said he was not aware of the destruction, but the Hague Convention did not apply to naval bombardments. General Kuropatkin announces that an important engagement has taken place at Chongju between several Squadrons of Cossacks and Japanese infantry and Cavalry, who resisted heroically notwithstanding the dominant position of a hill occupied by the Russians. The Japanese would however have been crushed if they had not received successive reinforcements. After ninety minutes' hot fighting the Cossacks retired in perfect order taking their wounded with them. The Japanese were exhausted and suffered heavy losses and were unable to occupy the hill evacuated by the Russians, who had three officers seriously wounded, three soldiers killed, and twelve wounded. Admiral Togo reports that Sunday's attempt to block Port Arthur was most valiantly executed under a storm of shot and shell, but he reluctantly admits that there is still room for vessels to pass in and out. Thirteen officers and men, he says, were killed. Admiral Togo's report was read in the Diet by the Minister of Marine who said that the project of bottling Port Arthur was one of great difficulty and was still far from completion. The Russian commissariat is sending no foodstuff to Manchuria, relying entirely upon the plentiful local supplies of cattle and grain which are accumulating at Harbin. Unruly elements in Korea are giving trouble, and the country is unsafe outside the Japanese lines. The Japanese cruiser, which had been watching the Russian warship "Mandjur" since the beginning of the war, has left Shanghai, the dismantling of the "Mandjur" being completed. London, April 1. The Chinese Legation at St. Petersburg declares that China is sincerely and firmly resolved to observe neutrality from which she will only depart in the event of any violation of Chinese territory by the Russians or the Japanese. Lieutenant Hirose, killed in the attack on Port Arthur, is deeply regretted in naval circles in England, where he was well known as an able and devoted officer.

TELEGRAMS. THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR. Colombo, Mar. 31. Emphatic contradiction has been given to the report circulated in Shanghai, Onfu and Tokio, that the Russians had abandoned Port Arthur, after destroying all warships and munitions to prevent them from falling into the enemy's hands. A telegram despatched from the Naval base on March 23rd at 7 a.m., indicated that the garrison was in good spirits and eagerly awaiting the Japanese land attack. The troops are said to be determined to defend Port Arthur to the death. Mr. J. A. McKenzie, one of the War correspondents of the Daily Mail, met with an accident in Korea. He was riding near Chonampo, when his pony tripped and fell, precipitating him violently to the ground; both of his legs were broken. Recently Mr. McKenzie journeyed to the Far East via Australia, and paid a visit to Adelaide. A Tokio despatch states that one of the wounded Muscovites from the sunken warship Varyag had 164 steel splinters, caused by the bursting of a shell, scattered through his body. By means of the Röntgen rays bits of steel were located, and a skilful surgeon removed them. Bombay, March 31. A Japanese official telegram says:—At 8-30 of the 27th, four blockading steamers arrived outside Port Arthur, under the protection of our destroyers and torpedo boats, and proceeded direct towards the entrance, in spite of the enemy's search-lighting. When about 2 miles from the entrance we were discovered, and were terribly fired on by the batteries on both sides and the guardship. Notwithstanding this, four steamers went on into the inner roadstead and the "Chyo Maru" anchored herself and sank above half cable length from the western shore of Golden Hill. The Fukyo Maru went a little further on to the left of the Chyo Maru, when she received a torpedo from the Russian destroyer and sank in that position. The Yahoko Maru anchored herself and sank at the position on the left of the Fukan Maru. The Yoneyama Maru was struck in part by the Russian destroyer and ran in between the Chyo and Fukin, and anchored in the middle of the roadstead, but before sinking, she received a torpedo from the enemy and by its force she was pushed towards the left bank and sank sideways. Thus, to our great regret, our object of blocking the passage failed again, space having been left between the Yahoko Maru and the Yoneyama Maru. Our losses were: Killed, Commander Hirose, one officer and two sailors; seriously wounded, Second-Lieutenant Shunadaffi wounded, Lieutenant Masaki, Chief Engineer Hureta, and 6 sailors. The Ashta and Taubame, which escorted the steamers to within a mile of the harbour, opened fire on one of the enemy's destroyers and inflicted heavy damage on a Russian destroyer. It is stated that the steam was rushing out as if her boiler was damaged. A vessel, which looked like a Russian warship, was lying at the foot Golden Hill completely disabled. None of our torpedo craft were damaged. Bombay, March 31. The following telegram was received last night from the Japanese Government:— On the 28th a force of Japanese infantry and cavalry attacked and repulsed the enemy outside the south gate of Chongju, and occupied the place. The enemy numbered about 600 and retreated towards Wiju. Our losses were Lieutenant Kan and four others killed, Captain Kurakawa and eleven others wounded. There was no loss among our infantry. The Russians left two bodies on the field, but it is reported that seven or eight more were found within the wall. They are very clever in carrying away their fallen comrades, either on horseback or on stretchers. It was actually witnessed that two officers, like the Russians who fell, were carried away on stretchers, risking the great danger and blood-stained bandages being found here and there, so it may be said the enemy's losses are at least equal to ours. Bombay, March 31. A telegram was received last night from the Japanese Government, the substance of which is as follows:—The Imperial Diet, which closed its Extraordinary Session on 29th March, gave its unanimous consent to the War Budget, as well as to a Bill authorising the Government to raise a loan for the execution of the war, and also unanimously passed a Preparation for War Taxation Bill, with certain modifications. The amount of loan authorised is 280 million yen, and is to be raised in the form of temporary loans, Treasury bonds, or National bonds, at the discretion of the Government. The Diet has passed a further Tobacco Monopoly law, by which the existing system of the monopoly of tobacco leaf is to be converted into one of tobacco manufactures. At the close of its Session the House of Representatives passed the following resolution with acclamation:—"The Imperial declaration of war against Russia is just and honourable, being solely actuated by His Majesty's desire for the peace of the Orient, and there is no subject of His Majesty who will not exert himself to the utmost to obey the Imperial will, this House has, in accordance with the Nation's sincere sense of patriotism, provided the revenue desired by the Government so that there might be no deficiency in the War Fund. Notwithstanding the great success already achieved by our Navy, the war has only just entered into its arena, and the time seems yet distant when a complete victory shall be won and the peace of the Orient restored, and this House will be prepared firmly to make a cordial grant of funds necessary for the prosecution of the war. In passing the above resolution by a clear expression of the national will, the House desires to urge Ministers of State to uphold the Imperial policy and to bring about the restoration of peace by devising necessary plans for any eventuality and by taking all timely measures.

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor said: My Lord, I will only make a few remarks on the Budget in reference to its relation to the Province of Bengal. In the first place I should like to say that I thoroughly acknowledge what the Hon. Finance Member has with his becoming modesty, called the reasonable liberality with which the Government of Bengal has been treated in the new Provincial Contract. I am very glad indeed that this step forward has been taken in regard to decentralisation so as to call forth, as I believed it must, the best efforts of Local Governments and of their officers in regard to efficiency and economy of administration: and I acknowledge gratefully that in starting us off on the new system the Government of India has treated us with reasonable liberality. We had very considerable discussion over the Provincial Contract before the Government of India settled it, and I am bound to say that the impression which that discussion left on my mind confirmed the impression which I have of the Government of India in its relation to the Local Governments both while I was connected with the Government of India as Home Secretary and also during the more than four years in which I have occupied the position of the head of the Local Government. I recognise fully that not only do we who are Local Governments maintain that we belong to the same great work; and the Government of India cordially recognise this and meet us in a sympathetic and kindly way. We did not of course get all we asked because we asked for all that it was possible to hope for, but we got, and when we had got it and looked round and saw what other people had got, we were bound to admit that we got at all events reasonable treatment, and I am sure that nothing that it was our duty to urge in regard to the necessary expenditure, and the expedient expenditure, of Bengal was lost sight of by your Excellency and Your Excellency's Government.

There are several matters in regard to which coming to the Province of Bengal, I have been deeply impressed, and I am glad to say that they are not matters which have impressed me without having impressed my predecessors, or which have impressed me without having impressed those who are my responsible and irresponsible advisers in this Province. But they are matters which have deeply impressed me. One is the under-manning of our District and Local administrations. We have far too few Deputy Collectors, and far too few Sub-Deputy Collectors; and our ministerial establishments are undraped and undermanned. That is a matter which we have strongly represented, and it is a matter consequently in respect to which the Government of India has given us substantial help. I trust that with the help which the Government has given, and with the money which under the new Contract it will be possible for us to set aside for this purpose of improving our Local administration great improvement may take place. As I have said this is a matter which attracted the attention of my predecessors and which has also attracted the attention both of my subordinates and of the press and I am sure that the measures which are now about to be carried out, which are now under discussion between the Government of Bengal and Your Excellency's Government will give great satisfaction to the Province generally.

The first is Irrigation. In respect of irrigation I have seen and examined a good number of the projects which are absolutely essential in these Provinces, and I am sure that the policy which has been developed by the Government of India will be one which will be received by all who have an interest in the agricultural community with great gratitude. The second point is the point of Police. In regard to that I need say nothing. My predecessor, the Hon'ble Sir John Woodburn, in this Council made as strong a statement perhaps as one desires to make about the necessity for Police reform in Bengal, and that the statement was certainly not too strong. I have the strongest belief in the necessity for every great reform. In respect of Police we are still waiting to ascertain what are the lines of the policy in respect of which reform must be carried out. I believe myself that it is better to wait. I have great pressure brought to bear upon me to carry out certain reforms immediately. I believe myself it is better to wait and to have a clearly defined policy before us before we begin to work with this great and important question. The third matter with regard to which the Government of India have promised us reasonable assistance in the future, it is the matter of Education. Here again I find myself in a cord with my predecessors and in accord with what I believe to be the best opinion in the Province when I say that in respect of primary education we must incur great expenditure; that in respect of secondary education we have hardly any model schools at all and that in respect of Colleges we have to start them in many respects on a new line altogether. Your Excellency is already aware that something has already been done at Dacca in starting a College on these new lines, and it has been brought before this Council in another Debate by the Hon. Dr. Mukhpadhyaya that a great number more of European professors are required than we have at present for our Colleges and there is also another feature of education which was mentioned, I think, by the Hon. Mr. Peder this morning, and to which I attach as much importance almost as any, namely, the absolute inadequacy and incapacity of our inspecting staff. All these things are matters upon which we will have to incur great expenditure. We will make every effort that we can to meet these necessities, and we have been promised the support and the assistance of Government.

GENERAL. London, Mar. 29. On the motion for adjournment for Easter, Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman raised the question of the whole political situation, and invited Mr. Balfour to resign because he did not enjoy the confidence of the country. Mr. Balfour says he was unable to see why the Government should resign while it retained the confidence of the House in view of the great task it had to perform for the benefit of the people. The French Chamber has passed the Religious Teaching Bill by 308 against 231. Mr. Akers Douglas introduced the Alien's Immigration Bill excluding criminals, paupers, diseased and questionable characters. There is much disappointment at St. Petersburg, because it is found that the railway round Lake Baikal cannot be completed for many months yet. Mr. Lyttleton said, that in view of the success in dealing with the recent outbreaks of plague in South Africa, he declined to prevent the introduction of Chinese. London, Mar. 30. Sir Michael Hicks Beach has informed his constituents that he does not intend to seek re-election for Parliament again. The House of Commons has adjourned till the 12th April. Mr. Balfour said that the Budget would probably be brought forward on the 19th. London, Mar. 31. At the Transvaal Farmers' Congress held at Kruigersdorp, General Delarey said he wished to bring to the notice of the world that they had abandoned all thoughts of vindictiveness, and that it was now their privilege to work for peace. General Botha said he was convinced that the same allegiance would be given to the new Government as to the old, and they must show that they were loyal subjects. It is reported at Shanghai that the Mikado, with the Headquarters Staff, proceeds to Korea shortly. London, April 1. Reuter's special correspondent writing from Tuna, says that the Tibetans asked the British mission to retire, which Colonel Young husband refused to do; the result being that two engagements were fought in which the Tibetans suffered most severely, their dead lying in heaps. The Tibetans fled to the hill—fifty or sixty obstinately held the camp at Guru, which was finally most gallantly taken by the mounted infantry and the Goorkhas. London, April 1. The year's British revenue is two and three-quarter millions below the estimate and the total deficit is nearly seven millions.

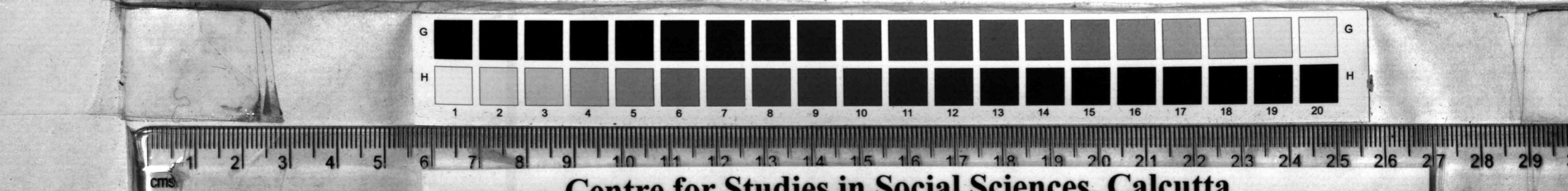
\*Including 4 lakhs under.—Land Revenue for special surveys.

and they are crowned with success on the

quarry will be paid by Government.

London, April 1.

London, April 1.



# THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, APRIL 3, 1904.

## A SHORT HISTORY OF THE DECENTRALISATION SCHEME.

If the Hon'ble Mr. Sherras, the Financial Secretary to the Government of Bengal, has omitted to give a history of the decentralisation scheme, we shall try to furnish one as shortly as possible. Before 1871 the Local Governments, which practically carry on the internal administration of the country, had almost no powers of financial control over the affairs of their respective provinces and no financial responsibility; everything was rigorously centralized in the Supreme Government, which took upon itself in detail the provision of funds for every branch of the public service throughout India. The revenues of the whole Empire thus went into a common fund, which was completely at the disposal of the Indian Government. But the possession of a vast wealth has its attendant evils and troubles, and the Central Government found the business of supervising in a central office all the details of the receipts and expenditures of the empire as an impossible task.

Besides, the Supreme Government came to find that the demands of the Local Governments for money were practically unlimited because there was almost no limit to their legitimate wants; they had no means of knowing the measure by which their annual demands upon the Government of India ought to be regulated; they had a purse to draw upon of unlimited, because of unknown, depth; they saw on every side the necessity of improvements, and their constant and justifiable desire was to obtain for their own Provinces and people as large a share as they could persuade the Government of India to part with out of the general revenues of the Empire.

The constantly increasing demands of the Local Governments brought the Government of India on the verge of bankruptcy; and the latter at last came to realize the danger of despoiling the Local Governments of all share in the financial control of their own affairs, and keeping the sole power of receiving and distributing the public money into its own hands. Lord Mayo was thus obliged in 1871 to inaugurate his celebrated Decentralization Scheme by which he resolved to make over to the Local Governments a certain income to regulate their local expenditures, and to leave to them, subject to certain general rules and conditions, the responsibility of managing their own local affairs. Accordingly, from the commencement of the official year 1871-72, the financial control of the following services was transferred to the Local Governments, namely, Jails, Police, Education, Registration, Medical Service, Printing, Roads and the Civil Buildings.

The result of the scheme, however, proved disastrous. The Secretary of State—the Lord of the Lords—kept for himself the lion's share of the revenue, and, in revenge, the Government of India, meted out the same measure of treatment to its subordinate Governments, and did something more. It allotted paltry sums to the Local Governments, and then left them and the people to their fate. Thus thrown upon their own resources, the Local Governments had no other alternative than to tax the people right and left to find the means of providing every kind of improvement in their respective Provinces. The Road Cess was thus introduced in Bengal, and a similar rate was imposed in the Punjab, the N. W. Provinces, Madras, Bombay and the Central Provinces. Municipalities were also extended throughout the land, but while the Municipal Tax pressed upon particular towns, the local cesses, which took different names in different Provinces, passed universally.

In 1877 the scheme of decentralization received a further development at the hands of Lord Lytton. Under the first essay of the system, the Bengal Government was entrusted with the management of the revenue departments; but in 1877 the Government of India also entrusted to its use and responsibility, on fixed terms of progressive payment, all the principal revenues. Thus, the Local Government was further entrusted with the management of the following heads of revenue: Excise, Customs, Salt, Stamps, Law and Justice, Marine, and Miscellaneous, in addition to the following heads of expenditure, namely, Refunds of the assigned revenues, Land Revenue, Excise, Customs, Salt, Stamps, Administration, Minor Departments, Law and Justice Marine, and Miscellaneous.

Having made over the heads of revenue to the Local Governments, the Government of India made the following arrangement with them. The latter were authorized to develop the sources of revenue placed at their disposal, but then they were bound to allow the Government of India also to share in this increase of revenue every five years at certain fixed rates. Thus backed by the India Government, the Local Governments began to show increase under every head of revenue, the proceeds being rateably divided between themselves and the Government of India. The result was that taxation increased to its utmost limits in every Province.

From an official statement it appears that, under the system of decentralization, the revenues of Bengal increased from Rs. 2,69,11,000 to Rs. 3,68,28,000 during the first five years of its introduction, and it has now come up to Rs. 5,04,43,000, or the revenue has doubled since the scheme was first introduced. Now, to what is that vast increase of Bengal's revenue due? It is not by curtailing useless expenditure, but by burdening the people with fresh taxation and other objectionable means that there has been such an enormous increase of revenue.

The position then is this. While Lord Mayo handed over certain heads of "expenditures" to the un-entitled control of Local Governments, which obtained a fixed consolidated allotment from the Imperial Exchequer to administer the departments, Lord Lytton handed over certain heads of "revenue" such as Stamps, Excise, etc., or rather farmed them out, to the Local Governments on condition that a fixed allotment out of the receipts must be returned to the Imperial Exchequer. Such farming out of the revenue naturally resulted in great evils. Under the Mayo scheme, the departments surrendered being such as cannot be forced to be more paying, the Local Governments could not increase the burden on the

people and thus fill their exchequer to meet the expenditure; they had thus to economise as much as possible. Under the Lytton scheme, however, the Local Governments, fully knowing that the more money they got out of the people, the greater would be their surplus, tried their best to force up the heads of revenue made over to them. Thus, for instance, by introducing the out-still system, which helped drunkenness, and selling more stamps which showed an increase of litigation, the revenue was considerably increased at the cost of the people.

We need not refer to some minor changes in the system made during the time of Lord Ripon and later on. Suffice it to say that, along with the growth of the revenue in Bengal and other Provinces, the Government of India came forward, after every five years, to claim its share in the increase of the revenue,—sometimes the lion's share; and for this reason, the Local Governments often found themselves placed in a worse position than they were before 1871. On such occasions they piteously begged for help from the Government of India, and the latter made some grants to the Local Governments with grumble. The point now is—what is the position of the Local Governments better under the new settlement than before?

As we have said, the "new departure" means only this, that previously the settlement was concluded at intervals of five years, and now it is to last for an indefinite period. The Supreme Government, as before, has not however, given up its claim to share in the increase of any of the heads of revenue which ought to belong to the Local Governments entirely. Indeed, if the Supreme Government had not demanded "their fair proportion in the growth of assigned revenues," every Province would have been converted into a land of prosperity by this time. On the other hand, it seems, the Supreme Government, under the new settlement, has appropriated more money than it ever did under the old. In short, the Local Governments are in a worse position, and this we intend showing to-morrow.

### LORD CURZON AS HIS OWN CRITIC.

Lord Curzon's budget speech is a long defence of his own acts and measures. We wish that an impartial party had criticised his Excellency's administration, for self-adoration carries no weight. Let us, however, examine some of the points he urged in favour of his administration. He is "proud of the good fortune" that enabled him to show large surpluses uninterruptedly during the last five years. He says, "our revenue has risen from 68½ millions in 1899 to 83 millions in 1904," and this notwithstanding one very severe year of famine and in parts of India two years, as well as the continued prevalence of plague. But does it matter much to the people whether it is a year of deficit or a year of surplus? They would have blessed the Viceroy if he had been able to reduce the heavy burden of taxation which has bent them double. But they are exactly in the same position now as they were before 1899.

It is quite true that the salt tax has been partially remitted; but its benefit is totally unappreciable. The raising of the taxable limit of the Income Tax has no doubt benefited a few thousand men, but, His Excellency will be sorry to learn that, the rigorous manner in which the tax has been realised this year shows that many thousands more had also to suffer from this generosity of the Government. Then, is it possible to force up revenue without creating misery when famine was prevalent, in more or less severe form, during the three years of his Viceroyalty?

The Viceroy tells us that, although the permanent debt has been increased by sixteen millions during his time, about 24 millions has been expended on railways and irrigation. But why borrow at all and swell the permanent debt when there was such a large surplus? And who are benefited most by these railways and irrigation works? The Government and the English Companies who start these undertakings, and not the people. Then, a large portion of the railway revenue is merely fictitious.

His Lordship points to the "enormous increase in Savings Banks deposits in India" as a sign of prosperity. He says that there have risen from less than one million sterling in 1870 to over 7½ millions sterling in 1893, out of which 9/10ths are owned by "natives." What, however, happened was this. Previously people converted their savings into silver ornaments; but, since the value of uncoined silver was almost halved by a stroke of the pen, they deposited their savings in Savings Banks—that is all. And is not the amount a mere trifle when it is considered that, there are at least two hundred millions of people who ought to be able to save something every year?

Lord Curzon takes credit for having inaugurated the new Provincial Settlement which, in his opinion, has improved the position of the Local Governments. We hope to show in a future issue that this is a mistake. On the other hand, this new Settlement, in our humble opinion, has rendered the Local Governments more helpless than they were before.

His Excellency next refers to his twelve "reforms." The most important of these, he says, is the Frontier Policy. Since he came here not a single military expedition has been sent on the North-Western Frontier. This is true. But, if the people objected to these expeditions it was, because, they increased the cost of the army. But was the growth of military expenditure checked during his time? Alas, no! On the other hand, the military expenditure rose from £14,265,625 to £18,215,000 during his time! This explains how the surpluses were swallowed up.

Then what about the Tibet expedition? How could His Excellency devote India's money to this purpose when it has been sent beyond the frontiers of India? How His Excellency has added to the expenses of the army is evident from his own admission. He says, that, during his term of office, he has added no fewer than 484 British officers to the Indian Army and provided an electric punkha installation in all Indian barracks.

His Excellency thus summarises his good acts:—  
"When I came out to India every public body or society without exception that addressed me urged me to pursue a policy of administrative reform. Spare us, they said, adventure on the North-West Frontier, extend railways and irrigation, give us a sound currency, develop

the internal resources of the country, promote educational and industrial advancement, manage plague and famine with a due regard to the feelings of the community, free the Government machinery from the many impediments to its proper working. I took these authorities at their word, and I have ever since pursued administrative reform, though not, I hope, to the exclusion of other and equally important objects, with an ardour that has never slackened. I have done so, because I think that those advisers were right. Efficiency of administration is, in my view, a synonym for the contentment of the people. It is the one means of affecting the people in their homes, and of adding, only an atom perhaps, but still an atom, to the happiness of the masses."

Is His Excellency sure that he has secured the contentment of the governed, and added to the happiness of the masses? We only wish he could mix with them and see things for himself. For he would have then witnessed nothing but deep misery around him. Two evils are constantly sitting like dreadful nightmares upon their breasts. One is the apprehension of famine, and the other is the outbreak of pestilence. Has His Excellency done anything to protect them from the visitations of these monsters? On the other hand, they are as helpless in this respect as ever. Five years ago, their lot, like the proverbial bullock in the story, was to work and get some hay and water; and, five years after, their lot is exactly the same—to till the land from morning to evening, and secure a pittance to keep their bodies and souls together, somehow or other.

### PROVINCIAL CONTRACT OR HOW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE FLEECE.

The most important feature of this year's Imperial Budget Statement is perhaps the new Provincial Settlement which has replaced the old. Of course the old Settlement was very bad, but its successor appears to us to be even worse. Strangely enough, not a single non-official member entered any protest against its possible disastrous effects. Perhaps they were too busy with the Official Secrets Bill and the Universities Bill to find time to study this question. What has surprised and pained us most is the attitude of our good Lieutenant-Governor. His Honour has not only accepted the change with expressions of delight, but, like his Financial Secretary, is very grateful to the Government of India for "the reasonable liberality" shown by the Government of India to Bengal.

In our humble opinion, however, not only should Sir Andrew Fraser, like his predecessors, have protested against the principle of the Provincial Contract, which is only a pitiless engine of pumping out the revenue of the Local Governments, but resented with all his might the charges of the Finance Minister and the Viceroy that the Local Governments are extravagant, and that, therefore, they should be treated like children. Even a pugnacious Finance Minister like Sir James Westland did "not wish to hint that Local Governments made bad use of their money; on the contrary" said he, "I am quite sure they would make excellent use of more money if they had it."

Elsewhere is published a short history of the new Provincial Settlement from the last Budget Statement of Sir Edward Law, as well as the speech of Sir Alexander Mackenzie on the same subject, which he had delivered at the Imperial Council on March 27, 1897.

We hope, Sir Andrew will kindly go through this speech, and see with what boldness did Sir Alexander condemn the whole system of the Provincial Contract. He said that the system was not "favourable to strong administration" and that "it places the Imperial Government in a position of antagonism to its own local agents." He went so far as to suggest that the whole question of the financial relation between the Provincial and Supreme Governments should be adjusted by a Conference of the Local Governors and the Governor-General in Council, and a satisfactory system inaugurated. That was, said Sir Alexander, not his own view only but that of Sir Charles Elliott also, indeed, of all previous Lieutenant-Governors. We would have been gratified to find Sir Andrew dealing with this question in that spirit of independence which characterised the conduct of every one of his predecessors.

The way in which the Supreme Government is starving the Provinces is astonishing. The Secretary of State draws his bills without minding whether the Government of India is in a position to meet them or not. And, in the same manner, the Supreme Government appropriates to its own use the fruits of the improved administration of the Local Governments which are legitimately due to the latter. The result is that the local rulers cannot show any progress, and people under their control drag a miserable existence for want of good drinking water, medical help and other urgent useful works. It is thus the duty of every provincial ruler to protest against an arrangement which has rendered the Local Governments quite helpless for any good purpose. Sir Charles Elliott did it; so did Sir Alexander Mackenzie; so did Sir John Woodburn; and we expected the same thing from Sir Andrew Fraser.

A noteworthy fact in this connection is that, the Government of Lord Elgin was as strongly opposed to the new Provincial Settlement as Lord Curzon's is in favour of it. The question was discussed on the 27th of March 1897 when the debate on the budget took place; and Sir James Westland was not only for the retention of the revision of the five-year term of the contract, but he made the following statement against the system now introduced:

"It is very curious, but I was reading a short time ago the record of certain deliberations which took place in 1892 among the members of the Government of India on this very question of prolonging the terms of the settlement. Sir David Barbour at that time was Finance Minister. He pronounced it to be impossible, as it most certainly is; but one of the members who pronounced very strongly in favour of prolongation and declared that the terms of the contracts should be made longer was Sir Charles Crosswaite, who afterwards became the Lieutenant-Governor of the N. W. Provinces. If he were now asked for his opinion he would say, I am afraid that Sir David Barbour was perfectly

correct and would admit that the system of revision was necessarily a part of the Provincial Contract."

Of course Sir James Westland advocated the five-year, and condemned the indefinite term of the contract, on the ground that the Government of India would have a better opportunity of fleeing the Local Governments at shorter intervals than if the period of revision were indefinitely extended; but the object of our quoting the above is to show that there is no continuity of policy in this respect between the present and the previous Governments. Lord Elgin, or rather Sir James Westland who ruled His Lordship, was supported in his view by Sir David Barbour, who is as distinguished an authority on Indian finance as Sir James was. Here is then a queer spectacle—the two Governments differing as two poles asunder. Which of them is right? And what would Sir Andrew Fraser have done if he were the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal under the Elgin Government?

First let us see how the Local Governments have been fleeced under the five-year contract, since the decentralization scheme was introduced in 1871-2. When the settlement of 1877 was made, a total retrenchment of 40 lakhs was enforced; in 1882 the Imperial Government surrendered an additional 26 lakhs net; in 1887 they however resumed 64 lakhs, that is to say, they took back the entire amount (minus two lakhs) they had given; and in 1892, 49 lakhs more were snatched away in the same way. The position in 1892 is thus described in the following extract from the Financial Statement for 1892-93, presented in March 1892:—

"The revision has been made in such a manner as to give the Government of India an additional revenue to the amount of Rs. 4,663,000 yearly; and I regret to say, as a necessary consequence, it contracts the resources of the Local Governments by an equal amount."

In other words, more than forty-six lakhs of Rupees was snatched away from the Local Governments which they needed so badly in order to improve the internal administration of the country! This next contract was for five years; but, before two years had passed away, Lord Elgin's Government came forward and demanded another forty lakhs from the exchequers of the Local Governments! This is what Sir James Westland said on this occasion in his budget statement in March 1894:—

"One other measure we have been obliged to take, namely, to call on Provincial Government for contributions to our aid, in other words to force upon them severe economies and appreciate the result to the benefit of our own account. The Government of India were most unwilling to have recourse to a measure which practically means the stoppage for the time of all administrative improvements,—a measure which they feel must make all the heart out of Provincial Governments,—by making them surrender all the fruits of careful administration to fill the yawning gulf of our sterling payments. But as the Government of India said in addressing its demand to them, 'the imperious necessity for imposing new taxation obliges the Government of India first to exhaust all available methods of increasing their resources,' and this necessity is the only justification they can put forward for so soon making a practical revision of contracts made only two years ago and calling in balances which the Local Governments might legitimately claim as pledged to them for this purpose of administrative improvement."

What a confession. The Imperial Government was fully aware that they were begging the Local Governments and leaving them no option but to starve all useful works; and yet extorted 40 lakhs more from them in a couple of years! Nor was this all. The helpless Provincial Governments were again fleeced the next year and also the year following. And if the Provincial rulers of the time entered their protests, the Finance Minister showed his teeth and came to bite them!

But will the situation improve under the new Settlement? We do not think it will. Indeed, so long the Imperial Government will lay absolute claim both upon the Imperial and Local revenues, this state of things is bound to continue. Now, why should the two-thirds of the revenue remain Imperial and one-third only should remain Provincial? That was the question which Mr. Sayani asked and to which Sir Alexander Mackenzie referred in his speech, reproduced elsewhere. The root of the evil lies there. The only answer which Sir James Westland could give to the question was that the necessities of the Imperial Government were greater than those of the Local. But the necessities of the Local Governments are also many, and they are as urgent as those of the Government of India. So they must collapse if they are starved. Matters, however, cannot remain in this state. The duck is sure to cease to lay golden eggs if a stop is not put to the unnatural arrangement subsisting between the Local and the Supreme Governments, and to the ceaseless demand of the Imperial Exchequer. In a future issue we shall try to show how the new Settlement has not improved the position, or rather made it worse.

The literature on the partition question has been considerably enriched by a pamphlet of Babu Prithwis Chunder Roy, entitled "The Map of India, from the Buddhist to the British period." It is "An Open Letter" addressed to Lord Curzon and is replete with information of varied kinds, some of which is not generally known. The author has treated the subject in an original way which shows that it has many sides, and that therefore the Government should never have introduced the measure of dismemberment with a light heart, and without studying the question in all its phases. From his point of view, Babu Prithwis Chunder is right that the territorial divisions of the whole of India under British rule have been made in a way which can be justified on rational grounds. He has shown very successfully that in the redistribution of territories for the purpose of creating Provinces the British Government only adopted a haphazard policy of drift, caring nothing for ethnic and sociological conditions; and the result is the fantastic arrangement under which we have been living since the last one hundred and fifty years, and which is bound to create not only administrative inconveniences but retard progress in various directions. There is no doubt that it would

have been good for all parties concerned if the whole of India had been divided on the basis of language and social customs, so that Bengal might have been left to the Bengalee-speaking, Bombay to the Maharatta-speaking, Madras to the Telugu and Tamil-speaking, the United Provinces to the Hindi-speaking, peoples; but, it is too late in the day to raise such a question for any practical purposes. For, if you now attempt any such redistribution of territories, it would mean an amount of cost, confusion and other inconveniences which would far counterbalance the advantages likely to accrue from an arrangement of this kind. The writer is also not correct in his assertion that "it is not Bengal alone that badly needs some territorial relief." Not only is the statement a fiction, but the real truth is in the other way. As a matter of fact, the strain on the head of the Local Government has been removed the last twenty-five years in the matter of railway and other communications as well as by the increased number of the members of the Civil Service. Besides, the province is now more peaceful than it was a quarter of a century ago; and the administration of the country has also been very much improved with the help of such institutions as Municipalities, District Boards, Honorary Magistrates and newspapers. It is a pure assumption on the part of the Government that the Lieutenant-Governor of this present day is more over-wheeled with work than his predecessors and the whole scheme of the dismemberment of Bengal is based upon this assumption.

UNDER the characteristic heading of "European's Road to Ruin," the "Review of Reviews" has published some striking figures showing the extraordinary growth of military expenditure of European countries during the last three decades. The situation in England will be found in the following table:—

1883	£16,600,000.
1893	£17,800,000.
1903	£73,860,000.

The figures for Europe as a whole show that whereas all the Powers spent only £17,500,000 in 1883, they spent in 1903, £214,200,000. England's naval expenditure exhibits the same tendency to increase. Thus:

1883	£10,410,000.
1893	£14,300,000.
1903	£31,260,000.

For Europe, the increase has been from £33,130,000 in 1883 to £81,610,000 in 1903. In the meantime, the European populations have increased as follows:

1883.	337,000,000.	1893.	372,000,000.	1903.	408,000,000.
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Thus, while the population of Europe has grown about 70 millions, or a fifth, the naval expenditure has more than doubled, and the military expenditure has, apart from war, increased by nearly 50 per cent.

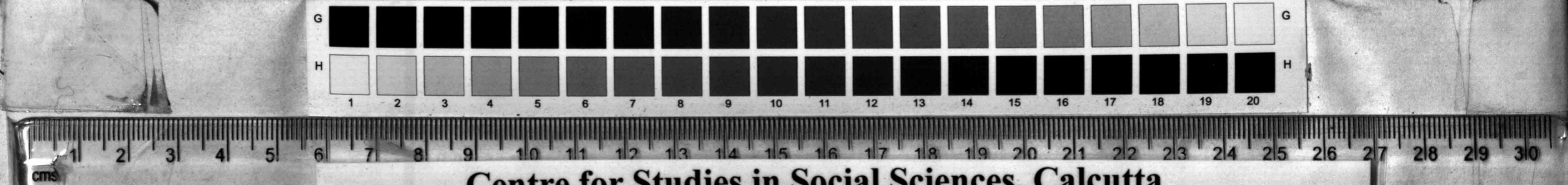
Taking military and naval expenditure together, we find that whereas the increase in population in the first decade was one-tenth, the increase in expenditure on the military and Navy has been one-fifth, and in the second decade, the proportion is one-tenth to one-third!

On a peace footing the armies of Europe kept employed about 2,800,000 men in 1883, 3,200,000 men in 1893, and 3,500,000 men in 1903. The number, if not accurately obtainable, is certainly increasing. At £1 a week this last number would have earned about £182,000,000. This is not reckoning the men employed in navies, and—more important—in the vast trades dependent on the army.

France, Austria Hungary, Italy, Russia, and Germany could create an army involving about 15,000,000 active combatants.

Thus, the whole of Europe has been converted into an armed camp. One cannot but be struck with wonder at the development that European civilization has effected. What is the main object of the European nations? It is to hate each other and "divide the weaker states," to quote the words of the American Ambassador at Paris, "as we divide a cake." There is no doubt, one of the immediate effects of modern civilization is the deadening or the annihilation of the moral sense. It was the German Emperor who declared before the world that God Almighty would help him in his determination of keeping Alsace and Lorraine. The English people actually uttered prayers in their Church for victory over the Boer, who, like themselves, are Europeans and Christians. And similarly, the Russians invoked the aid of God to crush the Japanese as soon as war was declared against them. It never struck these people that neither was God in their pay nor had He any interest in supporting an injustice. We say "interest," for that is the only motive the Europeans admit and know. Indeed, the European nations present a most strange and unique spectacle. They will consider it quite legitimate to deceive, cheat, out-wit, rob, subjugate and now down fellow-beings when they are at war with one another. They have their arsenals where they cast guns, and manufacturing where they prepare gun-powder and dynamite, for the purpose of killing their neighbours in time of war. At the same time they have splendid Churches near these arsenals and manufacturing where they gravely sit once a week to pray to God for "forgiveness for their trespasses!"

Yes, though the moral perceptions of the European nations have been deadened, they are all very pious people. If they supply their soldiers with the latest inventions of destruction as well as rum, meat and other things, they also furnish them each with a pocket edition of the Bible, and the services of ecclesiastics to preach to them "the Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man," and the doctrine of turning the right cheek when the left is struck. If they make war and carry desolation all along the line, they spend lots of money in preaching to the heathen "peace and goodwill," which Jesus Christ, whom they profess to worship, brought to the world. The Europeans have invented microscopes and telescopes by which they can see things which are minute and which are at a great distance. Yet they fail to take notice of one simple thing, namely, that sun are mortal and that they themselves will also have to die; that, in spite of their hankering after possessions, they will have to leave everything behind; that the average life of man is thirty-three years; that, if there is a God and a next world, a sound caning awaits those who have brought miseries upon their fellow-beings whose only



fault is that they lack in brute force. The greatest wonder is that the Europeans, who are so very intelligent, do not realize this simple truth.

Our readers are already aware of the novel scheme invented by Mr. Garrett to rid Rajshaye of pigs that infest the District. When our article on the subject appeared in these columns, the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to ask the Commissioner of the Rajshaye Division for a report from Mr. Garrett. A report was accordingly submitted by Mr. Garrett, on reading which the Commissioner found the scheme not only "impracticable" but "injurious."

The authorities are of opinion that the scheme is both impracticable and injurious. We hope Mr. Garrett is also of the same opinion, and is now persuaded that he has been able to extricate himself from a difficult position of his own creation. Let us take a few moments to consider the results of his action if his circular had not been rescinded. Most men would have paid their quota of contribution for this pig-sticking entertainment—some perhaps after having borrowed money for the purpose—and every one would have grumbled and cursed their fate when opening his purse-strings. Mr. Garrett would have, in this way, succeeded in raising a large sum and creating a party, mainly composed of Europeans, for the purpose of pig-sticking. The Anglo-Indian newspapers would have recorded the glorious deeds of these Nim rods—the size of the pigs slaughtered, and the size of their tusks. But the Indian newspapers would have described the other portion of the entertainment, namely, the number of bottles of champagne drunk. In short, every pig-sticking expedition would have possibly caused irritation among Indians against Mr. Garrett, the higher authorities, nay, British rule itself.

Then there was the other contingency. Mr. Garrett might have failed in forming a shikari party or he might have failed in sticking any pig at all. If an Indian had joined the party, there was every possibility of his having left it in disgust or under a sense of insult. An essential condition for the success of these mixed-parties is a feeling of equality among the members. Mr. Garrett would never have succeeded in creating or maintaining this feeling of equality as no official in India has ever succeeded in such attempts. Lord Curzon himself failed, in spite of all his efforts to protect his guests to the Delhi Durbar from such insults. So, if an Indian had joined the party he would have felt keenly his position, namely, that while the Europeans were enjoying themselves with their money, they were not only "natives" but were made to feel that they were "natives."

Here is another view of the question. We know that some Zemindars of Rajshaye were determined not to pay anything to the pig-sticking fund. Would they not have run some risk for their independence? Some of them might have been hauled up before Mr. Garrett. Not that he himself would have summoned them; he is too honourable for that. But the police, in order to ingratiate themselves with the lord of the district, might have implicated them in criminal cases. The defiant Zemindar himself also, apprehending that he had offended the Magistrate, might have widened the breach by running to the High Court to have his cases transferred from his jurisdiction.

A situation of embarrassment would have thus been created for nothing, and it has been avoided by the prompt withdrawal of the circular. Suppose a Zemindar who had not paid his contribution was hauled up before Mr. Garrett or his subordinate. The accused might have moved the High Court and made an affidavit to the effect that he believed that he had offended the lord of the District by refusing to pay subscription to a pet project of his. The Indian newspapers would at once "write one hundred articles every day," to quote the words of His Excellency the Viceroy, on the subject. The case would drag its slow length along, and confuse the whole country to the disgust of Mr. Garrett and the Government.

We may therefore claim that we did good service to Mr. Garrett. And we submit that when the Indian journals by their vigilance enable the Government to arrest the progress of an evil they deserve some appreciation of their services at its hands. The papers get enough of abuses, and they are not spared when they are found wrong. Surely, they deserve some thanks when they do an undoubted service. Just see how the Government deals with the present case. The Government admits that it got timely information which enabled it to arrest the progress of the circular, yet it has not a word of acknowledgment to the party who supplied the information.

The feeling between the Indians and their English rulers was embittered during the Mutiny. The Sepoys were annihilated and the ill-will was transferred to the people. That is to say, the offenders were adequately punished and the ill-feeling which their offence created was transferred to the people who sided with British rule. The atrocities of the Sepoys have been described, but the have their parallels. But the self-sacrifice and heroism which the Indians sometime displayed during the Mutiny days has no parallel. Here is an instance and we challenge the whole world to shew an instance like

this. General Denney told the following story during the sitting of the Oriental Congress in 1892:—

"During the same period—that, of the Mutiny—a poor Eurasian clerk took refuge with the Maharaja of Chirkie. The palace was surrounded by mutineers, who demanded that the fugitive should be given up. But the Maharaja refused to betray his guest, and in order to appease the mutineers who threatened to despoil the palace, he sent his son as a sacrifice."

We would be happy to be supplied with such an example from the records of the superior race.

Referring to the speech of Rajah Peary Mohan Mukerjee at the Universities Bill protest meeting, the Calcutta correspondent of an English paper thus writes under date the 14th February:—

"The other day there was a great meeting held in the Calcutta Town Hall to protest against the Universities Bill. It was presided over by one of the most prominent Hindus in Bengal, Raja Peary Mohan Mukerji, who opened the proceedings with a speech that sounded a very significant note. It was hallowed work in these days, he said, to hold meetings, to make speeches, to pass resolutions. Judged by results, they do not count as a featherweight with those who move the main-springs of power. Therefore, the only thing for the people of India to do was to go upon their knees and implore the Government of India not to pass the Bill that is designed to arrest their educational progress. The reason for this tone of despair is that the leaders of the Indian people now know the genesis of the Bill—how the Government of India circularised the provincial governments on the subject of higher education, stating that in their view it was a serious menace to the State; and asking for their opinion. Madras, it is said, replied that its University turned out only as many graduates as were needed. The Punjab retorted that higher education was not a menace with them, for they had not any. The Bengal officials agreed that it was a menace, and recommended that it should be stopped. That, observed the Supreme Government, is impossible; but we will do our best. Hence the Universities Commission, the Bill, the agitation—and the further sorrows of Lord Curzon."

Yes, that was a remarkable speech as we said at the time. It echoed the sentiments of the whole Indian nation. There was a time when Indian leaders had such a firm faith in the sense of justice of the rulers that they could not be persuaded to believe that the Government was capable of passing a measure against their wishes. Even Government measures, which provoked opposition only from a section of the community, were not proceeded with. But, now, the Government pays no heed to the united voice of the entire nation in regard to even non-political questions. The authorities are as much in the dark as regards the results of the Universities Act as the public. Why was then the "reform" thrust down the unwilling throats of the people? Even when the Government is absolutely sure of the beneficial effects of a measure, it should not fasten it upon the people if they are opposed to it; for it is alien and its best intentions are liable to be misinterpreted. It is therefore an act of supreme unwisdom to manufacture a law against universal protests when its usefulness is of a problematical character. By the way, is there any truth as to the alleged genesis of the Universities Bill alluded to above? If we remember aright, it was Mr. Cotton who referred to it in his speech at the said meeting. The Government should contradict the statement if it is unfounded.

We understand that Lord Curzon is determined to return to India after his five months' leave. He leaves here by the end of April and comes back in October. One of the main reasons of his going home is to settle some important matters connected with the Government of India by a personal talk with the Secretary of State. If the General Election takes place and the Liberals come into power in the meantime, even then His Lordship may stay here for a year to complete his programme of work. What is likely to happen in that case is this. Considering that Lord Curzon has got an extension of his services, the Liberal Ministry, at least for courtesy's sake, will ask him to stay. It will be of course quite optional with Lord Curzon to accept this offer or not. His Lordship is just now as absorbed with his Indian work as he was when he first set his foot on the soil of India. From this, it appears, he may accept such an offer, though, of course, it can never be agreeable to him to serve under a Liberal Government.

The Mohurram has passed off this year peacefully, and the usual harmony and good-will between the Hindus and the Mahomedans remained unbroken. A general belief prevails here, and there are good reasons for it, though the authorities would never admit it, that the Hindus and Mussalmans break one another's heads on such occasions as the Mohurram, the shortsighted and mischievous policy of some of the over-zealous officials has something to do with it. Indeed, it is a notorious fact that many of these disturbances were caused by the thoughtless acts of the authorities. The "Hindu" of Madras gives an instance, which goes to support the popular view. On the 17th ultimo, which was a day of Sri Rama Navami as well as Mohurram, a Hindu gentleman of Cuddapah intimated to the Superintendent of Police that he had arranged for a "Kalakshepam" in his house that night between 10 and 2 o'clock and detailed what he proposed to do in connection with the same. He said that a Pandit versed in the art will relate the story of Sri Rama's birth with appropriate songs accompanied with 'Srutti (Tambour), violin, drum and small cymbals. He proposed to do this in his house, not in any public place. The street in which he lived was entirely composed of Brahmin houses, and was free, he added for the information of the Police, from any Mahomedan house, Makan, or Mosque. The time chosen for the performance of the "Kalakshepam" was such that all the Mohurram festivities for the day would have been over long before that time. He, however, was afraid of the attitude of the authorities and applied to the Police in time

for permission to hold the innocent "Kalakshepam" in his own house and even told the circumstances under which he proposed to hold it. What the Hindu gentleman of Cuddapah asked for was only that he may be permitted to hold a private "Kalakshepam" in his house. The Superintendent of Police is said to have issued the order that "no music such as he contemplates will be allowed." The gentleman was even threatened with prosecution in case he disobeyed the order. The Superintendent furnished the gentleman with a copy of the District Magistrate's proceedings of a previous date wherein he holds that it is a long-standing custom in Cuddapah Town for the Hindus to stop music during the Mohurram. The Mahomedans are allowed to tom-tom the whole of the day and the night. There is no objection to that; but, a Hindu is asked to stop music in his own house, situated in a Hindu quarter, because it will hurt Mussalman susceptibilities. If the Hindu in question was a man of spirit he would not have put up with this illegal and foolish order, and the result would have probably been a breach of the peace. Fortunately, the Hindus are not at all disposed to quarrel with their Mussalman brethren, even when they are unreasonable, and hence oftentimes the public peace is preserved which some officials are so anxious to disturb.

The District Magistrate of Backerganj is just now the most popular official in the district, so says our correspondent. And why? Because he evenly held the scales of justice in deciding a case between a European and a "native." A Burmese cook of the European manager of the Nawab of Dacca, who holds a very high and influential position, lodged a complaint against his master for having assaulted him. The District Magistrate took up the case without throwing any obstacles and issued a summons. On the day of the hearing, the accused did not come personally but simply submitted a statement through his counsel. The Magistrate would not accept it and insisted on the personal attendance of the accused. And the European manager had no help but to appear in Court. He was convicted and fined Rs. 5. So the Magistrate simply did an act of justice, and the entire public has gone mad with joy! To this sad pass have things come!

The "Daily News" understands on the best official authority that there has been a brush between the Tibetans and the members of the British mission. The official account is, the Tibetans declined to evacuate a position which they had built across the road at Guru, or to surrender their arms. When some men were sent to collect their arms, they were fired on by the Tibetans, who also attacked them with swords. A struggle ensued, in which Mr. Candler, the Correspondent of the "Daily Mail" was severely wounded, and one or two others slightly injured. The troops then fired on the Tibetans who suffered heavily, and many prisoners were taken. The affair cannot be described as a regular fight.

During the absence of the Governor-General in Council from Calcutta, the Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Public Works Department will hold charge of that portion of the Foreign Department which is left in Calcutta.

SCRAPS.

The current number of the "Sanjibani" reports that the Assam Government has degraded and transferred some of the clerks of the Shillong Secretariat on the suspicion that they have disclosed official secrets. We regret to learn that they have not been granted an opportunity of proving their innocence and that they do not even know the offences they are accused of and punished for. Surely they should not be condemned unheard.

At the last meeting of the Calcutta Corporation Mr. Cotton with the help of Babu Nolin Behari Sircar and Mr. A. A. A. Apar scored a victory, though a small one and for which they deserve the heart-felt gratitude of the poor and ill-paid employees of the Corporation. Supported and seconded by the last named gentlemen Mr. Cotton's amendment to Rule 27 of the Pension Rules, framed by the Commissioners in 1895 was carried. The amendment as passed runs as follows:— "That in the proviso to Rule 27 of the Pension Rules framed by the Commissioners in meeting under Section 49 of Act II of 1888 (B. C.), on the 6th day of May, 1895, and confirmed by Government on the 1st day of September, 1895, all the words after "whether eligible or ineligible to contribute, and whether he has contributed or not" be deleted, and the following words be substituted:—"Who may have been permanently disabled or seriously injured in or during the discharge of his duties, or to the widow and children, or in case he shall have left no widow or children, to the parents, (brothers) and sisters, of any such officer or servant, who may have been killed in the discharge of his duties and in a case where a servant is in receipt of not more than Rs. 15, who may have become unfit for further discharge of his duties from natural or other causes, or may have become disabled in the service of the Municipality." In moving his amendment Mr. Cotton, in his usual eloquent way, narrated the career of a poor employe of the Corporation attached to a Govkhana, which at once appealed to the best feelings of the Commissioners present. Three scores of years ago one Karam Chand entered the service of the Corporation on a small pittance of Rs. 4 per mensem. In the course of these long, weary and eventful years in which poor Karam Chand has grown grey his pay was raised to only Rs. 8 per month. The man is now a victim to a dangerous malady and must needs retire from the service. Benefit of this poor pittance and disabled poor Karam Chand would have to live a hard and painful life but for the philanthropic spirit of these independent, considerate and conscientious Commissioners of the Corporation. We congratulate the Commissioners for the adoption of this very humane rule, which would do away with the hardship under which their menial servants laboured till now.

The iron ore being extracted in such large quantities in the Khanai Valley, some forty miles north of Bostan junction, on the North-Western Railway, is found to consist of an extraordinary proportion of chromite. Colonel Day, commanding the Royal Engineers at Quetta is understood to have gone home on sixty days' leave to obtain expert opinion on the assay of the ore being exported.

Prince Ukhtomsky, the confidential friend of the Czar forgets the continuity of logic with varying circumstances. He first made it his mission to declare, as we have done in these columns, that Russians are East-Asians, and that the Russian conquest of Asia would be a conquest of sympathy. Now, however, that the sympathy of the world-be conquered is conspicuous by its absence, he turns right-about and declares "the difference of race between our troops and the Japanese is so great that there can be no question of measuring ourselves against them in regular hostilities. The yellow men will not so much be beaten; they will be simply slaughtered. \* \* \* Yellow is simply not equal to white."

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Mr. J. T. Rankin, Magistrate of Dacca has issued the following order and which is published in the last number of the "Calcutta Gazette":— "Whereas it has been made to appear to me that owing to the existing practice of kite flying in the town of Dacca, the kite strings, which are in most cases covered with ground glass, cut the main lines and feeders of electric light wires, break the circuit of electricity and extinguish the light to the annoyance and injury of the public; and whereas the falling of such broken wires is dangerous to the public using the streets, I do hereby direct the public not to fly kites on or within one hundred yards of any street in the town of Dacca, where there are electric light wires. We are not aware of any other order existing in Calcutta where there are more overhead electric wires than Dacca. Or is it that the boys of Dacca love kite-flying more than the boys of Calcutta?"

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT  
LONDON, March 11, 1904.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON: TARIFF REFORMER.

To the "Nineteenth Century—and After" this month Sir Edward Sassoon, M. P., contributes an article upon the position of India with regard to Tariff Reform. He considers the possibilities of action under three heads. 1. A system of retaliation receive the assent of the English Electorate, it may be argued, he considers, that India should adhere to her present position. If Preferential Tariffs, however, be agreed to, there will be two courses open to the Eastern Empire.

India either can throw in her lot with England and the Colonies in a Customs Union of some sort; or she can remain outside, but make an effort to secure the advantage of a preferential entry for her produce into Great Britain, "free from the entanglement and complications inseparable from a remodelled system of tariffs." This last suggestion Sir Edward dismisses in a few lines. Foreign competitors might make reprisals upon India on account of the raising of the fiscal barriers elsewhere, and India would thus be driven into the Customs Union. Holding this opinion, Sir Edward devotes the rest of his article to a consideration of India's position in the Zollverein. To his own satisfaction—though he claims neither exhaustiveness nor infallibility—he proves that eminent success would crown the taking of this step. Import duties and excise on cotton goods would go by the board at once. Their loss to the Exchequer would be made up by the raising of the import duties on foreign manufactured goods to an average of, say, ten per cent. of their value. To obtain the revenue still needed after this action has been taken, he proposes the slight screwing-up of the income tax, "not very high in all conscience," or the assimilation of India's death and succession duties to the system of graduation adopted in England. Since exports, with the single exception of gunny-bags, consist of food and raw material, Sir Edward considers that no retaliation need be feared. He ascribes two great benefits to the step he champions. In the first place, it would encourage the increase in the cultivation of cereals—though at what price he does not stop to explain. It would also prevent a dumping of cheap foreign goods into India to the prejudice of her native factories. Sir Edward, however, does not pause to take into consideration that India would be helpless in a Customs Union against the united trade interests of the other parts of the Empire. The dumping of cheap foreign manufactures would be replaced by the dumping of Imperial manufactures whose price would be raised by great trust monopolists. Now, it may be bad to be 'dumped' by cheap goods, but it is many degrees worse to be 'dumped' by dear ones. In each case you get the goods, but in the latter you pay more dearly for them. It is not pleasant to be always criticising, and I refer here with appreciation to one good sentence in Sir Edward's article. "It is universally admitted," he writes, "that India's paramount want, the incus that has been weighing her down, the hand-to-mouth character of the existence led by countless millions of her people—people as industrious, as thrifty, and averse to engaging in either political or social disturbances—is the perennial need of active and fertilising capital, that source and sinew of industrial enterprise and of the diffusion of popular well-being." This is good so far as it goes. But it suggests two questions. First: If capital gets into India, how long does it stop there, being exposed, as it is, to the influence of the 'drain'? Second: Even with regard to the amount of capital likely to stop in India, does it fertilise the country, or is it rather the white manager who gains the benefit—and send his savings home? As a matter of fact India does not need Tariff Reform. She wants enterprise among her people and the lightning of the cost of rule. Sir Edward Sassoon wishes to see "the raising of the status of India almost to the rank of a self-governing Power." But it is only along the two-fold path I have indicated above that this dream can ever come true.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S HEALTH.  
Public opinion generally in this country regards Mr. Chamberlain as in the enjoyment of excellent health, and is sometimes astonished at the measure of his vitality and his youthful appearance. The only trouble with which the ex-Secretary of State for the Colonies has to reckon with is supposed to be gout, which, according to many, brings with it immunity from other ills that flesh is heir to. At the time of the right hon. gentleman's departure for a holiday in Egypt contradictory reports were in circulation as to the reason of his absence from England, just at the time when Parliament had reassembled and when it was certain that the question of Tariff Reform would come before the legislative bodies for discussion. On the one hand, it was stated that Mr. Chamberlain was in excellent health, but that the pace of reform was not to be forced, and therefore his presence in England was not a necessity; on the other hand, it was believed that his autumn campaign on behalf of his proposals had been a severe strain both mentally and physically and that a complete rest—"no letters would be forwarded"—was absolutely essential. Official reports have appeared in the press from time to time since his departure, telling of the benefit the ex-Colonial Secretary is deriving from the stimulating air of the desert, and that he hopes to be back in the House of Commons in time to hear his son deliver his first speech as Chancellor of the Exchequer on the introduction of the Budget after the Easter recess. Again, on the other hand, more sinister rumours are current. The "Daily Dispatch," of Manchester, declares that the optimism prevailing with regard to Mr. Chamberlain's health is by no means warranted, and goes on to declare that he is suffering from a peculiar kind of brain fog, of which the most distressing symptom is the inability to give the brain the rest it needs. Whatever may be the true state of the case, the public will not be kept long in ignorance. Either Mr. Chamberlain will come back to Westminster to sound the big drum and rally all the forces of Protection to desperate battle, or he will not! Without his leadership, Protectionists do not

seen able to make great headway, as the sorry spectacle in the House of Commons last Wednesday proves. It must be regarded as certain that every possible effort will be made to restore the right hon. gentleman to health, if the story of the extraordinary brain fog be true; if, on the contrary, Mr. Chamberlain is merely resting, his return, with renewed vigour, is quite surely to be anticipated.

RUSSIAN CONFIDENCE IN THE ISSUE OF THE WAR.

After the first disheartening defeats and the practical isolation of their great "warm water" fortress, Port Arthur, how do the Russians view the prospect of war? The question is dealt with by a Correspondent at St. Petersburg to a London evening paper. The Russians, he writes, acknowledge the difficulties before them, but they are content to accept all the risks and dangers involved in the blind hazard of war. Russian public opinion is well expressed by a remark said to have been made only the other day by a high official: "Japan," he said, "has drawn the first blood. She has taken full advantage of her magnificent opportunity, but she has already in five or six weeks' time, and it is hoped that the Japanese troops may be induced to taking the initiative beyond the Korean boundary. The Russians have made up their minds to a campaign lasting twelve months, but it may be that when once the Japanese are ensconced amongst the hills of Korea they will not be easily dislodged. Nevertheless, the faith of the Russians is of the quality that removes mountains. The natural stubbornness and determination of a people accustomed to having their own way has been aroused. If the war should last a year it is anticipated that the cost to the Russian people will be not less than 700 millions of roubles.

ENERGY VERSUS APATHY.

A Muslim correspondent of the "New York Sun" has drawn a most instructive parallel between the obscure Sultan of Turkey and the wide-awake Mikado of Japan. The one preferred to meet the new conditions by old methods and shut himself away from the changes going on in the world. The other made himself thoroughly conversant with the movements of the great nations of Europe and America, and has energetically adopted such of their processes as seemed good unto him without too great prejudice for old customs and habits of thought. The result is plain to every one. "What a cruel irony of fate," laments the correspondent, "that thirty years ago the Ottoman Empire was mighty! He continues: "It had a powerful navy and Constantinople was the potential centre of the Orient. Then Japan had no status among the great Powers. She had no navy, and Tokio was hardly more than a geographical entity. But to-day, owing to the enlightened policy of the Mikado Mutsukito, Japan has become one of the great nations of the world, possesses a great navy, and is measuring conclusions with the greatest Power in the world, while owing to the infatuation of Sultan Abdul Hamid the centre of the Orient is shifted from Constantinople to Tokio, the Turkish navy is eaten up by the barnacles of the Bosphorus, and the Ottoman Empire has reached such a low ebb that even Bulgaria—a mere province carved out of its natural economy—is ready to challenge conclusions with that Empire." In this comparison is there not application to other nations besides Turkey.

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INDIA AND THE FAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, March 7. Coolie Labour Ordinances.—Requested by Sir H. Fowler to state what ordinances and regulations are now in force in self-governing or Crown colonies respecting the introduction of coolie labour from India, and the dates of such ordinances, and whether the ordinance and regulations now under consideration for the Transvaal colony have been submitted to the Indian Government.

Thibet.—Mr. Gibson Bowles asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether, in view of the prohibition by The Government of India Act, 1858, of the application of the revenues of India to defray the expenses of any military operation carried on beyond the external frontiers of India, without the consent of both Houses of Parliament, he will explain why the revenues of India have been applied to defray the expenses of military operations in Thibet without such consent.

The War in the Far East.—Mr. Toulmin asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs: If his attention has been called to the fact that Major-General Ventris has charged the editor of the China "Times" (Pekin) with inciting to a breach of the peace in an article condemning Russian ill-usage of defenceless Japanese, and that, in default of his giving security for good behaviour, his departure is pending; will he state whether there is any British authority in China with power to deport a British subject under such circumstances; and, if not, under what authority the court is acting before which the editor has been brought.

Appointment of British Resident in Mysore.—Mr. MacNeil asked the Secretary of State for India: If he will state what was the previous experience in political services of the Bengal civilian who three months ago took up the appointment of British Resident in Mysore; how many officers in the first and second grades of the Government of India's Political Department will be superseded or set back by this appointment from outside that service; is this gentleman, the new resident at Bangalore, identical with the Bengal revenue officer who in October 1899, when Commissioner of the Patna Division, sought to interfere with the action of the Sessions Judge in a case then pending in the Court at Chhapra; and, if so, what is the explanation for this appointment.

Indian Military Railways.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council has been given to proposals, lately formulated by the Indian Government, whereby the railway on 2 ft. 6 in. gauge, planned to start from Kawai Pindi and to run along the frontier south-westward as far as the border station of Banu, would be changed over the greater part of the line to a 3 ft. 6 in. gauge, with heavier bridge and other works; and, if so, will he state what is the estimated increased cost that will be incurred if such a change should be made in the plan of this military railway, and what is its total length of mileage.

Railway Communication between Bombay and Kurrachee.—An answering Sir J. L. Brodrick said: A scheme for a railway, 61 miles in length, from Hyderabad in Sind to Badin, which, if continued, would form part of a through communication between Bombay and Kurrachee, was sanctioned in May 1903, and progress is being made with its construction. Beyond surveys, no further steps have been taken for completing the through line of communication, and I am unable to say when the work is likely to be undertaken.

Indentured Indian Labourers.—Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree asked the Secretary of State for India: If all indentures under which labourers from British India are employed in various British possessions contain provisions for repatriation; whether these provisions have always been strictly enforced; and, if not, will he state in how many instances labourers have been allowed to become free settlers, with the number thereof in each colony.

Mr. Brodrick: Except in the cases of Indian labourers in Mauritius and in the Straits Settlements, all indentures under which such labourers are employed in British possessions contain clauses regulating the grant of return passages to India. But if my hon. friend's question is to be understood as referring to compulsory repatriation, then my answer is that this is in no case provided for in the indentures, except in Natal, where the labourer is bound at the end of his term either to re-engage or to return to India. I have no reason to think that the various provisions contained in the indentures of labourers in the different colonies are not strictly observed. As to the number of labourers who have settled in British colonies I have no complete statistics, but I believe that it is considerable.

The Expedition to Thibet.—Mr. W. Redmond asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he would arrange that the House of Commons should have an opportunity of considering the question of the expedition to Thibet before that expedition made further advance.

Mr. Balfour: At the present moment I discuss this question, and I do not propose to make any arrangement as suggested in the question.

The Chinese War Indemnity.—Mr. M'Crace asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether payment had yet been made by the Chinese Government of Britain's share of the Chinese war indemnity, estimated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1902 at 6,000,000 l.; and, if not paid, whether any steps were being taken to secure payment thereof in the present financial year.

Exports and Imports of Gold.—Exports from July 1 to Dec. 31, 1903, 4,571,700l., of which 3,267,700l. was consigned to the Secretary of State. Imports, 6,640,900l. Net imports 2,068,600l. Complete figures for January have not yet been received from India. Gold in possession of Government of India, Jan. 31, 1904.—In currency reserve, 9,207,000l.; in treasuries, 145,000l.; in gold reserve fund, 500,000l.; British securities held on behalf of the gold reserve fund, Jan. 31, 1904, 4,762,150l. (amount of stock held). Receipts and disbursements of sovereigns.—The Government of India have informed me that, for the reason given in the reply to the hon. member's question of July 16, 1903, it is not possible to furnish the information asked for concerning the disbursements of sovereigns in payment for public works, &c., and the receipts for land revenue, &c. Imports of silver.—July 1 to Dec. 31, 1903, 4,682,900l. (namely, on private account, 2,707,500l., on Government account, 1,975,400l.). Complete figures for January 1904 have not yet been received from India. Coinage.—Silver coined July 1 to Dec. 31, 1903, 3,313,700l. (including recoinage of old and uncurrent coin). Figures for January 1904 have not yet been received from India. Currency notes.—Gross circulation on Feb. 15, 1904, 23,608,672l. In the seven months' period mentioned in the question there was a reduction of 731,663l. in the gross circulation (a monthly average of 104,523l.). Cash balances on Jan. 31, 1904.—India, 9,201,300l.; England, 5,518,600l. Estimated profit on coinage of silver.—From July 1 to Jan. 31, 1903, 1,323,000l. (This sum has been invested on behalf of the gold reserve fund).

The Suez Canal.—Mr. Benwick asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether precautions had been taken to prevent the sinking in the Suez Canal, intentionally or otherwise, of vessels belonging to either of the belligerents at present at war in the East.

Thursday, March 10. East India (Income and Expenditure).—The House agreed to a motion by Sir Henry Fowler for an address for 'Return of the Net Income and Expenditure of British India, under certain specified heads, for the 11 years from 1892-93 to 1902-1903 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 95, of Session 1903).' The Mission to Thibet.—Mr. Weir asked the Secretary of State for India: If he will state whether any difficulties have arisen in connection with the mission to Thibet to necessitate an addition to the military escort; and, if so, will he state the nature of the difficulties, and to what extent the escort is to be strengthened.

Mr. Brodrick: So far as I am aware no difficulties have arisen for strengthening the escort of the Thibet Mission.

The Indian Official Secrets Bill.—Mr. Weir asked the Secretary of State for India: If he will state how many Government officials and how many non-officials were on the Committee on the Indian Official Secrets Bill; and, seeing that the Committee consisted mainly of Government officials, will he say if any non-official members were in favour of the measure, and, if any, how many.

Mr. Brodrick: The Select Committee consisted of five officials and four non-officials. All the members of the Committee signed the report in favour of the measure; but three of the non-official members dissented in regard to two points in the revised draft.

Mr. Mancherjee Bhownagree asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he will place on the table of the House the draft of the Official Secrets Bill of the Government of India, as amended in Committee; and whether he intends giving the House an opportunity of expressing its views on the measure before giving his final sanction to it.

Mr. Brodrick: A copy of the Indian Official Secrets Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, was published in the "Gazette of India" for Feb. 6, which my hon. friend will find in the Library of the House. The Bill has now been passed without a division through its final stage, and has become law. It requires no sanction from me; but his Majesty the King has, of course, the power of disallowing this or any other Indian Act, upon the advice of his Ministers, if he should think fit to do so. I will lay a copy of the amended Bill as soon as I receive it.

Mr. Brodrick: The expedition to Thibet was broken as a result. I had to get a Chinese carpenter to come next morning to repair it. If he had also blown up the "Varyag," all our windows would have been broken, for it was a large cruiser worth half-a-million pounds. Instead, they set it on fire and opened its valves, and it sank between five and six o'clock. They also burned the Chinese Eastern Railway Steamship Company's boat "Sungari" to keep it from falling into Japanese hands. The Japanese fleet had arrived the night before—five men-of-war, four torpedo boats, and three transports. On the Monday evening we watched the landing of between two and three thousand Japanese soldiers. The fleet went out of the inner harbour next morning. Between two and three thousand more Japanese troops were landed yesterday, among them a great many cavalry. We have a good view from our high hill. The wounded Russians, twenty-four of them, were taken to the English hospital, and are being nursed by the Japanese ladies and any available Japanese nurses. We foreign ladies have sent them blankets, and take it in turns daily to send them soup. I was up seeing them on Saturday, and am going again to-morrow. Two have died, but all the rest are getting on well. All the Russians have had to leave Seoul and Chemulpho. They went by a French man-of-war. With so many men-of-war and so many troops here, we now have war prices; coal and provisions are rising tremendously.

The Nishin was sighted from the Watch Tower at Tsurugasaki early on the morning of 16th February and she passed Kannonaki Cape at 7.30. The vessel cast anchor at 8.30, amidst loud shouts of "Banzai," from the crews of the vessel in the naval port and people on shore, and the firing of guns. The officers and men on board the ship waved their caps and shouted in return "Bravo, bravo." Vice-Admiral Inouye, commander of the Naval Station, and several other officers, went on board the ship at once and, after exchanging greetings with the Navigating Officer and Captain, congratulated them on the safe termination of the voyage. Meantime there were unmistakable signs of rejoicing amongst the crowds of Japanese assembled on shore. The samurai, too, who brought out the ships, were in high spirits. The Kasuga arrived about two hours later. Neither vessel had sustained any damage during the voyage. Both are declared to have shown their fine seagoing qualities. As it will be recalled, the ships left Genoa on the 9th ultimo and they have therefore covered the whole distance in 39 days including several days' stoppage for coaling en route.

The ships were to be formally transferred to the Japanese Naval authorities this afternoon. The ships came out under the Japanese flag.

Mr. Tsubono, Mayor of Kobe, is going up to Yokosuka to-night (16th) or the next day to consult with the officers of the Nishin and Kasuga about the reception which the citizens of this port propose to give them—Kobe Herald.

The Viceroy will travel from Kalka to Simla on April 12th by the railway.

Mr. F. J. Atkinson officiates as Accountant-General, Burma, from the 12th March.

Mr. F. Tuson, who has been officiating as Chief Commissioner of the Andamans, is granted leave for fourteen months.

The Burma Railway authorities are about to open as an experimental measure the Lashio coalfields.

Mr. W. J. F. Williamson has been confirmed in the appointment of Financial Adviser to Siam Vice Mr. C. J. Rowett-Carnac, resigned.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

FIGHT AT CHEMULPHO.

A Resident in Chemulpho writes to a friend in Lucknow, saying: "You will have heard of the Japanese naval victories. I expect you would be most interested in the one which took place at Chemulpho yesterday week. The fight can be described in a few words. We walked up and down in the garden listening to the firing which was tremendous. It only lasted about three-quarters of an hour, and then the two Russian men-of-war returned to the harbour, the larger one, the "Varyag," badly riddled. The "Koretz" was all right, both itself and men, but the "Varyag" had a great many killed and wounded. In the afternoon at four o'clock, the Russians blew up the "Koretz." How our doors and windows shook both during the afternoon explosion and the battle in the morning! One of our dining-room inner windows fastenings was broken as a result. I had to get a Chinese carpenter to come next morning to repair it. If he had also blown up the "Varyag," all our windows would have been broken, for it was a large cruiser worth half-a-million pounds. Instead, they set it on fire and opened its valves, and it sank between five and six o'clock. They also burned the Chinese Eastern Railway Steamship Company's boat "Sungari" to keep it from falling into Japanese hands. The Japanese fleet had arrived the night before—five men-of-war, four torpedo boats, and three transports. On the Monday evening we watched the landing of between two and three thousand Japanese soldiers. The fleet went out of the inner harbour next morning. Between two and three thousand more Japanese troops were landed yesterday, among them a great many cavalry. We have a good view from our high hill. The wounded Russians, twenty-four of them, were taken to the English hospital, and are being nursed by the Japanese ladies and any available Japanese nurses. We foreign ladies have sent them blankets, and take it in turns daily to send them soup. I was up seeing them on Saturday, and am going again to-morrow. Two have died, but all the rest are getting on well. All the Russians have had to leave Seoul and Chemulpho. They went by a French man-of-war. With so many men-of-war and so many troops here, we now have war prices; coal and provisions are rising tremendously.

THE NEW JAPANESE CRUISERS. The Nishin was sighted from the Watch Tower at Tsurugasaki early on the morning of 16th February and she passed Kannonaki Cape at 7.30. The vessel cast anchor at 8.30, amidst loud shouts of "Banzai," from the crews of the vessel in the naval port and people on shore, and the firing of guns. The officers and men on board the ship waved their caps and shouted in return "Bravo, bravo." Vice-Admiral Inouye, commander of the Naval Station, and several other officers, went on board the ship at once and, after exchanging greetings with the Navigating Officer and Captain, congratulated them on the safe termination of the voyage. Meantime there were unmistakable signs of rejoicing amongst the crowds of Japanese assembled on shore. The samurai, too, who brought out the ships, were in high spirits. The Kasuga arrived about two hours later. Neither vessel had sustained any damage during the voyage. Both are declared to have shown their fine seagoing qualities. As it will be recalled, the ships left Genoa on the 9th ultimo and they have therefore covered the whole distance in 39 days including several days' stoppage for coaling en route.

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General satisfaction will be felt at the Government of Bombay appointing Mr. Nowroji Padamji of Poona a First Class Sirdar of the Decan. This high honour was enjoyed both by Mr. Nowroji's father and his elder brother, Mr. Dorabji. And it is in the fitness of things that the worthy representative of a worthy family should, as it were inherit the dignity.

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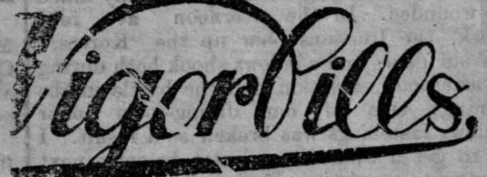
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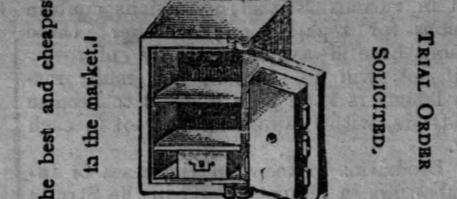
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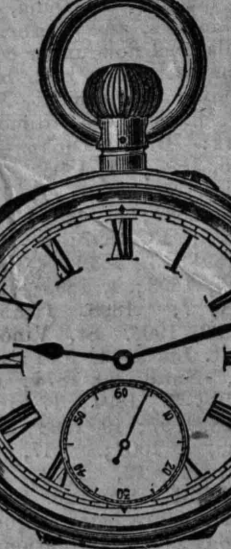
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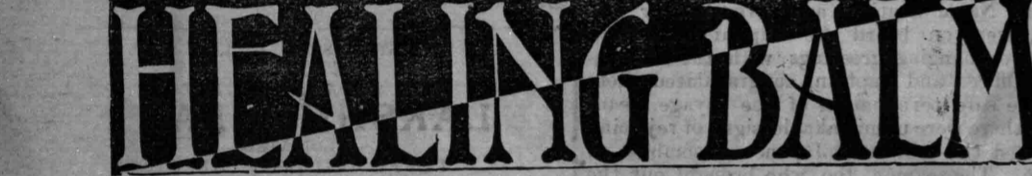
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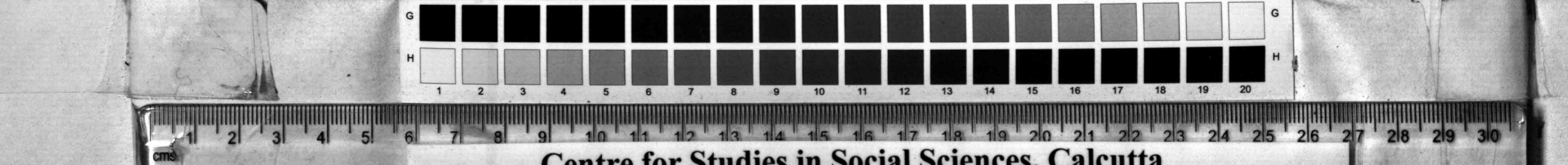
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(Continued From page 2.)  
 22,000 to 24,000, and have been strengthened by railway connections which were not then in existence. On the tribal side we have called into existence a body of men representing three grades or organisations—Levies over 1,000 strong, Border Military Police over 3,000, Border Militia 5,800. The experiment may still be said to be, if not in its infancy at any rate in its childhood, and I will not indulge in premature laudation. But five years is a long time on the frontier and every year gained there is worth two elsewhere. This part of India may not be much interested in what is passing so far way. But I am speaking to-day though this representative assembly to a wider audience, and I am venturing to inform the entire country how its defence stands.

I have not much time to pursue my course southwards and westwards through Beluchistan towards the Persian frontier. But I may mention in a sentence that we have done much to consolidate our position there. We have taken Nuskhi on perpetual lease from the Khan of Kelat; we are constructing the Quetta-Nuskhi railway and shall finish it next year; we have built up and popularised the Nuskhi-Soltau trade route, and have planted our officers in Seistan and on the Eastern borders of Persia in sufficient number to watch over our interests and to resist hostile designs. Finally we are consolidating our position in Mekran. Perhaps however the measure of the frontier security which we have enjoyed can best be estimated by the ease and safety with which we have been able during the past five years to find troops for service elsewhere in South Africa, China, and Somaliland. At one time our Indian Army was short, and the interests of these Imperial campaigns, for which of course the Home Government paid, by over 31,000 men. Increased security here has therefore meant increased power of assistance elsewhere.

About Foreign Affairs in their wider application I do not propose to say much. I spoke last year about the increasing range of our responsibilities in Asia, and a good deal has happened in the interim to point those remarks. My own view of India's position is this. She is like a fortress with the vast moat of the sea on two of her faces, and with mountains for her walls on the remainder. But beyond those walls, which are sometimes of by no means insuperable height and admit of being easily penetrated, extends a plain of varying breadth and dimensions. We do not want to occupy it, but we cannot afford to see it occupied by our foes. We are quite content to let it remain in the hands of our allies and friends; but if rival and unfriendly influences creep up to it, and lodge themselves right under our walls, we are compelled to intervene, because a danger would thereby grow up that might one day menace our security. This is the secret of the whole position in Arabia, Persia, Afghanistan, the Tibet and as far eastwards as Siam. He would be a short-sighted commander who merely manned his ramparts in India and did not look out beyond; and the whole of our policy during the past five years has been directed towards maintaining our predominant influence and to preventing the expansion of hostile agencies on this area which I have described. It was for this reason that I visited that old field of British energy and influence in the Persian Gulf; and this also is in part the explanation of our movement into Tibet at the present time; although the attitude of the Tibetan Government, its persistent disregard of Treaty obligations, and its contemptuous retort to our extreme patience vindicated in any case have compelled a more active vindication of our interests. I should have thought that the record that I quoted on the North-West Frontier would have saved me from the charge of a dangerous or impulsive policy on any part of the Indian frontier. I have had no desire to push on anywhere, and the history of the past five years has been one, not of aggression but of consolidation and restraint. It is enough for me to guard what we have without hankering for more. But I would suffer any imputation sooner than be an unfaithful sentinel at my post, or allow the future peace of this country to be compromised by encroachments from the outside as to whose meaning they cannot be any question. If the Tibetan Government is wise it will realise that the interests of Indian defence and the friendship of the Indian Government are entirely compatible with the continued independence and autonomy of Tibet, so far as these may be said at present to exist. But it should also realise that they are incompatible with the predominance of any other foreign influence carrying with it insecurity on our frontier and adding gratuitously to our cares.

It seems a natural transition from the object at which we aim in our Frontier and Foreign Policy to the means that we possess for securing them, and I pass therefore to the question of our Military Estimates. The military expenditure is going up. Year after year I have foretold it at this time. But it is not going up at so high a rate as in foreign countries; and it is not going up at a higher than our necessities demand. I am well aware of the cry that is always raised against military expenditure anywhere, and I yield to no man in my desire to secure to the peaceful millions their due share in the improving prosperity of a country. We are giving it to them in no small measure. But their tranquil enjoyment of what we give is itself dependent upon the guarantees that we can provide for its uninterrupted continuance, and he would be a faithless guardian of the interests of the people who shut his eyes to what is passing without in the contented contemplation of what is going on within. The matter could not have been put than it was in the terse and effective remarks of the Hon'ble Sir E. Elles. We are fortunate in possessing as Commander-in-Chief the first soldier in the British Army. He comes to us here with his unrivalled experience and energy. He is addressing himself to the problem of providing India with the army that she needs, and of equipping and distributing that army in the manner best adapted to secure the defence of the country. For this purpose the army

must be efficient, not in units alone but as a whole, and not efficient alone, but as highly efficient as it is possible to make it; it must possess the latest armament; it must be adequately officered; its superior officers must be scientifically trained; it must be as far as possible self-supporting in its ammunition, its weapons, and its stores; its subordinate establishments must be not less effective than the fighting front; and the maximum available force must be capable of being directed to the vulnerable point at the moment of danger. All of these points are engaging the attention of the Commander-in-Chief and the Military Member, and I venture to say that their efforts, supplementing those of the two eminent Commanders who have preceded them, and who alas have both passed away, are steadily placing the Indian Army more and more in a position to play its part should the occasion arise. I saw the other day a criticism in a well informed quarter which said: Why does not the Viceroy, instead of spending money upon internal reform, turn his attention to adding British officers to the sadly under-officered Indian Army? The critic was right in his ideas, but he was wrong in his facts. The Viceroy to whom he alluded had not forgotten this elementary need; and during his term of office he can point to the fact that no fewer than 484 British officers have been so added. This is only one of many conspicuous needs that we have filled. (Were I to attempt to recapitulate either what has already been done or what is in the mind of the present Commander-in-Chief I might detain this Council long. Many of these schemes are alluded to in the memorandum of Hon'ble Military Member. To me it will always be a gratification to think that I have assisted in measures for providing India with the factories at Ishapore, Cossipore, Jubulpore, and Wellington, that will practically render her independent of external supplies in guns, rifles, and gunpowder for raising the reserves of our splendid Native Army by 100 per cent., for equipping the entire army with the latest weapon, and for providing out of our surplus resources for such cardinal needs as coast and other defences. We live in days when even the strong man cannot leave his castle undefended; and when our international rivals are closing in around us with intentions which he who runs may read. I am also glad to have been instrumental in relieving the hardships and reducing the risks of the British soldier's life in India, by providing an electric-punkah installation in all our largest barracks, the cost of which will figure in our Budgets for some years to come.)

In the forthcoming year there are many objects which I look to push forward, before I can contentedly lay down my task. Three of these are on a footing of almost equal importance. We have already done a good deal during the past few years to bring our Railway Administration into closer touch both with the commercial community and with the public at large. But we have not yet reached the final stage. Mr. Robertson's Report was passed in our hands last year; and it embraced so many aspects of reform, bringing in both the Secretary of State, the Government of India, and the Companies, and raising such large questions both of administration and finance, that we could not deal with it rashly or hurriedly. Our views went home to the Secretary of State at the close of last year, and are now being considered by him. They involve an entire reconstitution of our administrative machinery, and an attempt to manage our railways in future on less strictly departmental lines. The object that we have in view can only be attained by the surrender of considerable powers by existing authorities to any new authority that may be constituted; and this is not a matter that can be easily or speedily concluded. I am hopeful, however, that a decision may be given in the course of the forthcoming summer, and that this most important project may be duly launched.

Irrigation is also one of the works of the coming summer. Our sympathies with an expanded irrigation programme have been sufficiently shown by the increased grants that we have given for construction in each year since I came to India. Next year they touch the unprecedented total of 14 crores. People sometimes talk as though practically unlimited sums could be spent upon irrigation with little or no trouble. They could perhaps be spent, if experiments were rashly made in every direction, and if there were no objection to flinging money away. No science, however, demands for its practice more careful forethought and planning or more trained supervision. An untrained or inadequate establishment cannot suddenly begin to spend lakhs on tanks and canals. There is no analogy in this respect between irrigation and railways; for private enterprise is ready to help us with the latter, and the question is only one of terms. With irrigation the case is so different that whereas in the last two years we have given 2 crores to Local Governments, they could only manage to spend in 1902, 85 lakhs, and in 1903, 81 lakhs. This summer, however, we hope to address ourselves to an exhaustive examination of all the numerous projects that were worked out by recent Irrigation Commissions for the whole of India. Great expenditure will be required, and much of it will be unproductive in the technical sense of the term. But protection from drought rather than acquisition of revenue is our object, and I venture to think that we shall have it in our power to initiate a comprehensive and far-reaching policy that will do more good to the cultivating classes than any Bills that we can pass in this Council, or any remissions of taxation that the Finance Member might announce in the Budget.

The third question is Police Reform. I should have been glad had we been able to make public our proposals upon the report of the Commission without delay. But the Secretary of State desires to see the views of Local Governments upon them before he comes to a final decision, and this must inevitably occupy some time. No one need imagine that the matter is being buried or shelved. But it is of such supreme importance that undue haste would merely prejudice the ultimate solution. I am impressed with the remarks

that fell from the Hon'ble Mr. Adamson about the Police in Burma. I am aware of the condition of affairs that he has described, and I will look into his request that we should consider it independently of the general reforms which we hope to introduce.

There are two other subjects to which His Highness the Aga Khan has alluded in his excellent and patriotic speech, and which have been for some time under my consideration. The first is the contributions made by the Indian Princes in the shape of Imperial Service Troops and otherwise to the cause of Imperial Defence. There are anomalies and inequalities in the present system which must strike the eye of any observer; and I contemplate, when I come back to India, taking the Chiefs into consultation on the matter. The second is the future of the young officers in the Imperial Cadet Corps. I hope to arrive at definite conclusions on the matter before I leave for England a month hence. In the meantime let me assure the Aga Khan that there is nothing in my view wild or visionary in the ideas that have occurred to him. To what degree they may be practicable I cannot at present say. But they appear to me to be eminently deserving of consideration.

There are other matters which we have in view, such as legislation for the better protection of game in India, a most difficult subject upon which we have for long been engaged, and many other items of administrative reform. I will not weary the Council with these. But as regards administrative reform in general, I should like to add a remark. When I came out to India every public body or society without exception that addressed me urged me to pursue a policy of administrative reform. Spare us, they said, adventure on the North-West Frontier, extend railways and irrigation, give us a sound currency, promote educational and industrial advancement, manage the plague and famine with a due regard to the needs of the community, free the Government machinery from the many impediments to its proper working, I took these authorities at their word, and I have ever since pursued administrative reform, though not, I hope, to the exclusion of other and equally important objects. I have done so because I think that these advisers were right. Efficiency of administration is, in my view, a synonym for the contentment of the governed. It is the one means of affecting the people in their homes, and of adding, only an atom perhaps, but still an atom, to the happiness of the masses. I say in no spirit of pride, but as a statement of fact, that reform has been carried through every branch and department of the administration, that abuses have been swept away, anomalies remedied, the pace quickened, and standards raised. It has not always been a popular policy; but if I am at liberty to say so, it has been wholehearted and sincere. And yet what criticism is now more familiar to me than that no one in India desires administrative reform at all, and that the only benefactor of the people is he who gives them political concessions? Those are not my views. I sympathise most deeply with the aspirations of the Indians towards greater national unity and with their desire to play a part in the public life of the country. But I do not think that the salvation of India is to be sought on the field of politics at the present stage of her development, and it is not my conception of statesmanship to earn a cheap applause by offering so-called boons, for which the country is not ready, and for which my successors, and not I, would have to pay the price. The country and its educated classes are, in my view, making a steady advance on the path of intellectual and moral progress, and they have every reason to be proud of what they have achieved. That progress will be continued, so long as they listen to the wise voices among their own leaders; but it will be imperilled and thrown back if it is associated with a perpetual clamour for constitutional change, and with an unreasonable abuse of those who do not grant it.

The charge, however, that we give an inadequate representation to the ability of the country in our Government is one that, though frequently repeated, has always seemed to me so fallacious that I have made a special attempt to analyse it, and I will conclude my speech by presenting to this Council the results of an investigation, which I have had conducted into every branch of the administration, and which is so interesting, and I think to many people will be so surprising in its results, that I propose to publish it on behalf of Government.

Let me begin by stating what I conceive to be the general principles that regulate the situation. They are two in number. The first is that the highest ranks of civil employment in India, those in the Imperial Civil Service, though open to such Indians as can proceed to England and pass the requisite tests, must, nevertheless, as a general rule be held by Englishmen, for the reason that they possess, partly by heredity, partly by upbringing, and partly by education, the knowledge of the principle of Government, the habits of mind, and the vigour of character, which are essential for the task, and that, the rule of India being a British rule, and any other rule being in the circumstances of the case impossible, the tone and standard should be set by those who have created and are responsible for it. The second principle is that outside this corps d'elite we shall, as far as possible and as the improving standards of education and morals permit, employ the inhabitants of the country, both because our general policy is to restrict rather than to extend European agency, and because it is desirable to enlist the best native intelligence and character in the service of the State. This principle is qualified only by the fact that in certain special departments, where scientific or technical knowledge is required, or where there is a call for the exercise of particular responsibility, it is necessary to

maintain a strong European admixture, and sometimes even a European preponderance.

Now let me show how these principles are vindicated in practice. I will not recapitulate the history of the case or conduct the Council through the successive stages of Government policy and pronouncement from the Act of 1833 down to the present day. I will give—what is much more eloquent—the concrete figures and proportions. They have been compiled for a period of 36 years, the figures not being available 1867.

In 1867 the total number of Government posts in India with a salary above Rs. 75, now equivalent to 45 a month, was 13,431. It is now 23,273. In 1867 Europeans and Eurasians held 55 per cent. of the total; they now hold 42. Hindus held 35 per cent; they now hold 50. Mohamedans held 7 per cent; they now hold 8. Further, while the total number of Government appointments has thus increased by 110 per cent., the figures show that the number of posts held by Hindus has increased by 179 per cent; by Mohamedans 129 per cent., by Eurasians 106 per cent., and by Europeans only 36 per cent. In the proportion of total posts Indians have gained 13 per cent., Europeans and Eurasians together have lost 13 per cent. and 12 per cent. of this loss has been European.

Next let me give the results of an examination by grades. More than half of the appointments in India are and always have been posts on less than Rs. 200 a month. The European element in these was always small, and is now less than 10 per cent. (Of posts on Rs. 200 to Rs. 300, the native proportion has risen from 51 per cent. to 60 per cent.; from Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 from 23 per cent. to 43 per cent.; from Rs. 400 to 500 from 21 per cent. to 40 per cent.; from Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 from 9 per cent. to 25 per cent.; from Rs. 600 to Rs. 700 from 15 per cent. to 27 per cent.; from Rs. 700 to Rs. 800 from 5 per cent. to 13 per cent. Thus in no single grade has the proportion of Europeans increased, while the native increase has been continuous and striking, and has been larger in the higher grades than in the lower. The Rs. 800 line may be said to mark the limit of the Provincial Service. Between Rs. 800 and Rs. 1,000 there were, in 1867, 4 natives in Government employ, there are now 33. Posts on Rs. 1,000 and over may be regarded as superior. In 1867, out of a total of 648 such appointments 12 were filled by natives, all Hindus, or a percentage of 2. In 1903, out of 1,370 such appointments 71 were filled by Hindus and 21 by Mohamedans; the native percentage being, therefore, 7.

If I take the standard of pay, I find that the aggregate pay of the total number of posts has risen by 91 per cent. since 1867; but in the case of the aggregate pay drawn by Europeans and Eurasians the increase is only 6 per cent., while for natives of India it is 191 per cent., and for Hindus 204 per cent. The average pay of the total number of posts has fallen by Rs. 31, or 9 per cent., since 1867. But the average drawn by natives has risen from Rs. 175 to Rs. 188, or a rise of 7 per cent., while that drawn by Europeans and Eurasians has fallen by Rs. 2, or 4 per cent.

Whatever standard therefore we apply, whether it be number of posts, proportion of posts, or averages of pay, the results are the same. There has been a progressive increase in native employment and a progressive decline in European employment, showing how honestly and faithfully the British Government has fulfilled its pledges, and how hollow is the charge which we so often hear of a ban of exclusion against the children of the soil.

In the figures which will be published will be contained the calculations of each decade from 1867 to the present day, so that the movement may be traced stage by stage, and of each province and each department. Summarising the totals, I find, as might be expected and as I have said, that of the 1,770 Government servants drawing salaries higher than Rs. 1,000 a month, or £800 a year, 1,263 are Europeans, of the remainder 15 are Eurasians, and 29 natives. But if I take the ranks below Rs. 1,000 a month and between that total and Rs. 75 a month, i.e., from £60 to £800 a year, then I find that out of a total of 26,908 Government servants, only 5,205 are Europeans, while of the remainder 5,120 are Eurasians, and the balance, or 16,293, is native.

It therefore appears that the British Empire employs less than 6,500 of its own countrymen, whether brought from abroad or recruited in this country, to rule over 250 millions of people; but that for the same purpose it employs 21,800 of the inhabitants of the country itself. If we went below Rs. 75 a month, the disproportion would, of course, be overwhelming. Will anyone tell me in the face of these figures that our administration is unduly favourable to the European or grudging to the native element? I hold, on the contrary, that it is characterised by a liberality unexampled in the world. You may search through history, and since the days of the Roman Empire, you will find no such trust. I have endeavoured to procure from Foreign Governments the corresponding figures for their foreign possessions, the Russian in Central Asia, the Dutch in Java, the French in Algeria, in Cochinchina and Tongking. I have not unfortunately been successful. But I have visited the majority of those countries, and have seen what there prevails; and if anyone thinks that they show proportions even remotely comparable with those which I have quoted I can assure him that he is gravely mistaken. For my own part I think that the progressive growth of confidence that is revealed by the tables which I have quoted is honourable to the British Government and honourable to the people of this country. It reveals a European system of Government entrusted largely to non-European hands: what is called a subject country, though I dislike the phrase, administered far less by the conquering power than by its own sons; and beyond all testimony to a steady growth of loyalty and integrity on the one part and of willing recognition of these virtues on the other, which is rich with hope for the future.

I will now bring these remarks to a close.

The Government of India in my time has been involved in many controversies, and has had to bear the brunt of much attack. Perhaps when the smoke of battle has blown aside, it may be found that from this period of stress and labour has emerged an India better equipped to face the many problems which confront her, stronger and better guarded on her frontiers, with her agriculture, her industries, her commerce, her education, her irrigation, her railways, her army, and her police brought up to a higher state of efficiency, with every section of her administrative machinery in better repair, with her credit re-established, her currency restored, the material prosperity of her people enhanced, and their loyalty strengthened. We shall not deserve the main credit, because we have profited by the efforts of those who have preceded us. But perhaps we may be allowed our share; and may feel that we have not toiled, and sometimes endured, in vain.

A telegram from Shanghai, dated the 16th ult., published by the Straits Times, states:—Ships arriving here to-day report Port Arthur as being still in full occupation of the Russians, no Sunday, the 13th inst. The Japanese fire during the bombardment of the 10th, was accurate, damaging the town and shipping badly. All the merchant ships that had been detained until then were allowed to depart on Sunday, upon their commanders declaring not to report the conditions obtaining in the town. The gains in the forts are useless owing to the shortness of their range. Japanese crews have been appointed to the captured Russian steamships condemned as prizes of war by the Sasebo Prize Court.

When the news was published that the Korean Emperor had sent his congratulations to the Emperor of Japan on the first victory at Port Arthur, the "Jiji" published a cartoon, where Korea was represented as waving a flag inscribed in large letters with "Banzai Nippon!" In his other hand, held behind his back, the representative of Korea had two more flags, one labelled "Banzai Russia!" and the other "Neutral." Evidently the view of the "Jiji" which is that taken by Japanese in general, is that Korea is ready to acclaim the victor, whoever he may be. Doubtless the Protocol now signed between Japan and Korea will be interpreted in a similar sense. But what would you have? Korea is helpless, and naturally makes friends with the Power which shows itself successful. To judge from many indications, however, Korea inclines at heart rather to Russia than to Japan, for one especial reason which commends itself to the official—namely, that Russia would, for the present at least, have things pretty much as they are, while the Japanese will be eager for reform.

TOO MUCH FOR ONE MAN.  
 There is no art of which it is more difficult to obtain a complete mastery than the healing art, human ailments being so many and complicated. But that which taxes the physician's skill most is what is called "diagnosis," the finding out exactly what it is that troubles the patient. In many cases, that is a more difficult task than the proper treatment. Nothing is more common than for people to be ill, yet quite unable to say what is the matter with them. When the patient notes his own symptoms, and can state them intelligently, his case is greatly simplified, though even that will not always ensure correct treatment. The people who have died from being treated for one disease while suffering from another are legion; to take one celebrated instance only, such was the fate of Italy's greatest painter, Raphael.

"And how did you get on with the doctor, Patrick?" a man once asked his friend.

"Faith, Michael," was the reply, "I just gave him three-and-sixpence, and told him in English what was the matter with me. Then the doctor told me the same thing in Latin; and that was the end of the business."

Such a result as this is not common, but it is unsatisfactory. Whoever seeks the aid of a physician does so in the hope of finding a cure, and though many are grievously disappointed in their quest, they can have no other object.

The fact is, the field of human ailments, as any man, however great his ability, to master physicians are supposed to do. Hence arises specialisation, so that one doctor is said to be an authority on the eye, another on the ear, and so on. Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup will not cure every ill; it will not make the blind to see, nor the deaf to hear; but it cures, absolutely cures, indigestion, and the long list of complaints that accompany, or arise out of, that widespread malady. Here are a few details of an interesting case, that of Mr. Charles Zoti, of Buffalo Cafe, Oxford Street, East London. Writing on 4th of December, 1903, to Messrs. A. J. Whist (Colony), Ltd., corner of Princes and Dessal Streets, Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony, proprietors in South Africa of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, Mr. Zoti says:—"When in England two years ago I suffered great agony from acute indigestion. I tried a large number of medicines supposed to be cures for this complaint, but received not the least benefit from any of them. Certainly, it was not from any want of perseverance on my part that they failed. I was despairing of relief when one day a friend recommended me to take a course of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, which he asserted had an unequalled record for the cure of cases such as mine. I accepted his advice (though without any great expectations of good from it) and was most agreeably surprised to discover a marked improvement in my condition result from the very first bottle. Thus encouraged to persevere with its use, I did not neglect to continue to take it when I came to this country. Now my digestion is as good as anybody's could be—thanks to Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, a medicine that I never fail to recommend whenever opportunity occurs, for it gives me genuine pleasure to do so. I am deeply grateful for the very real benefit I have derived from that extraordinary remedy."

Mr. Zoti's experience is shared by many thousands of men and women in every part of the world. With testimony such as Mr. Zoti volunteers, volume might be filled; but it is needless. There is nothing people remember more vividly, or with keener appreciation, than what has rescued them from physical pain and mental depression, two inseparable evils combined in indigestion.

THE SCRATCH OF A PIN may cause the loss of a limb or even death when blood poisoning results from the injury. All danger of this may be avoided, however, by promptly applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It is an antiseptic and unequalled as a quick healing liniment for cuts, bruises and burns. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahaman and Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.

WHOOHING COUGH.—This is a very dangerous disease unless properly treated. Statistics show that there are more deaths from it than from scarlet fever. All danger may be avoided, however, by giving Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It liquefies the tough mucus, making it easier to expectorate, keeps the cough loose, and makes the paroxysms of coughing less frequent and less severe. It has been used in many epidemics of this disease with perfect success. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Abdoel Rahaman and Abdoel Kareem, Calcutta.

BURNS AND CUTS.—Slight injuries of this character are of frequent occurrence in almost every household. While they are not dangerous, except when blood poisoning results from the injury, they are often quite painful and annoying. They can be quickly healed by applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It allays the pain almost instantly and heals the injured parts without matter being formed, which insures a cure in one-third the time that the usual treatment would require. It is the most perfect preparation in use for burns, scalds, cuts, bruises and like injuries. It should be applied with a feather, and before the parts become swollen if possible. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., Abdoel Rahaman and Abdoel Kareem, Calcutta.

BEFORE YOU START on a journey, procure a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. This may save you much trouble and annoyance as it can not be bought on board the cars or steamship. For all forms of stomach and bowel troubles this remedy has no equal. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Abdoel Rahaman and Abdoel Kareem, Calcutta.

A color calibration chart consisting of 20 numbered color patches arranged in two rows of ten. Below the patches is a ruler showing centimeters from 1 to 30. The patches include various colors and tones used for color reproduction accuracy.

ROYAL LAW SUIT. KING LEOPOLD'S FORTUNE.

Great interest has been aroused at Home and on the Continent by an action brought by the creditors of the late King of Belgium...

point of civil law it was of no account. He maintained that after the carriage of a community of goods necessarily existed...

PIGMY ARMIES.

When you read of the five million men Russia can place in the field, of Germany's four millions of men trained to fight, and of France's three millions and a half of soldiers...

velopment of this industry in that district should attract the attention of the Manchester Association. Taking British India generally, nearly 44 millions of acres have been added to the cotton producing grounds of Empire...

Already in Russia the revolutionary movement is reviving. A Reuter telegram from Moscow tells of the circulation of revolutionary proclamations by a "Committee of Self-Protection and Salutary Reforms."

A MOVING MOUNTAIN.

Crowds of visitors are being attracted to witness a strange phenomenon at a little village near Benaix (Belgium).

WHAT PARLIAMENT COSTS.

During the ensuing year the public will be called upon to pay £48,300 for expenses in connection with the Houses of Parliament.

FLORAL MYSTERY.

Although the great French savant, Alphonse de Candolle, in his endeavour to collate the denizens of the floral world...

BULBS WHICH FLOWER WITHOUT EARTH OR WATER.

Particularly is this so with bulbous plants. First we had the wonderful varieties of Japanese and Chinese lilies...

DELKHOSH.

Presents in a liquid form the sweet and charming odour of thousands of fresh blooming flowers. In Sweetness, Delicacy, and Permanency of the Fragrance...

TAMBULINE.

It is a novel and charming preparation composed of the finest Genuine Musk, Otto of Roses, and some other new and valuable Aromatics...

THE COTTON-GROWING GROUNDS OF INDIA.

Now that the British Cotton Grower's Association are so vitally interested in the cotton-growing grounds of the Empire, it is an appropriate opportunity to say a contemporary review of the quantity of land under cotton cultivation in British India.

Table showing increase of acreage under annual yield by province. Includes columns for Province, Cotton Cultivation in acres, and Bales of Cotton.

Amongst the increases both of the acreage of land under cotton cultivation and the crop produced, we note the following provinces:

Amrita Bazar Patrika. THE DAILY EDITION. RATES OF SUBSCRIPTIONS. Includes details for yearly, half-yearly, and quarterly subscriptions for Town & Mofussil.

