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No. 31

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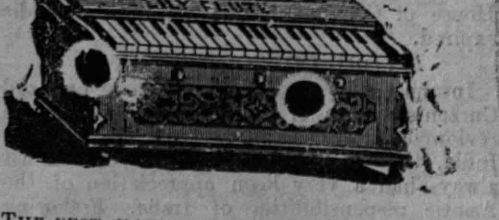
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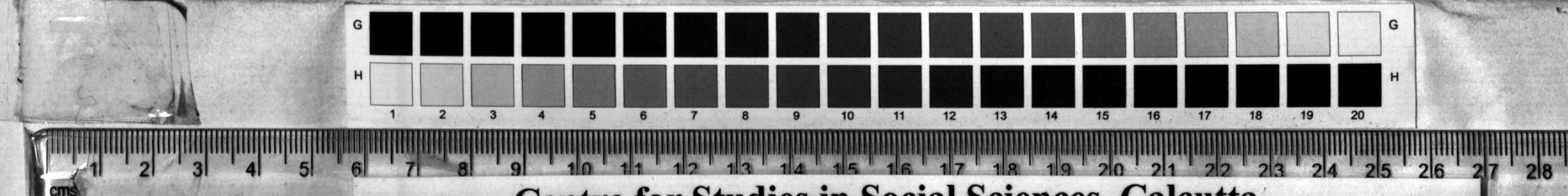
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Babu Nityananda Biswas of Rampur-Boalia has executed my orders with great promptitude and the workmanship he has exhibited is highly creditable. He is, as far as I am able to judge, honest and fully deserves encouragement and patronage. He is trustworthy in his dealings with his customers.
(Sd.) Nil Kant Majumdar,
Dated, 4-2-90, Professor, Presidency College.



NEWS BY THE MAIL.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

London, April 1.

There is still no definite news of the great land move with the organisation of which Japan has so long been credited. The Japanese censorship, however, is of so drastic a character that until the blow is actually struck no intimation of their tactics against the Russian forces is likely to come through. What ever happens, the Muscovite is bound to be taken at a disadvantage, for he is ignorant as all the rest of the world is to the quarter from which the attack will come. Meanwhile, on March 27th, another attack was made on Port Arthur. Vice-Admiral Makaroff reports that at two o'clock in the morning the enemy made a second attempt to block the entrance to the entire roadstead. For this purpose they despatched four large merchant steamers, conveyed by six torpedo-boats, to the entrance. The enemy's ships were discovered by the batteries and by two guardships. Fearing that the enemy's ships might break through, Lieutenant Kriniznik, commanding the guard torpedo-boat, attacked the enemy and destroyed the bow of the foremost Japanese steamer with a torpedo. The steamer turned to the right, followed by two or three other steamers, with the result that all three were stranded to the right of the entrance. The fourth steamer went to the left of the enemy's ships and likewise sank toward the side of the fairway. The torpedo-boat "Silny" gave battle to the enemy's six torpedo-boats, continues the Russian Admiral, and Engineer artificer Swyress and six seamen were killed, while the commander and twelve seamen were wounded. At day break the enemy's battleships and cruiser squadron appeared in sight and he proceeded with the fleet to meet the enemy. The entrance to the harbour remains perfectly free. General Smirnov reports from Port Arthur adds the following information: A Hotchkiss quick firing gun of one-inch calibre was found on one of the sunken steamers from which a fire had been kept up on our torpedo-boats. A boat left each of the sunken ships carrying their crews and one of these is believed to have been picked up. Towards six o'clock the enemy's squadron appeared on the horizon and our squadron put out to meet it. At 6-30 the batteries opened fire, but the fire of the ships and batteries soon ceased as the Japanese squadron began to draw off in a south-easterly direction, evidently declining an engagement. At ten o'clock the enemy's ships disappeared below the horizon. It is stated that one Russian torpedo-boat was sunk during the engagement, but it is thought that she can be refloated. Admiral Togo's report differs from that of the Russian officer in many vital details, and it seems clear that the entrance to the harbour has been partially obstructed. In further messages to the Tsar respecting the attempt to block the entrance to Port Arthur Admirals Alexieff and Makaroff say that the torpedo-boat "Silny," which stranded on a reef in consequence of damage caused to her engines by one of the enemy's shells, was got off in the course of the night and entered the harbour thanks to the energy the crew. One of the vessels had her steering gear damaged. In consequence of this she was beached near Golden Hill, but she has since been refloated. The Japanese fireships were equipped with infernal machines, the wires connected with which were cut by Lieutenant Kederoff and Ensign Pilonsky, of the Irregulars, who were despatched on this task. They boarded one of the steamers as soon as it stopped, cut the electric wires and extinguished the fire which would have lit up the entrance or the harbour to the enemy in the roadstead. In the morning a floating mine was found bearing an infernal machine. The latter was successfully removed. An inspection which was made showed that the steamers utilised as fireships were not old and were each about 2,000 tons burden. They were armed with light guns.

A LAND ENGAGEMENT. The first land battle in Korea took place on March 28th and is thus reported by General Kuropatkin. For three consecutive days small outposts have attempted to draw the Japanese cavalry into action, but their efforts, after contact was established, retired beyond Chonju. Having learned that four squadrons of the enemy were posted five versts beyond Chonju on the 27th, six companies marched towards Kasan on the 28th. They reached Chonju at 10-30 in the morning. As soon as our scouts approached the town, the enemy opened fire from behind the walls. Two squadrons promptly dismounted and occupied an adjacent height 600 yards away. An engagement ensued. In the town were lying in ambush about a company of infantry and a squadron of cavalry. Our men were reinforced by three companies and attacked the Japanese with a cross fire. Notwithstanding this, and our commanding position, the Japanese gallantly held their ground, and it was only after a fierce fight of half-an-hour's duration that they ceased fire and sought refuge in the houses. They hoisted red cross flags at two points. Soon afterwards, on the Kasan Road, three squadrons of the enemy were seen advancing at full gallop towards the town, which two squadrons succeeded in entering. The third fell back in disorder under the repeated volleys of our troops, men and horses being seen to fall. For an hour afterwards our companies continued to fire on the Japanese in the town, preventing them from leaving the streets and houses to open fire on us. An hour and-a-half after the beginning of the engagement four companies appeared on the Kasan Road hastening up to the attack. I gave the order to mount, and the entire force, with a covering squadron, moved on in perfect order and formed up in the line behind the hill. The wounded were placed in front and the retirement was carried out with the deliberation of a parade. The Japanese squadron, which had been thrown into disorder were evidently unable promptly to occupy the hill which we had just evacuated, and the Infantry arrived too late.

THE RUSSIAN RETREAT. The Russian troops who had occupied the Seoul-Pekin road from the Yalu to the neighbourhood of Pingyang have been obliged to fall back on their entrenched positions on the south bank of the Yalu in consequence of the advance of full force of the first Japanese Army, numbered 40,000 men. The Japanese advance guard with 15,000 men was occupying lines uniting the towns of Kasan, Anju, Yongpyon, and Panchou. These lines which

have been fortified by the Japanese, cover a front of about forty-five miles. Two hundred Japanese scouts are scouring the country in front of the main position, but the Japanese Army will presumably not continue its advance on the Yalu till the ice has finally disappeared from the streams. It will have to cross five rivers before reaching Wiju, and the bridges over these were destroyed by the Russian scouting parties in their return towards the Yalu from the reconnaissances which they carried out as far as the wall of Pingyang. Japanese troops are being landed continually at Chinnampo, whence they are being sent to Pingyang and places beyond. The four towns mentioned form a line extending from Kasan on the West Coast of Korea to Youngpyon almost in the centre of the peninsula.

TORNADO AND CYCLONE. A terrific tornado has been the cause of great loss to both life and property in the vicinity of Chicago. It swooped down with awful suddenness and wrought enormous destruction in the short space of two minutes. In that little time at least 50 houses were destroyed and damage to property inflicted to the extent of £1,000,000. Miles upon miles of telegraph and telephone wires were destroyed, cutting Chicago from all communication with the East for hours. So great was the force of the tornado that railway cars were thrown bodily off the rails. The principal damage was suffered by fourteen small suburban towns which lay in the tornado's track, including Joliet and Pullman. Twelve lives are known to have been lost and scores of people were injured by the "debris" of the ruined buildings. The storm which culminated in the tornado emanated from the south-east. Floods which preceded the tornado did great damage at Grand Rapids landing and Battle Creek. The first-named, which stands on the Grand River near the Grand Rapids, is in a critical condition. Forty of the largest factories have been flooded out and thousands of work-people are out of work. The Lake Shore Company's railway bridge has been swept away by the torrent and several others are likely to go at any moment. The damage already done is very great in many of the smaller towns in the neighbourhood of the Grand River. Dwellings are under water and the inhabitants are compelled to use rafts to get from place to place.

The Island of La Reunion, the gem of the Indian Ocean and one of the most pleasant and healthy of the French colonies, has also been devastated by a cyclone. The entire crops of the island were ruined; the railways were torn up; telegraph poles by the thousand were uprooted and whirled into the sea; numerous wooden and iron bridges were broken down, and some 2,800 houses unroofed. Many thousands of people are without food or shelter. It is not known how many people were killed by the visitation, but the death roll so far is given as thirty. The Governor of the Island, the Privy Council, the Local Government Board and the Chamber of Commerce have united in sending a cable to the Government in Paris asking for an urgent and immediate grant of £40,000 to relieve the worst of the distress. A large sum will be needed at the very outset to repair the damage in part and the Government is to be asked to vote this sum as an urgent measure. In Paris the news was received with curious indifference. M. de Mahy, one of the Deputies for the Island, accompanied by Senator drouhet, immediately on receiving the news of the disaster called on the Minister for the Colonies. The Minister is, however, ill, and was unable to see anybody. He had received no news of the disaster, he said, the cable received by M. de Mahy being the first intimation of it to reach Paris. The reason for this delay is that there is no cable to La Reunion itself, telegrams having to be despatched to Mauritius, 180 miles distant, by boat, and owing to the violence of the cyclone it is probable that no steamer was able to leave La Reunion for several days.

LORD CURZON'S NEW POST. As one of the conditions of the Lord Warden'ship of the Cinque Ports has always hitherto been that the holder should be in residence for a certain portion of each year, the announcement that the King has appointed the Viceroy of India to this office is taken in London to mean that Lord Curzon will not return to India. It is not improbable that his successor, of whom Mr. Brodrick spoke in such mysterious terms last week, may be Mr. Brodrick himself. Though the Lord Warden'ship now carries with it no emoluments, and few privileges beyond that of a charming seaside residence in the shape of Walmer Castle, the post is one which, as an almost invariable rule, is only conferred for very distinguished services. Among the great Lord Wardens of modern times have been the Duke of Wellington, who died at Walmer Castle in 1852; Lord Dalhousie, Lord Palmerston, Lord Sidney, Lord Grandville, Mr. W. H. Smith, and the late Lord Salisbury. Walmer Castle dates from the time of Henry VIII., but the Warden'ship is of much greater antiquity. It was of importance in the Anglo-Saxon period, and the coast-line comprising the five ports—Sandwich, Dover, Hythe, Romney and Hastings—was constituted part of the County Palatine by William the Conqueror, by whom the first Warden as such was appointed. Later the five ports were made seven by the addition of Winchelsea and Rye. Their duties were to furnish the King with ships and men, and their chief privilege was exemption from taxation. Lord Curzon, as an Irish peer, is not debarred from sitting in the House of Commons. This is expressly provided for by an Act of George 3rd, 39 and 40 C. 67 article 4, and it is understood that when a peerage was offered to Lord Curzon, he asked to be permitted to take an Irish title in order that he might return to the House of Commons when his term in India expired.

LORD CURZON'S WORK. In the course of a leading article on Lord Curzon's speech of March 30th in which he reviewed the history of the past five years in India, the "Times" says:—"Lord Curzon has always had a very keen appreciation of the Asiatic responsibilities of India. Following the wise policy of the late Lord Salisbury he has aimed at settling the outstanding questions which weaker men are content to let

THE EXCRUCIATING PAIN from corns, bunions or chilblains may be avoided by a free application of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co. Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., and Abdool Bahaman and Abdool Karim, Calcutta.

alone, in the hope that there will be peace in their time. The settlement of the Berar question, which had gone on from one Viceroy to another unsettled, and the radical reform of the frontier policy, are achievements which would suffice by themselves to illustrate any average Viceroyalty. The establishment of the Frontier Province and the system of native levies has at once relieved the army of much very troublesome work, and has conducted greatly to frontier tranquillity at every point where India is accessible from the land. Lord Curzon has now shown himself a vigilant guardian. He disclaims with just indignation all desire to push on anywhere, and declares his policy to be one of consolidation and restraint; but insidious approaches to vulnerable points on the part of those who are not our friends imperatively call for the strengthening of these points. Lord Curzon does not want to push on, but there are regions which we are bound to occupy when the alternative is their occupation by another Power. He has been severely criticized by those who cannot understand that the issues of peace and war for the whole Empire may lie in permitting another Power to occupy points of no value in themselves, yet capable of being used at no great cost to involve us in struggles which may prove of the costliest; but he will have the support and admiration of the mass of his countrymen for the vigilance with which he has striven to render these sinister encroachments impossible."

A LAMENTABLE FERRY FIASCO. On Friday at the High Court Criminal Bench, before Justices Pratt and Handly Babu Dasarathi Sanyal moved on behalf of one Rupa Paramanik and five others for the issue of a rule calling upon the District Magistrate of Pabna to show cause why the trial against the petitioner which is now pending in the court of an Hony. Magistrate of Sirajung should not be transferred to some other court competent to try the same.

On the 20th February last Banshi Sheikh, a Chaprashi in the employ of Mr. Marr, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Serajung, in the District of Pabna, laid an information before the police under Sections 147 and 325 I. P. Code against the petitioners. It was alleged that in the afternoon of that day the complainant was coming in a bullock cart from Ullapara to the Sub-Divisional Officer's camp, Solap, with his tonts and other articles. The Sub-Divisional Officer's Sardar, Parshu Ram, was coming little ahead of him. The Sardar did not find boats in readiness at the Station Ferry Ghat. As the boat was on the other side of the river he told the manji to ferry the boat hastily. The manji was called out repeatedly; at last he got annoyed and used words of abusive language towards the Sardar. Shortly after this an up-country manji arrived and they crossed the river. They then told the Ghatwal and several others to assist them in taking down some loads, which they did not do. The complainant thereupon threatened the Ghatwal. High words passed between the two parties, in the course of which the Ghatwal took up a bamboo to beat the complainant. The Ghatwal was however, caught hold of when several persons, arrived there, at the call of the Ghatwal, armed with lathis. They began to beat to complainant's party. The complainant, who had rupees twenty with him, lost the money at the scuffle somehow or other. On the 29th February while the police investigation was going on the Sub-Inspector of Ullapara Thana sent up the petitioners and 23 others before the Sub-Divisional Officer of Serajung with a report, whereupon Mr. Marr, the Sub-Divisional officer sent all the accused to "hajut." The petitioners moved the Sessions Judge for bail, who sent for the record and fixed the 19th March for the hearing of the application. On the 19th March the Sessions Judge passed an order admitting the petitioners to bail and they were released after remaining in "hajut" for 27 days. The following remarks were made by the Sessions Judge in the course of his passing the above order. "The learned Joint Magistrate was totally wrong in declining bail and that too without assigning any reason for it. * * * The Magistrate was bound to release the accused. * * * It is to be regretted that these men have been in custody nearly three weeks already, when under the law they could have been released on bail long ago. In the meantime, on the 17th March, the police submitted "A" form. On the 19th March the Sub-Divisional Magistrate transferred the case to the file of Babu Durga Kanto Sen, Hony. Magistrate, for disposal. The petitioners put in a petition before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate praying that the case might be transferred from the file of the said Hony. Magistrate, but the Sub-Divisional officer refused to transfer the case. The petitioners then put in a petition before the said Hony. Magistrate for time to enable them to move the High Court for the transfer of the case. Fourteen days' time was thereupon granted. On the 19th March the Sub-Inspector of Police, addressed a letter to the Hony. Magistrate and requested that the Court Sub-Inspector might be permitted to add Sec. 379 I. P. C. in the charge sheet."

It was stated that the complainant and the Hony. Magistrate were inhabitants of the same village and that the complainant was a protegee of the Hony. Magistrate. Their Lordships passed the following order:—"Let a rule issue in the District Magistrate of Pabna to show cause why the trial of the petitioners now pending in the court of the Hony. Magistrate of Serajung should not be transferred to some other court competent to try the case either at Serajung or at Pabna on the ground that in consequence of the Hony. Magistrate having sent the petitioners to "hajut" the petitioners have reason to apprehend that they should be biased in the case. In the meantime all further proceedings must be stayed."

BURNS AND SUTS.—Slight injuries of the cerebra of frequent occurrence in almost every hour hold. 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 from 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, its bruises and lik injuries. It should be applied with a feathered before the parts become possible. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co. Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., and Abdool Bahaman and Abdool Karim, Calcutta.

WIDOWER'S MARRIAGE CALLS FORTH SLANDERS.

LIBEL BY POST. The authorship of two slanderous letters sent to a publican—reaching him during his honeymoon—will have to be decided by the Central Criminal Court. Mrs. F. Cheesman, of the Limes, Newroad, Bedford, was at Sunbury the other day charged with having written them, and was sent for trial, bail being allowed. The publican, Mr. Edward Thomas Pimm, of The Hawthorns, Staines-road, Bedford, had just married a second time when the first letter came into his hands. It read as follows:—"So you are married now. Well, I hope your wedded life will be as it deserves to be. The general opinion is here that the pair of you ought to be hoisted out of the place where the late Mrs. Pimm was so much liked. After only four months, and when she had scarcely been in her grave, you went and married this low, debased creature. Seven months later came the second letter, in which Mrs. Pimm was alluded to as "the champion liar of Bedford" and as a woman of bad character. Both letters were anonymous, and all efforts to trace the writer were fruitless. Then one day Mrs. Cheesman wrote to Mr. Pimm complaining of being accused of having sent him the libellous letters and strongly denying such rumours. This letter, an expert declared in court had been written by the same person as the two anonymous ones.

THE BUDGET.

PROBABLE DEFICIT OF SEVEN MILLIONS.

The return of the national revenue for the year ending March 31, which was issued the other day, shows an income of £151,212,499 actually received, of which £9,666,920 is paid to the Local Taxation Accounts leaving a net national revenue of £141,545,579, which is two and three-quarter millions less than Mr. Ritchie estimated when he introduced his Budget. Estimated revenue ... £144,270,000 Actual revenue ... 141,545,579 Under the Estimate £2,724,421 The following statement shows in detail the estimates and actual receipts under the various heads of the revenue:—

Revenue.	Estimate.	Actually Received.
Customs	£34,640,000	£33,850,000
Excise	32,700,000	31,550,000
Estate duties	13,300,000	13,000,000
Stamps	8,400,000	7,500,000
Land tax	750,000	725,000
House duty	1,850,000	1,925,000
Property and income tax	30,500,000	30,800,000
Post Office	15,300,000	15,450,000
Telegraph service	3,800,000	3,700,000
Crown lands	445,000	460,000
Suez Canal shares		
and sundry	935,000	982,475
Miscellaneous	1,650,000	1,603,104
Total	£144,270,000	£141,545,579

The drop in both Customs and Excise is heavy, and between them they fall short of the estimate by nearly two millions. There is another very heavy decline in Stamps, due to Stock Exchange depression, the yield being £900,000 less than was anticipated. The yield of the Land Tax is the same as in 1903, but it is £25,000 below Mr. Ritchie's sanguine anticipation. Among the increases the most important are those in the revenue derived from the Income Tax, the Post Office, House Duty, and Suez Canal Shares.

APPROXIMATE OUTCOME.

While the revenue has thus fallen below the forecast of the Budget, the expenditure has considerably increased above what was expected. Mr. Ritchie allowed for an outlay of £144,270,000; the actual expenditure is not as yet obtainable, as no official returns for it are available. An approximation, however, to the actual expenditure can be obtained by adding to the original estimates the various supplementary estimates for the past year, when we get the following figure for the "probable actual expenditure":—

Probable actual expenditure	£148,442,000
Estimated expenditure	£144,270,000
Excess of actual expenditure over estimate	£4,172,000

Comparing the actual revenue with the probable actual expenditure, the deficit to be expected is as follows:—

Expenditure (probable)	£148,442,000
Revenue (actual)	£141,545,000
Deficit (probable)	£6,897,000

It is understood that the sum of £3,000,000 which was lent to the Transvaal last year, and which is to be repaid, will be used to meet this deficit in part. There still remains a sum of £3,897,000, which the present Chancellor of the Exchequer will have to liquidate.—"Daily Mail."

BALLOONING ACROSS A BAY.

Cannes, Friday, March 25. The weather to-day was unfavourable for the experiments which Count de la Vaux had arranged to make in aerial navigation. The Count, however, after making his balloon captive to a tug, started at nine o'clock this morning. He ascended to a height of about 1,000ft., and took a south-westerly course, with the tug following. The balloon travelled about seven miles across Napoule Bay, and a descent was made near Theoule, at the foot of the Esterel Mountains. The voyage occupied about half an hour, and when they returned the Count, balloon, and everything were wet. M. Mallet, the constructor, returned to Cannes in the tug. The experiments will be resumed when the resumed weather is favourable.

The Scratch of a pin may cause the look 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 anti-septic and neutralises a quick healing liniment for cuts, bruises and burns. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co. Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., and Abdool Bahaman and Abdool Karim, Calcutta.

DOWIE INSULTS THE KING.

Sydney, Sunday, March 27. The notorious Dr. Dowie, the Zionist "prophet," having uttered improper sentiments about the King at a meeting in Adelaide on Friday, the mayor wrote yesterday telling him that he was a disgrace to his nationality and forbidding his further use of the town hall or any other corporation building. The Superintendent of Public Buildings, instructed by the Premier, has likewise prohibited his further use of any building under Government control. Dowie's cheque for £120 in payment of the deposit and for the hire of the Jubilee Exhibition building was to-day returned to him and the agreement cancelled. Dowie is now practically prevented from speaking in any public building in Adelaide. The local American Consul has been asked to persuade him to depart before public irritation culminates in serious violence. The "prophet" is at present, missing from his hotel, and his whereabouts is unknown.

THE BELGIAN ROYAL LAWSUIT.

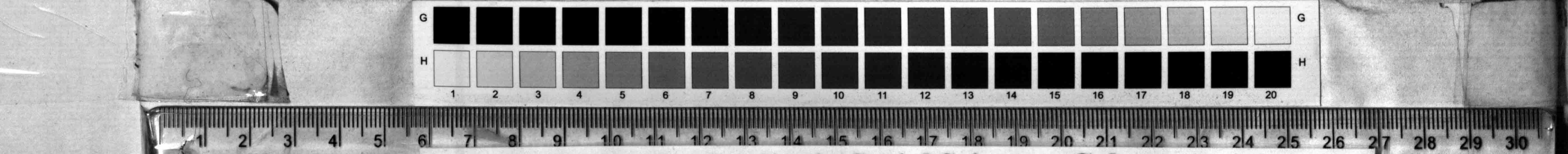
Judgment in the Royal lawsuit has been given by the Procureur du Roi, M. Nagels, and though it requires confirmation by the Court as a matter of form, it is practically final. The following is a "recume" of M. Nagels' decision:—"The marriage of the Heir to the Throne is not a private matter, but requires the approval of the nation. If princely unions do not necessarily constitute a political act, the marriage of the Duke of Brabant and the Archduchess Marie Henriette was incontestably political in its character. Leopold I. was a party to the act as a constitutional Sovereign with the consent of his subjects, and the union of the Belgian Heir Apparent with the then leading Royal House of Europe was an event fraught with political importance to Belgium. The contract of 1853 not only fixed the bride's dowry and proclaimed her renunciation of the Austrian Throne, but also made special provision for her settlement in case her husband should predecease her. Leopold I. also foreseeing this contingency, by which the succession to the Throne would revert to his own brothers or sister, made a special stipulation for the separation of estates; but, though each parent provided for his own child, the act itself was not a private contract, but came under the operation of the law of nations, which governs the relations of one State towards another. Under this law no cause exists by which a treaty such as that of 1853 could be made susceptible to the civil law or contested in a court of justice. All politicians and diplomatists recognise the principle that the marriages of members of reigning houses are governed by the law of nations. The Belgian Chambers endorsed this view, and the "Official Gazette" in 1853 specially referred to the marriage contract as a treaty. The act was further ratified by the declaration made before the Burbonmaster of Brussels two days after the signature in Vienna. It did not derogate from the rights of any citizen and did not set up any principle opposed to the "droit commun." The conclusion is, therefore, that the treaty is perfectly valid, and as the separation of estates is distinctly laid down in the settlement, the administration of the late Queen's will must proceed on this basis."

BURMESE SUPERSTITIONS.

A correspondent writes to the "Rangoon Gazette":—"The sad accident which happened some days ago at Yenangyang when the "Yomah" was burnt is still fresh in every one's memory. It was at first thought that there had been one death only, but further investigation brought to light 17 bodies, and it is feared that many more perished by fire or drowning. It is a common belief among the Burmese that persons dying a violent death become Nats, spirits, or "tassay," a kind of ghost. The 37 national Nats became so in such a manner, as we are told in the "Gitadipani," a small Burmese book in which the principal features of their life, and the ceremonies and rites used when propitiating them are described shortly in old ballads. The Burmese of Yenangyang are scared every night by the new ghosts, the victims of the conflagration. At night fall, nobody dares venture on the river bank, for then the spirits are moving about uttering fearful cries and screaming "Save me! save me!" Doubtless they are not seen, but the source of the cries cannot be doubted; they come from every direction high above the water, the wind wafting them up and down the river. It appears they are not contented to stay at Yenangyang, the place is too full of horrible memories for them; they follow the boats, probably the oil boats and flats, as far down as Promé, wailing all the way. And the People at Promé are quite excited at hearing now in the darkness the cries of victims, I could not ascertain whether others than the Burmese hear them, but such does not seem to be the case; the ghosts being principally Burmese, are heard only by their countrymen, the Indian ones making themselves heard only by Indians probably. For what's the use of a Burman hearing an Indian ghost or of an Indian being frightened at a Burmese one? The language, ideas, and customs are not the same, and this the spirits seem to know.

NEW ROAD TO TIBET.

Edmund Candler writes to an English contemporary under date Pharijong (Tibet) March 19:—"The recent negotiations of the British mission with the Bhutanesse authorities have resulted in the concession of a road through either the Ammo Chu or the Niechin Valleys to the plains of India. The Ammo Chu is the natural outlet from Chumbi, and the new road will shorten the journey to Chumbi by several days and considerably increase trade facilities between Tibet and India. The Bengal Doars Railway now extends to Madhari Hat, fifteen miles from the point where the Ammo Chu (here called the Torba) crosses the Bhutan frontier, whence it is only forty-eight miles as the crow flies to the Chumbi Valley. The route has already been explored and reported practicable. The only detour will have to be made where the valley becomes a deep ravine shut in by the precipitous walls of rock.



THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, APRIL 21, 1904.

THE PROVINCIAL CONTRACT IS NO CONTRACT AT ALL.

The Viceroy and the Finance Minister take credit for "reasonable liberality" in the matter of the "grant" of fifty lakhs of Rupees to the Local Government under the new Provincial contract, and the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal and his Financial Secretary thank them for it.

In the same manner, it requires no ordinary amount of obtuseness to declare that the Government of India has entered into a contract with the Provincial Governments.

Now, if the contracting parties had voluntarily entered into the arrangement and were independent of each other, the contract would have yet carried with it some weight.

Neither are these Provincial contracts voluntary; for, no Local Government would enter into any such one-sided contract if it had any choice.

Then, of the two contracting parties, one is practically a slave to the other. If Sir Andrew Fraser, the ruler of Bengal, had, for instance, refused to enter into the so-called contract thrust upon him by the Supreme Government, he would have lost his appointment, and another more agreeable, appointed in his place.

The position is this. One of the contracting parties issues mandates and the other has to obey them. When the Government of India asks the Local Governments that they would get so much and not a penny more, the latter have no option but to accede to the arrangement, though they have the privilege of entering protests against it.

And is the Government of India itself really independent? Ah! no. The Secretary of State must have his twenty millions of sterling annually, and the Government of India must find the sum anyhow.

The Local Governments usually protest against the selfish way of the Government of India whereby the former are asked to carry on the administration of their respective Provinces with insufficient means.

The arrangement is this. The Local Governments fill their coffers with money, which is not brought from England, but is collected from the hard earnings of the people.

This is the arrangement which bears the euphemistic name of the "Provincial Contract." If the old system under which these contracts were made was bad, so is the one introduced by the present Government of India.

This is how a Zemindar, it is said, sought to be immensely rich. Having enhanced the rents of his ryots he lent them money to enable them to meet his demands.

In Carolina the slaves were made to grow cotton which however belonged to their masters, they only getting their food.

PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR PUBLIC SERVICES.

We shall notice hereafter in some detail the nature of the attempt of the Government of Lord Curzon to do away with the system of filling up public services by competitive examinations.

It was to keep out the Indians that the system of competitive examinations for the public services were introduced; and it is these examinations which are now the eye-sore of the Indo-phobists.

When Lord Curzon received a deputation of the Eurasian community and affectionately chided them for their short-comings, unthinking people said that the Viceroy had spoken very harshly to them.

Lord Curzon and the educated Indians are always at daggers drawn with regard to his Excellency's reforms.

When the Subordinate Executive Service was thrown open in Bengal to the Europeans during the rule of Sir Rivers Thompson, we warned the Government of the folly of this move.

If the "natives" had not helped the English rulers could have never entered into the interior, leaving the ramparts of the capital cities behind, and obtained a firm hold of the country.

As for the doomed higher classes of India they suffer because of their own moral fall. Why do they not try to improve their condition, especially as ruin is staring them in the face?

because, the people allow it a free hand to do whatever it likes. By a systematic and sustained agitation on constitutional lines, the Indians can yet put a stop to this policy of repression which is growing apace.

Then, the vast majority of Englishmen—the working classes—can have no sympathy with a measure like the one we are discussing.

THE THIBET EXPEDITION.

By the way, as war has been declared against the Lamas, we will not the consent of both Houses of Parliament be taken before further money of the Indian tax-payers is applied to this purpose?

"Mr. Brodrick, in replying to Mr. Trevelyan, said, as was anticipated, the advance of the mission in Thibet had been continued within the last day or two.

The above declaration was made on the 29th March, and, in spite of Mr. Brodrick's distinct assurance that nothing would be done that "might savour of a military operation," only two days after more than 500 Thibetan hordes, armed with swords and match-locks, were subjected to rifle fire, and killed and wounded.

It is an interesting study as to how the peaceful mission has at last assumed the character of an invading army.

And why did the Government play the role of the messengers of peace, when every one could see plainly that the so-called political mission was only a scheme of aggression?

It is hard to believe such meanness—the meanness of making a starving dependency pay the expenses of a military expedition undertaken by the rich ruling country for the benefit of the whole Empire.

Curzon actually sought to protect India against fresh military burdens on two occasions, once successfully. Yet, we can find no other reason why the Government chose to make themselves ridiculous by protesting over and over again against the military character of the so-called Thibet mission, of which there was no doubt.

Man proposes, and Providence disposes. Though the Government expected that its mission would peacefully reach Lassa and fly British flags on its rampart without any bloodshed, and England would not have to pay a penny for this glorious business, the action of its own men has placed it now in a queer position.

The version of the Thibetans is not before the world. But the correspondent of the "Times" who was on the spot and saw the massacre of the Thibetans describe what took place before the first shot was fired.

We have, however, very little to do with this bloody affair. If the shedding of human blood is a sin—and it is a sin according to the Scriptures of every nation in the world—those who are responsible for the deaths of their fellow-beings in battle-fields will no doubt receive a good beating if not in this life, but in the other.

We trust, every Englishman in this country will read the full text of the High Court Judgment in the Tilak case, published in these columns in two successive issues.

Mr. Lucas ought to have been asked this question by some body, but none did it. The Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Batty have thoroughly exposed the dreadful fiction upon which the lower courts based their decisions, and they have thereby not only vindicated the cause of justice but the high reputation of their race.

where is the guarantee they would not do the same when another distinguished Indian is placed on his trial before them? Indeed, none of the three Judges, namely, Messrs. Aston, Lucas, and Clements has suffered in the least for the unjustifiable blunders they committed which had well-nigh cost the life of Mr. Tilak.

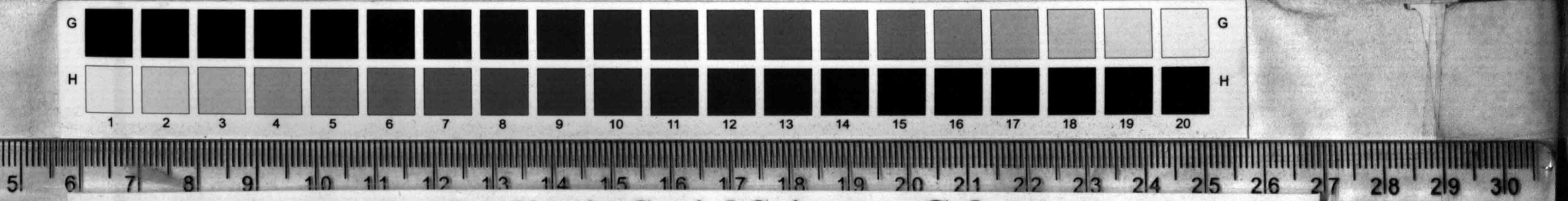
THERE is no doubt, Mr. H. D. Carey, Collector of Murshidabad, possesses a superabundance of energy. It is a pity he should, as a rule, apply it in the wrong direction.

It is hereby notified that the Collector of Murshidabad has this day taken possession of the whole of the said Chur except such portions as are in the actual possession of individuals who decline to give up possession and that due proceedings will be taken for the removal of the said individuals who decline to give up possession and for obtaining damage from them.

This extraordinary notice, issued as it is at a time before the final decision of the possession suits, which are pending before the High Court, comes as a surprise to the people.

OUR London correspondent writes under date April 7:—

Sir Henry Cotton is fully justified in the strong opposition which he has manifested towards the Curzonian policy in Tibet. According to the news to reach this morning of the fighting which has taken place near Guru, some hundreds of Thibetans have been killed and wounded in their own country because they do not appreciate the "greatest possible patience and forbearance" of the armed forces of foreigners who are in their country without invitation and whose presence is undesired.



[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

London, April 1.

LORD CURZON: WHAT ARE HIS REAL INTENTIONS?

The acceptance by Lord Curzon of the Wardenship of the Cinque Ports has set afloat in the political atmosphere a great cloud of rumours concerning the great man who has ruled India so autocratically and whose measures have done so much harm to the people and will, in the future, be infinitely more mischievous than anyone imagines. Before, however, dealing with these rumours, let me say that though the new dignity conferred on Lord Curzon carries with it no political power or general authority, it nevertheless is a high and ancient position, associated with the names of Wellington, Pitt, Palmerston, Granville, Dufferin, and Salisbury. Mr. Henry Lucy, the greatest of all Press Parliamentarians, in some gossip on the appointment, declares that the position is a very expensive one. Lord Salisbury accepted it on the principle of noblesse oblige. No other suitable person was willing. It is no secret that he was for the last year of his life anxious to get rid of a white elephant. Sharing his wife's fortune, Lord Curzon is a man whose wealth can stand a drain which even the Lord of Hatfield felt embarrassing. It is just the sort of dignity that will suit him, and in Lady Curzon the Castle will have a charming chaperone. In Pitt's time, Mr. Lucy goes on to remark, the Lord Warden had a salary of £4,000, charged on the Civil List, with a further sum of £280 a year drawn from the Army Votes. Certain quaint ordinances, dating back to Plantagenet times, added to the Lord Warden's income casual receipts arising from the sale of cables, lost anchors, and other jetsam. This led to an awkward episode when Mr. W. H. Smith became Lord Warden. There being no salary attached, he did not regard it as a place of profit under the Crown, requiring re-election. He had forgotten, or never heard of, the lost anchors. Entering the House after his appointment had been gazetted, the Speaker privately drew his attention to the matter, and he hurriedly withdrew, not resuming his seat on the Treasury Bench till he had been re-elected.

Walmer Castle, the headquarters of the new Lord Warden, dates from the time of Henry VIII., but the Wardenship is of much greater antiquity. It was of importance in the Anglo-Saxon period, but the coast-line comprising the five ports—Sandwich, Dover, Hythe, Romney, and Hastings—was constituted a sort of country palatine by William the Conqueror, by whom the first Warden, as such, was appointed. Later, the five ports were made seven by the addition of Rye and Winchelsea. Their duties were to furnish the King with ships and men, and their chief privilege was exemption from taxation.

One of the morning papers feels quite sure that the acceptance of the Lord Warden'ship makes it certain that Lord Curzon does not intend to return to India. One of the conditions of the post has always hitherto been that the holder should be "in residence" for a certain portion of each year. Nothing has been said as to altered conditions, and, therefore, the assumption as to the other hand, movements. Mr. Lucy, on the other hand, does not consider that the appointment necessarily precludes Lord Curzon's return to India to resume the duties of Viceroy. Unless he has recently altered his plans no inducement would prevail to make him withdraw his hand from the plough before he has completed the last furrow of his great work. "The last time I heard from him," writes Mr. Lucy, "he complained of being tired, and looked forward with keenest anticipation to his holiday. But it was regarded by him solely in anticipation of invigorating effects that would enable him to complete his work in India." While putting this opinion on record, Mr. Lucy admits that there is talk of Mr. Brodrick succeeding at Calcutta his old friend and sometime colleague. It is easy to understand that the ex-War Minister would like for a time to withdraw from a scene of labour where he does not happen to be popular. But his wishes in the matter are not likely to prevail over Lord Curzon's personal desire. In the private communication referred to that was emphatically expressed in the direction of remaining in India for another two years. Speculations as to the Viceroy's intentions have appeared in numerous journals, but they are all mere guesses and need not be repeated here. A special cable to the "New York American and Journal" introduces a variation in the stories. That authority declares that it is now an open secret that after Lord Curzon has enjoyed his well-earned rest in England, he will return to India as Viceroy only for six months. From the same source I learn that Lord Amthill and Lord Dudley are favourites for the succession. The latter is now Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and of Lady Dudley, the American Journal remarks stupidly that she would be certain to captivate the natives but her beauty cannot compare with that of Lady Curzon. It should not be forgotten that the author of the above remark is an American writing to an American paper about an American lady, which accounts for much, even for the following very choice particulars: "The house in Carlton House Terrace formerly occupied by Mr. Choate, and now in the possession of Lady Curzon, would be scarcely recognised by those who knew it under the Choate occupancy. The interior has been gorgeously decorated, and there are exquisite works of Indian art in every room. Lady Curzon has only attended one really big function since she arrived in London, and that was a rather stiff dinner party given by Mr. Brodrick."

After a hot discussion of full two days the Madras Municipality Bill was passed on Friday last. Like the Universities Bill and the Official Secrets Bill, this Bill while in the legislative anvil created the greatest sensation in Madras and was opposed by all sections of the Indian community. Under the old Act, which had worked very well for the last 20 years, the number of elected Commissioners was three-fourths of the whole body; but the new Act reduced the number of elected seats from 24 to 20, whilst the total number of Commissioners was increased from 32 to 36. So, though a number of amendments proposed by the non-official members was carried, yet no change was made as regards this retrograde step of reducing the number of elective Commissioners. The motion that the Bill be passed into law was voted for by 15 Members of Council. Of the elected Members, the Hon. Messrs. L. A. Govindaraghava Aiyar, Mr. Krishna Nair and G. Srinivasa Row voted against the measure. We understand that the Hon. Messrs. Sankaran Nair and R. N. Pragasu Mudaliar preferred to be neutral. The rest voted for the motion.

The Government of the Punjab deserves our best thanks for opening out canal colonies there and thereby saving a number of poor people from suffering through failure of crops. We are told that in the Chenab colony there are many villages which in 1901 possessed a population of 300 or 400, and now contain upwards of 1,000 souls, while he anticipates that in 1906 a Colony census should reveal a population of about 1,200,000. In 1901 we saw a paper class on the Chenab Colony numbered 37,000, or more than in any other Punjab district except Lahore. Few of them confine their energies to their traditional employment, and they have generally much improved their position, but the Settlement Officer doubts if in the coming pressure of population they will be able to maintain their advantage. At present most of them are agriculturists, and they possess large numbers of cattle. The villagers bring with them to the Colony their carpenters, blacksmiths, potters, water-carriers, etc., from their old villages, and the hereditary part which menials play in the social life of the peasant village is reproduced in the Colony. In a purely agricultural country like India the first duty of the Government is to find ways and means for the improvement of agriculture. By the way what has become of the project of colonising the Sunderbans island with the people of the congested Behar?

Babu Sriram Roy, late station master of Ramkanali, on the Bengal Nagpur Railway, who was dismissed from the Company's service on 1st March last, has submitted a memorial to the Agent of the above Railway Company. The circumstances under which Babu Sriram was dismissed were as follows:—On the 6th February last at 17-30 2 Down Ballast Train arrived from Chowrassi at Ram Kanali and as Babu Sriram had not sent any line clear message from this train he went up to the Guard and the Driver as soon as the train arrived and asked them to show him the line clear ticket. Both the Guard and the Driver replied that they had received the "Line Clear Ticket" from the Station Master of Chowrassi but could not find it out at that moment. Babu Sriram immediately wired the District Traffic Superintendent, Adra, the Traffic Inspector at Adra and the Inspecting Signaller at Polashkola informing them of the circumstances under which the train travelled without a line clear ticket. On the following morning at about 7-30 a.m. a peon of the Permanent Way Inspector of Chowrassi came up to Babu Sriram and handed over to him a line clear ticket purporting to be a ticket given by the Station Master of Chowrassi to the Guard of 2 Down Ballast train. The said peon alleged that he had picked up the said Ticket on the Railway line between Chowrassi and Ramkanali. An enquiry followed and witnesses were examined in the absence of Babu Sriram and he was not allowed any opportunity of putting any question to the witnesses or of examining his own witnesses. He now prays that he may be furnished at his own cost with copies of the deposition of witnesses and the report of the inquiry. Now this man has been stabbed in the dark. He has been pronounced guilty and then dismissed without being given an opportunity to vindicate his innocence. As a just and conscientious official, we doubt not the Agent will not allow this piece of injustice to be perpetrated in the department under his charge.

The Tibetan Mission reached Gyantse not without fighting. We are told that there was a second operation in which some 150 to 200 Tibetans were butchered while on the British side some 3 sepoys were wounded. Further we are told that the Mission at Gyantse has heard rumours that a fresh force is moving from Lhasa. Call it "obstinacy" or whatever you please, the Delai Lhama, it seems, is determined to oppose the forward march of the Mission to Lhasa. Under the circumstances it will be presumed that Colonel Younghusband will await reinforcements before going further.

Endeavourers continue to be made to stimulate and revive the tassar silk industry in the Central Provinces, by devoting suitable areas of the cocoons, the shortage of which is hampering the industry. The old methods of feeling in the Central Provinces are extremely primitive. So far the introduction of improved French and Italian methods of reeling in other parts of India is believed not to have been attended with success, but Mr. Hewett says he has information that attempts have recently been made elsewhere to introduce Japanese artificers and methods. The matter is to be enquired into.

So China has at last determined to shake off her proverbial lethargy and introduce reform by abolishing the obnoxious customs that had prevailed there. The crusade against foot binding is apparently making headway in China. In some provinces official proclamations have been issued condemning the custom and many Chinese officials are interesting themselves in the reform. Scholars have been appointed to go among the people exhorting them against foot binding. Women who were formerly insulted in the streets for having unbound feet are now honoured. The Chinese are great believers in societies, and as many Anti-foot Binding Societies are being formed the custom should in time be completely broken down.

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Scarcely had the Official Secrets Bill been passed than we hear it practically put into force in the Assam Secretariat. No clerk or officer in Government employ, we are told, is allowed to correspond with any editor of any newspaper, no matter how intimate their connection or relation may be. Certain affairs referred to the "Mouzadari" in Assam appeared in a Calcutta daily, and Babu Sarat Chandra Dhar, the Superintendent of the Assam Secretariat, was asked to enquire into and ascertain the source through which the so-called secrets were leaked out. Sarat Babu failed and he was discharged from the Government service. Suspicion also fell on three other employes and they were degraded. Babu Sarat Chandra has faithfully served Government for the last thirty years and no fault was ever found with him by any of his superiors. Moreover, it was he who was in charge of the confidential papers in connection with the late Manipur Expedition.

A curious leopard story has reached us from village Masna (Mymensing). On the 5th of Chaitra last, a leopard was seen sleeping in a chilly field on the "chur." The standing plants hardly gave Mr. Stripes sufficient cover and the sun began shining with all its splendour. But all the same, he was sound asleep. The intelligence of his advent created quite a stir in the village and some two hundred villagers were collected to kill the unwelcome guest. Shortly after, the people came to realize their perilous position. Armed with lathis, spades and daos, they were no match for him, he being of uncommonly large size. But the strange part of the affair is, that, the bustle and noise caused by so large a crowd did not disturb Mr. Stripes in the least, as if he had taken a large dose of opium. Khubber was then given to Babu Tarini Charan Roy of Balligram, who has a gun in his possession. He reached the place at 1 p.m. and put an end to the life of Mr. Stripes by shooting him twice.

These circumstances the Magistrate fined Mr. Gibson Rs. 15 (for voluntarily causing hurt to 1st accused I suppose) and sentenced 1st accused to three months' rigorous imprisonment for voluntarily causing hurt to Mr. Gibson and the 2nd accused to three weeks' rigorous imprisonment for assaulting him. He has given the second leave to appeal. Considering the provocation the accused had received, I think that to firm the sentences passed upon them would be inconsistent with what equity before the Law of European and coolly alike, which is the basis of the administration of justice in this country. I alter the sentence to the following:—1st accused a fine of Rs. 20 or in default one month's rigorous imprisonment; 2nd accused a fine of Rs. 10 or in default two weeks' rigorous imprisonment."

The judgment ought to be printed in letters of gold. Of course there was a time, when the Judges here not only made no distinction between a cooly and an Englishman, but inflicted greater punishment upon the latter considering that he was more enlightened and educated than the other. One such Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, in passing sentence on an indigo-planter, cried shame upon him, because, as an Englishman, he had brought disgrace upon his noble race. But such things read like romance in these days. Mr. Justice Wendt talks of "the equality before the Law" Europeans and coolly alike. That is a commodity which is practically unknown in India. An Indian Magistrate would have given at least three years, instead of three months, to the first accused, and 36 weeks, instead of three, to the second.

The Association for the Advancement of Scientific and Industrial Education of Indians is, we are glad to hear, getting popular day by day. About eight districts have already convened public meetings and elected District Committees. The High Court pleaders and the Bar Associations of many districts have the also taken steps to help the movement. The Alipur Bar Association last Friday appointed a Committee to devise means by which they can give effectual aid by all possible means. Letters are coming from various parts of the country, expressing ardent hope for the success of the scheme. Their Highnesses the Maharajas of Cooch Behar and Mairbhari have kindly consented to become trustees of the fund. An appeal has been sent to all the Bar Associations, many respectable gentlemen and secretaries and head-masters and other teachers of schools for funds. We have no doubt it will be generously responded to.

SCRAPS.

All arrangements for the H. E. the Viceroy going Home are now complete. Lord Curzon will resign and vacate the Viceroyalty of India, but Lord Amthill's appointment will be officiating only, and in consequence no Royal Warrant will be issued. Lord Amthill is due at Simla on the 24th, and there will probably be a dinner at the Viceroy Lodge on the following day in honor of His Excellency and Lady Amthill.

A vacancy having occurred in the office of an Ordinary Member of the Council of the Governor-General of India, owing to the vacation of his office by the Hon. Sir Thomas Raleigh, the King, Emperor of India, has been graciously pleased to appoint Mr. Henry Eric Richards, Barrister-at-law, to be an Ordinary Member of the Council of the Governor-General of India. Mr. Richards on Monday took upon himself the execution of his office under the usual salute.

With deep regret we announce the sad death of the wife of Mr. R. D. Mehta, C.L.E., at the age of 49. The deceased lady, who was well-known and very popular in all ranks of society, was, we believe, the first Parsee lady who ever undertook the voyage to England from Calcutta, her object being to see her sons, who were being educated there. Much sympathy will be felt for Mr. Mehta and his family.

Reuters wires that Russia has issued an ukase hat war correspondents using wireless telegraphy will be promptly shot as spies. For the last month two enterprising papers have with engaged steamers and fitted them up with wireless telegraphy. They have cruised around Port Arthur and have conscientiously telegraphed disconcerting little items about the movements of the squadron at bay in Port Arthur. Very possible these telegraphic hints have considerably aided the Japanese and the Russians are not in a temper to calmly allow any further advantages to go to the enemy.

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Here we are distinctly told that, both disinfection and inoculation are useless; and yet, in forcing these measures upon the people, what an amount of misery was created in this country. In the Punjab a number of Englishmen were imported from England on big salaries for the purpose of inoculating the people there with the so-called plague prophylactic, though better men were available here to do the work. As a result of this movement, we all know, how a whole village was depopulated by the administration of a new kind of plague virus without a trial and how the Punjab Government exonerated every body in connection with this scandal, though there is no doubt that twenty-one innocent persons were killed through the fault of some one. By the way, Sir James La Touche has, in spite of his helplessness, suggested a remedy, and which is perhaps the only remedy yet known. It is to fly from the place where the plague has occurred, and move out to another locality. The Hon.ble Pundit Madan Mohan thereupon suggested that the Government should supply temporary houses for the poor people. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, was not at all willing to act up to this suggestion, because, said his Honour, the houses might not be occupied by the people. Of course all people may not avail themselves of these temporary houses, but there is no doubt many will gladly do it. Sir J. La Touche would have the people themselves build their own houses. We think, it is the duty of the Government to help them in this small matter. Plague is the poor man's disease. It is the increasing poverty of the country which has brought this evil in India. One of the most sacred duties of the Government, therefore, is to render every help to the people who have been reduced to this strait by a costly rule.

It is not Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji nor a renegade Englishman like Sir W. Wedderburn but a pucea Conservative, Mr. J. M. Maclean, who said:—"It is literally true that at the present moment out of the fifty millions of net revenue of India, half comes to England to pay the Home Charges, while probably another third is spent on the army, which is mainly employed in guarding the frontier. Very little of the Indian revenue is spent in fact in India at all."

The real position is this. The Government of India treats India as its own property, and the local Governors as its stewards. It issues mandates upon these stewards for money and the latter protest. They say they can send money only by starving or stopping all useful works. But the autocratic master is inexorable, and the stewards being only paid servants, must either yield or give up their appointments. Why should a steward lose his valuable position for the sake of the tenantry? They very naturally prefer the former alternative. But they do one thing to recoup them selves for their loss. For instance, in Bengal the steward has his under-stewards in the District Boards. These Boards are the custodians of the money of the Rood-Cess-payers, and they are at the absolute disposal of the Magistrate-Collectors. So while the India Government sends its mandates upon the Local Government the Local Government sends its mandates upon the Boards, to help it with money. And thus the Cess Fund, which belongs to the people, is swallowed up by works the cost of which ought to be borne by the Government. Hence it is that the people go without drinking water, without roads, without drainage, without sanitary improvement and medical help, and die by thousands and tens of thousands annually for want of these necessities. For three years, the District Boards of Bengal got a contribution of five lakhs from the Government, but this small pittance has been stopped since this year. And the result is that the Boards have no money to supply the millions in Bengal with drinking water in this hot season!

Ceylon is under the rule of the same Englishmen who govern India. How is it that British Judges in the former do not deteriorate in the way they do in this unfortunate country? Magistrates are perhaps the same in both these dependencies of England, though they in Ceylon seem to be a little snags better than their counterparts here. Here is a case of assault which occurred in Ceylon. Mr. A. L. Gibson, of Dehiegama Estate, complained at the Police Court of Hattton that two coolies of the Public Works Department had assaulted him. The Magistrate found the accused guilty, and sentenced the first accused to three months' hard labour. The accused appealed, and his Lordship, Mr. Justice Wendt having heard Counsel delivered the following remarkable judgment:—"Accepting (as the Magistrate has done) the evidence of Mr. Gibson as truly representing the facts, I think the appellants have been too severely punished. The Magistrate starts his judgment which he makes applicable to both accused, by saying the accused appears to have used offensive language to Mr. Gibson, whereupon Mr. Gibson struck the accused in his face with his open hand and was going away on the bicycle when accused followed him and behind his back, threw a big stone at him". This judgment fails to take account of the fact that Mr. Gibson began the "offensive language" by calling the 1st accused a dog. The two accused, P. W. D. coolies, were unloading road material from a cart which was laid across the road with its pole tilted in the air, and dismounting to give them time to make room for him. Mr. Gibson wheeled his bicycle past the cart and because 1st accused was on the way gave him a push, which was violent enough to dislodge his turban. The man asked—complainant does not say he asked offensively—whether he (the accused) was a man or an ox. It was then complainant said he was a dog, and next accused retorted with the offensive language. Mr. Gibson "told him not to use such language to a European," and as accused continued the language, put his bicycle against a tree, and walked up to that accused, and struck him three blows in the face with his open hand, knocking him down. Second accused then cried out to his companion "get a mammoth and stones and go for the durai". Complainant mounted his bicycle and rode slowly along chased by the accused, the 1st carrying a stone and the second a mammoth. The 1st accused threw the stone and hit complainant on the back, leaving a bruise. Under

these circumstances the Magistrate fined Mr. Gibson Rs. 15 (for voluntarily causing hurt to 1st accused I suppose) and sentenced 1st accused to three months' rigorous imprisonment for voluntarily causing hurt to Mr. Gibson and the 2nd accused to three weeks' rigorous imprisonment for assaulting him. He has given the second leave to appeal. Considering the provocation the accused had received, I think that to firm the sentences passed upon them would be inconsistent with what equity before the Law of European and coolly alike, which is the basis of the administration of justice in this country. I alter the sentence to the following:—1st accused a fine of Rs. 20 or in default one month's rigorous imprisonment; 2nd accused a fine of Rs. 10 or in default two weeks' rigorous imprisonment."

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issues will be stale, largely owing to the wide circulation, even on holidays (to-day is Good Friday, a general holiday) of evening papers. The "Daily Mail," through the courtesy of "The Times" contains the news, its Correspondent having been wounded and his messenger failing, the one which did come through, by a pleasing act of courtesy, was placed by "The Times" at the disposal of the halfpenny journal."

A GLANCE at the questions put by the non-official members at the meeting of the Madras Legislative Council, held on the 12th instant show as usual the pains they took in studying the various subjects about which they interpellated the Government. The Hon.ble Mr. Krishna Nayar asked:

- (a) In how many instances were lands sold for arrears of Government revenue in the Wynaad Taluq in the District of Malabar after the new settlement?
(b) What is the total number of acres so sold?
(c) In how many of these sales did the Government become purchaser for want of bidders?
(d) What is the total area in acres of the land so purchased by the Government?
(e) Whether there was any instance in which the amount of the bid was less than the revenue imposed upon the land?
(f) In how many instances, if any, has this happened?
(g) Whether there were instances, after the recent settlement in which property once sold for arrears of Government revenue was again sold for default in paying the Government revenue committed by the new owner?
(h) How many such instances if any are there?

The significance of the question cannot be over-estimated. Upon its correct and straight-forward answer rests the solution of the important problem, whether or not the incidence of land-tax is too much for the cultivator. The Hon.ble Mr. Atkins gave the following reply:—"In the fifteen years since the settlement of the Wynaad Taluq there have been 4,383 sales of land for arrears of revenue. The area sold amounted to 30,080 acres, of which 18,080 acres were bought in by Government. The other particulars asked for by the Honourable Member are not available."

Mr. Atkins disposed of the question by saying that "other particulars were not available," but the very fact that out of 30,080 acres of land sold more than half was bought in by Government is an incontestable proof of the fact that land, at least in Madras, is over-assessed. And what has the Government done with the lands of which the ryots were deprived? If a Zemindar in Bengal had sold out the lands of a small number of his tenants in this way his life would have been made miserable by the authorities.

Mr. SRINIVASA RAO asked:—"In enquiries into charges against public servants, will the Government be pleased to state whether during the progress of an enquiry confidential reports or secret documents of any kind withheld from accused are taken into consideration in the decisions, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to declare themselves against the practice?"

The Hon.ble Mr. Hammick replied:—"The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, and the Government see no reason for making the declaration asked for by the Hon.ble Member."

What an admission! At present, the Government are used to condemn a public servant on the basis of a confidential report to which the latter has no access. The practice is, on the face of it, unfair, nay, immoral; still the Government would stick to it!

HERE is another question:—"Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the pressmen, machinemen, binders and type-casters of the Government Press refused to do their work on the morning of the 2nd January last?"

(b) If the refusal be true, will the Government be pleased to state how, when, by whom and under what circumstances was the refusal expressed?
(c) Did the Superintendent take down in writing the statement of any of those who so refused?"

The Hon.ble Mr. Hammick replied:—"The Hon.ble Member is referred to the reply already given to Question XXI.

(b) The men refused to work except upon their own terms. (c) No." Mark the question (b) and its reply. The Hon.ble member wanted to know the circumstances under which the pressmen and others expressed their refusal to work, that is to say, whether the men left their service of their own accord or were forced to do so. And the reply is that "the men refused to work except upon their own terms!"

The Lieutenant-Governor of the N. W. Provinces seems to be a plain-speaking man. The members of his Council pestered him with questions regarding the outbreak of plague in various parts of his Province and asked him to find out a remedy. He, however, silenced his tormentors by frankly confessing that the Government was quite helpless in the matter and the people must shift for themselves as best as they could. Here is the reply he gave:—"Disinfection is unquestionably valuable when plague first attacks a town. The further progress of the disease then may be arrested. But the experience of Allahabad this year seems to show that the value of disinfection is transitory. Plague has been very bad in Allahabad this year, though practically the whole city was disinfected under Captain Fullerton's orders in the two previous years. We offer inoculation to those who desire it, but its value is not sufficiently proved to justify Government in doing more than offer it. We know of no remedial treatment for the disease. The best preventive action is to keep the houses and surroundings in which we live as clean and sanitary as possible, and when the locality becomes infected to abandon it if possible for a time and move out into gardens and groves. All this is action which the people must be willing to adopt of their own accord. As I said before, Government is desirous to help in every way it can, but the duty of cleanliness and of providing temporary residences must belong, in the first place, to the people themselves."

TELEGRAMS.

REUER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, April 17. Reuter's correspondent wires from Seoul that thirty-three Cossacks occupied Songching on the night of the 16th. The Japanese Consul and some refugees have arrived at Gersan. The rumour that 5,000 Russians are following, intending to divert the Japanese from the Yalu, is not credited, as the Japanese might land and cut them off.

London, April 18. There is a significant passage in Admiral Togo's despatch that the torpedo boats reached the mouth of the harbour at three in the morning on the 15th and succeeded in effecting his mission.

Several unofficial and semi-official Port Arthur telegrams have been published at St. Petersburg reporting the loss of and damage to various Japanese vessels in the latest attack on Port Arthur, and these are apparently designed to relieve the popular depression. One says that two Japanese cruisers were seen to founder through striking their own mines.

Several reports are current that a great fleet of Japanese transports has been sighted near Kinchan to the northwards of Port Arthur.

The first of the five submarines constructing at St. Petersburg will be despatched to the Port Arthur to-day.

London, April 19.

A St. Petersburg telegram states that only 400 yards are between the Japanese outposts and the foremost Russian outpost on the islands of the Yalu river.

GENRL.

London, April 17.

Turkey is sending troops to Metrovitz and Albuli in response to Austrian concentration on the frontier.

Greek bands are active in Macedonia, and one band has attacked and killed eighteen Turkish tax-gatherers.

The sailing of the transport 'Assays' for Bombay is delayed until 23rd instant.

London, April 18.

Arthur (Samuel) Smiles, author of four hundred and thirty Bulgarian prisoners at the Adrianople Viarej have been released in consequence of Turco-Bulgarian Convention granting an amnesty.

An International Conference of Cotton Spinners will be held in May at Zurich to consider the means of dealing with cotton combers.

London, April 19.

The following is the latest setting of the City and Suburban:—Five to one Hackler's ride, seven to one Naphetos, ten to one Prince Royal and Burses, 100 to eight Kroonwood and Cerise.

The Democratic State Convention of New York has nominated Justice Parker for the Presidency.

The Cape Assembly has passed by 49 against 13 the presentation bill mentioned on the 10th instant.

Major Burt of the Guards has been killed in a carriage accident in Piccadilly.

The Daily Express states that Mr. Arnold Forster has drafted a scheme of re-organisation providing that divisional units during peace and war will be ten thousand men of all arms under independent Generals. The scheme provides more attractive terms of service, the separation of the army at home and abroad, the broadest distinction being made between men serving at home and abroad, the unification of British and Indian armies whereby all positions in the Empire will be filled by the best men irrespective of the force to which they belong. Lord Kitchener and General Lytton are strong advocates of this.

The Budget provides for an additional two pence duty on tea and to add one penny to income tax.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain's budget shows a deficit of £5,415,000, estimated revenue for the coming year £139,000,000, and expenditure £142,850,000. The suspension of the sinking fund is refused and it is proposed to realize a million's worth of unclaimed stock.

Mr. Arnold Forster, in the Commons, said that the Mullah having escaped into Italian territory, lost heavily in men and the animals, his forces routed and driven out of the Protectorate, it had been decided to discontinue operations and reduce the field force. The cost of the financial year's operations to the 19th instant was, he said, £50,000.

The British submarine sunk on the 19th ultimo has been raised.

Mr. Lambert, in the Commons, asked whether it was proposed to advance to Lyassa in the event of the negotiations at Gyantse breaking down.

Mr. Brodick, in reply, said it was not in the public interest to state the intentions of Government in such an eventuality.

To what an alarming extent the people in the interior are suffering from water scarcity may be gauged from the following letter of our Dacca correspondent who had lately had an occasion to go into the interior of the district:—"The scarcity of drinking water is very keenly felt, over above their already too many afflictions. Some villagers have really to walk over three or four miles for their drinking water. The male members being engaged in other manual works, it lies generally in the lot of women to fetch water; and it may be well imagined how it fares with the weaker sex to walk so far for a jug of water. It is ludicrous and not less painful a sight to see men starting to fetch water in the morning with their breakfast, tied in a cloth, and returning in the noon. The water they bathe in, we cannot conceive, the villagers ought to send a few phials of this water to the authorities, as samples. Need it be mentioned that cholera and a like diseases are making their way in these villages? We pay the piper, but we have no voice!

Calcutta and Mofossil

Dr. Guru Das Banerjee.—The Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the grant of a pension of £1,200 a year to Dr. Guru Das Banerjee, lately a Judge of the Calcutta High Court.

Monetary.—The amount of silver coin held in the Treasury on the 15th instant was Rs. 10,19,37,346 against Rs. 16,49,59,345 in gold. The silver held as security for notes amounted to Rs. 22,97,443.

A. B. Railway.—The Night Running of Passenger and goods trains has now been sanctioned on the Upper or Third Section of the Assam-Bengal Railway between Nazim and Tinsukia Junction with the Assam Railways and Trading Company's Dibru-Sadiya Line.

Overseers' Examination.—The following candidates have passed the Overseer examination of the Bihar School of Engineering, 1904:—First Division.—Abdul Jalil.—Second Division.—Harakh Chand; P. M. Francis; Ram Charitra Lal; Bhagwan Das Dubey.—Third Division.—Syed Nasiruddin Ahmed; Bhubaneswar Prasad.

Calcutta University.—The following subject has been prescribed for the 'Beeresur Mittra Medal,' to be awarded in December 1904:—"Indian Famines—An enquiry into their economic causes and suggestions to prevent their frequent recurrence." In supersession of the notification dated the 29th March last, it is notified that the essays for the Medal should, this year, reach the Registrar not later than the 1st of November next.

A Post Office Notification.—In consequence of the temporary suspension of the direct mail services between India and Japan by means of the Japanese steamers of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha line parcels from India for Japan, Formosa and the Japanese offices in China and Korea are now forwarded to their destination exclusively by the French steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Company until further notice. Therefore the maximum limit of insurance available for parcels for Japan will be £2.

Howrah Municipality.—At a special meeting of the Municipal Commissioners of Howrah on Friday last the proposals of the Calcutta Tramways Company were accepted, and an application will now be made to the Local Government for formal sanction under Section 3 clause 2 Act III 21,838 (B.O.) (Tramway Act.) There was a dissentient minority at the meeting, but the overwhelming majority carried the day, and it is now pretty certain that Howrah will have a system of tramways in the near future constructed by the Calcutta Tramway Company, Limited.

Plague Figures.—The plague returns for the week ending the 16th instant show 47,759 deaths against 47,181 in the week preceding. The principal figures are:—The Punjab, 23,778 against 19,322; United Provinces, 7,641 against 8,610; Bombay Districts, 6,216 against 5,331; Bengal, 3,516 against 4,810; Central Provinces, 1,886 against 1,798; Central India, 1,095 against 1,469; Rajputana, 892 against 1,332; Bombay City, 975 against 1,065; Calcutta, 539 against 574; and Karachi, 297 against 293. The figures for Kashmir have not been furnished.

Sub-Overseers' Examination.—The following candidates have passed the Sub-Overseer examination of the Bihar school of Engineering, 1904:—First Division.—Mohammad Abdul Jabbar; Padarath Ram; Nagendra Nath Ghosh; Abdul Karim; Mohammad Idu; Jogendra Nath Bose; Sharada Charan Mukerji; Mohammad Amir Hyder; Ananda Prakash Ghosh.—Second Division.—Nani Gopal Banerji; Sheo Mangal Prasad; Suresh Chandra Chatterji; Ramani Ranjan Singh; Bharat Singh; Mohammad Noor; Sita Ram; Ghulam Mohammad Rasool; Abdul Ghani; Kamji Lal; Kailash Pati Saran; Sarat Kumar Mitra; Beni Prasad (1). Third Division.—Mohammad Sabir.

Weather and Crops in Assam.—The following report on the state of the season and prospects of the crops for the week ending the 12th April, 1904, is published in the 'Assam Gazette':—"Rain in all districts, but more wanted in Kamrup. Ploughing for, and sowing of, rice and jute, and picking of tea in progress. Sugarcane pressing nearly finished. Reaping of lowland rice in Sylhet commenced. Outturn of sugarcane fair. Prospects of tea good. Cattle disease prevalent in four districts. Fodder insufficient in places. Prices of common rice—Silchar and Sylhet 18, Dhubri and Tezpur 16, Gauhati and Sibsagar 15, Nowgong 14 and Dibrugarh 12 seer per rupee.

Vital Statistics.—The total number of deaths registered in Calcutta during the week ending 9th April was 1,038 against 1,045 and 943 in the two preceding weeks, and lower than the corresponding week of last year by 170. There were 104 deaths from cholera, against 101 and 81 in the two preceding weeks; the number is higher than the average of the past quinquennium by 10. There were 589 deaths from plague, against 544 and 471 in the two preceding weeks. There were 4 deaths from small-pox during the week, against 3 in the previous week. There were 14 deaths from tetanus, against 14 in the previous week. The mortality from fevers and bowel-complaints amounted to 66 and 85, respectively, against 116 and 82 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 63.6 per mille per annum, against 66.4, the mean of the last five years.

Subordinate Educational Service.—Babu Rati Kanta Laha, a Sub-Inspector of Schools under the District Board of Nadia, was granted by the Board an extension of privilege leave for 33 days. Babu Sasanka Sekhar Banerjee, M.A., Temporary Assistant Master in the Malda Zilla School, was absent on leave for one month. Babu Mukhan Lal De, B.A., Head Master of the Jhalpaiguri Zilla School, is allowed leave of absence for one month, under article 272 of the Civil Service Regulations. Babu Adya Nath Roy, B.A., an Assistant Master in the Dinajpur Zilla School, is appointed to act as Head Master of the absence, Jhalpaiguri Zilla School, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Mukhan Lal De. Babu Bipin Behari Chatterjee, B.A., Sub-Inspector of Schools, Darjeeling Terai, is allowed leave of absence for three months, under article 271 (1) of the Civil Service Regulations. Babu Hari Ballav Mandal, Assistant Head Master of the Jhalpaiguri Zilla School, is appointed to act as Sub-Inspector of Schools, Darjeeling Terai, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Bipin Behari Chatterjee.

and, as a rule, a man who enters into the realms of prophecy is foolish. I take the risk of being proved wrong by events, for I am satisfied the risk is small, while, judging from the career of every autocratic administrator, the chances of my anticipation proving correct are very great. There it is, however. Lord Curzon is the guardian of his own reputation in India, and if he wishes to imperil it by returning to witness its burial, that is his own affair. It is India's affair, too, inasmuch as India will suffer by his return. But who hedges the Indian phase of the matter? The telegrams concerning his Excellency are at variance in their description of his return. Hail of them say:

"His Excellency announced that it was his intention to return to India at the expiration of his office."

All the others say nothing about his office. "The Times" interpretation, no doubt, is the correct one. "It is well understood," says that authority, "that for the present there will be no appointment" to the Viceroyalty "and that the intention is to reappoint Lord Curzon in September to the great office which he has filled with unsurpassed distinction and with immense benefit to India." The whole of "The Times'" article is made up of indiscriminating eulogy, such as is contained in the latter part of the sentence just quoted. If your contemporary had said: "With immense benefit to Anglo-India and to those affairs of India which are connected with England; but these advantages are overshadowed, first, by the growing poverty of the people which Lord Curzon has done nothing to stop, and much to increase, a poverty which has distinctly deepened during Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty, and, next, by the righteous discontent which has been aroused among the people by the retrogressive policy he invariably adopted,"—then "The Times" would have been nearer the truth. In contrast with these eulogies, here are some editorial remarks in the "Morning Leader": "Lord Curzon has set rumour at rest. He is going to take a second term of office in India. This will be good news for people who covet decorations and enjoy being in 'little wars' and on the brink of big ones. But the people of India would enjoy the prospect more if Lord Curzon's speech had been on slightly less flamboyant lines. He was full of metaphor about our Asiatic responsibilities and metaphors, as the taxpayer knows, is about the dearest luxury in politics."

"HOME RULE FOR FILIPINOS." I hasten to explain that I am not responsible for the above heading. All that I have done is to take it as I find it in one of the leading papers in the United States. A sub-heading is in these terms:

"The Law Provides for Self-Government Two Years After a Census is Taken."

From this it will be seen that the information which the "Patrika" alone among the papers of India was able to give some weeks ago regarding "the practical independence" which would shortly be granted to the Philippines was based on indubitable authority. That "practical independence" is to be conceded to the Filipinos within half-a-dozen years of the United States securing possession of the islands is an object-lesson which should shame Lord Curzon to the inmost nerve of his body. While the Americans, with whom he is of kin by marriage and by race, have bent their energies to devise means to give their Asiatic subjects (subjects by conquest) "practical independence," he, himself, to his lasting discredit as a statesman and an Englishman, has devoted his energies to taking away some of the very few liberties which Britain's subjects (subjects by consent and not by conquest) in India had acquired and which they had, on the whole, exercised with discretion and with wisdom. In their treatment of the Filipinos the United States have been as wise as the British authorities have been unwise in their treatment of the Indians. And, it is only as the American example is followed, and followed speedily, and the reactionarism of Lord Curzon is made a thing of the past, that England can hope to retain any real connection with India through future ages. For, it is unthinkable that, in the classical language of Mr. Chamberlain, even the Indian people will take "lying down" the granting of "practical independence" to the Filipinos and the assertion of an Asiatic nation to a position, by warfare of equality, with the greatest civilised Powers in the world. Not even, I repeat, the Indian people, with their ancient civilisation, their acknowledged great ability and wonderful administrative power, will consent to remain mere pawns in a money-changer's hands, mere pawns in a game where King and Queen, Bishop, Castle, and Knight are all foreigners and are to be foreigners to the end of time. For myself, I believe the psychological moment has arrived, or is, at least, within measurable distance when India may, if her sons possess but half a soul in each of their bodies, attain to "practical independence." It dreams as wild (in the eyes of the "Pioneer") as those indicated in Mr. Donald Smeaton's recent legislative reform proposals—which, by the way, are not so far-reaching nor so complete as the printed proposals which the late Mr. Colman Macaulay sixteen years ago submitted to Sir Stewart Bayley, then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,—are not realised, there will be no one to blame but the Indian people themselves. The veterans who are still courageous—and they are not a small band; happily, the veterans who are not courageous are few—and the men of the younger generations would only brace themselves to adequately recognise the opportunities of the day and make use of such opportunities, the chance is theirs of writing a most glorious page in the history of their country. Will they, will they, will they, recognise the opportunity which is theirs, and will they use it?

The arrangements which the Americans propose to carry out are not a mere expression of political sentiment on the part of Mr. President Roosevelt and the Republicans who put him in office. They are part of the law of the country and will be carried out quite as cordially by the Democrats, should they come into power after the elections in November next. Indeed, it is from American Democratic sources and not from Republican politicians that I have obtained my information on this important matter. An Act of Congress embodies the principles which are to be acted upon in granting self-government to the doubt, sufficient to ensure efficiency and to secure the prosperity of the country, is not to be for a moment compared with the vast wealth of such material which is possessed by Filipinos. The fitness, by the way, of the Filipinos for self-government, although, no doubt, sufficient to ensure efficiency and to

secure the prosperity of the country, is not to be for a moment compared with the vast wealth of such material which is possessed by Filipinos. The fitness, by the way, of the Filipinos for self-government, although, no doubt, sufficient to ensure efficiency and to

secure the prosperity of the country, is not to be for a moment compared with the vast wealth of such material which is possessed by Filipinos. The fitness, by the way, of the Filipinos for self-government, although, no doubt, sufficient to ensure efficiency and to

Secretary Taft's present plans are to leave Washington in the summer of 1905. He will go direct to Manila, and there confer with the Philippine Commission, and will accompany the Commission on an inspection of all the principal islands. On the return to Manila a report on the general condition will be adopted and transmitted to the President. I hope "in the summer of 1905" the "Patrika" will take care to send a representative to Manila so that the people of India may learn, at first hand, of the mighty yet peaceful revolution which will be then in the earlier stages of successful accomplishment. If the able, but narrow-visioned and narrow-minded gentlemen who have been devoting their energies to the smashing-up of Bengal, to the hindering of education, to the promotion of sycophancy and toadyism, and to the manufacture of criminals by making certain deeds, crimes which are in no sense criminal,—if they would undertake constructive statesmanship such as is being exhibited by the Americans in connection with the Philippines, they would become as worthy of high admiration as they are now of the very opposite feeling.

From the East, that is to say, from Japan and from the Philippines will come the impulse which shall secure political freedom for India. May I, in my endeavour to impress the lessons of the information I have given above, imitate Lord Curzon in the address on education which he delivered in Calcutta a short time ago, and go to Arthur Clough's well-known poem for a word which shall hearten you? I think I will. For India, too, "Eastern winds" will bring the light. When the light comes may the westward land of Britain, too, be bright—bright with joy at what is done. These are Clough's inspiring lines:

"Say not the struggle naught availeth,
The labour and the wounds are vain,
The enemy faints not, nor falleth,
And as things have been they remain.
If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars;
It may be, in yon smoke concealed,
Your comrades chase e'en now the fliers,
And, but for you, possess the field.
For while the tired waves, vainly breaking,
Seem here no painful inch to gain,
Far back, through creeks and inlets making,
Comes silent, flooding in, the main.
And not by eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the light;
In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly!
But westward, look, the land is bright!"

It will be remembered that sometime ago a E. I. Railway guard committed a most cowardly assault on Babu Mukhtoswar Rai, parcel clerk, at Bankipur railway station. The clerk reported the matter to the higher authorities and brought a criminal case against his assailant in the law courts. We are now informed by a local correspondent that the authorities took immediate steps in the matter. After due enquiries, the authorities departmentally punished the accused and the clerk has withdrawn the case from the criminal court.

Weather Report.—The Daily Weather Report states that the heat is greater than usual around the coasts of the Bay and in the Delta of Bengal and also in a greater part of the North-West dry area, but is less than usual in other parts of the country. It is snowing in the Upper Himalayas, and on Monday, the depth of snows around the observatories in Kashmir was at Minimarg 2 feet 4 inches, Dras 1½ inches, and Sonamarg 1 foot.

The Viceroyalty.—We are informed that, under the Statute by which Lord Curzon vacates his appointment, he will not cease to be Governor-General until he has sailed from Bombay. It will, therefore, be as Viceroy that His Excellency will depart from Simla and arrive at Bombay, and Lord Amptill will not take over the officiating post until the afternoon of Saturday, the 30th April, as soon as the "Arabia" has sailed. The departure of Lord Curzon from Simla on April 23rd and his arrival at and departure from Bombay on the 30th will be public.

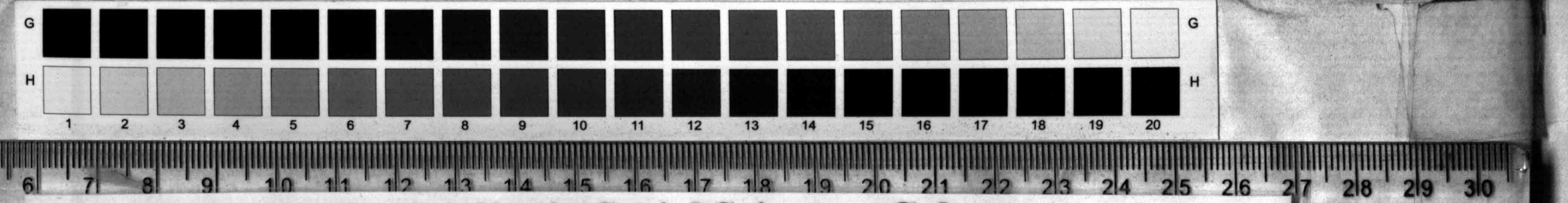
Weather and Crops in Bengal.—Rain is reported from all the districts in the Province except Bankura Howrah, Bogra, Puri, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Singhbhum and the districts of the Patna Division. The fall was heavy in South and East Bengal, elsewhere light. More rain is needed in Burdwan, Rajshahi, Pubna, Purnea and Malda. Cultivation of land, sowing of paddy and jute, and planting of sugarcane in progress. Prospects generally good. Cattle-disease reported from 15 districts. Scarcity of fodder and water is reported from parts of Burdwan, Bankura, Malda and the Sonthal Parganas. Fodder is also reported to be insufficient in parts of Murshidabad, and there is scarcity of water in the district of Palamanu. The price of common rice has risen in 10 districts, has fallen in 10, and is stationary in the remainder.

The Elliott Prize for Scientific Research for 1904.—The Elliott Prize for Scientific Research will be given this year to the author of the best original essay composed during the year 1904 giving the results of original research or investigation by the essayist on Physical Science. Any native of Bengal, including any Eurasian or domiciled European residing in Bengal, may compete for the prize. The essays of competitors must be sent in to the President of the Bengal Asiatic Society, 57, Park Street, Calcutta, by the end of December 1904. The prize will be adjudged to the best competitor, and awarded publicly at the Annual General Meeting of the Asiatic Society in February 1905. Preference will be given to researches leading to discoveries likely to develop the industrial resources of Bengal. In the case of no essay being deemed by the Trustees to be of sufficient merit, no prize is to be awarded, but the amount is to be retained, so that in any future year two or more prizes may be given, or the prize may be enhanced in the case of an exceptionally good essay.

The Holwell Monument.—The following letter has been written by the Private Secretary to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, dated L. G. S. Camp, Bengal, the 15th April, 1904:—"In the course of the Budget Debate in the Bengal Council, the Hon. Mr. Apar referred to the Holwell monument as having cost the Government of Bengal Rs. 29,000. The Lieutenant-Governor has looked up the accounts and finds that this is a serious mistake. The cost to Government was just over Rs. 9,000. The mistake appears to be due to a printer's error in the Administration Report of 1902-3, where in the chapter on "Archaeology" it is stated that the monument cost Rs. 28,626, the true figure is Rs. 18,626, which is the total cost. The facts are that His Excellency the Viceroy agreed to give the monument at his own cost, if the Government of Bengal would arrange to erect it on the proper site and also to place Sir Ashley Eden's statue (which had to be moved) on a suitable site. His Excellency paid £630 (or Rs. 9,450) for the monument. The B. I. S. N. Co. brought it out free from Mersiles. All the other expenses amounted to Rs. 9,176; and this is the cost to the Government of Bengal.

Serious Charge Against a Police Officer.—On Monday before Babu Gopal Chander Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore Babu Otoo Chander Chuckerboty, a writer constable attached to the office of the District Superintendent of Police Alipore was charged with having systematically cheated the Government under the following circumstances. It is alleged that the accused submitted some bills for the diet money of under trial prisoners to the office of the District Magistrate or 24 Purganahs for approval; but the Field clerk suspected that there had been some thing wrong as the bills had no signature of Babu Mookerjee and also that the bills were not signed by him. The matter was referred to Issan Babu who denied all knowledge of the bills and the fraud was detected and on enquiry it was found that previous to this he had cashed similar bills which were paid by the accountant. Babu Ashutosh Biswas, the Public Prosecutor appeared for the crown and Babu Bunkin Chander Sen, Vakil for the defence. The trial is proceeding.

Sea-borne trade of Calcutta.—The total value of imports into Calcutta by sea from foreign countries during the month of March was valued at 380 lakhs, or practically the same as in March of the previous year. Merchandise, it is true, decreased in value by over twenty-one lakhs or nearly seven per cent., but there were considerable receipts of the precious metals resulting in an increased value of twenty lakhs or as much as twenty-five per cent. Imports of gold amounted to the large sum of 94 lakhs or nearly 34 lakhs increase: over 63 lakhs of this consisted of sovereigns chiefly from Australia. There was a marked shrinkage in the value of cotton goods as compared with March of the previous year, the decline being twenty-two lakhs: high prices have proved a larger business and imports of cotton goods were affected also by the total loss of the 'Yeoman' carrying a considerable quantity of cotton goods for this port from Liverpool. Imports of sugar were less: the larger portion came from Sourabaya and Samarang, and Austria-Hungary also sent 33,300 cwt. of the best product. Provisions and Mineral oil also decreased, but in the latter product the falling off from foreign countries was met by the larger trade with Burma. On the other hand there was a much larger trade in metals, railway materials, machinery and salt. Copper was in good demand and imports more than doubled, the value increasing 1, over six lakhs.



THE TIBET MISSION'S ADVANCE.

DETAILS OF THE FIGHTING.

Chalu Tibet, April 16. Gyantse April 14th.—The action in the gorge on the 10th inst. was chiefly remarkable for the physical conditions under which it was fought. The night before the mounted infantry scouts were fired on from a ridge running at right angles to the valley. The force marched out at eight in the morning the transport being a thousand yards in the rear. The Tibetans had posted about 20 leather cannon jingals on the ridge and opened a continuous fire as soon as we came into view, but all the missiles fell short. General Macdonald decided to send the Gurkhas up a very steep mountain on the left to outflank the position. The Sikhs kept to the valley. The mountain guns came into action on a ridge on the right. For twenty minutes an artillery duel was kept up. Then a great snow cloud swept over the hills, hiding the enemy and the Gurkhas from view. It became intensely cold. The troops followed lighted shrub fires to warm themselves. Meanwhile the Tibetans kept on firing through the clouds. The snowstorm lasted about an hour. When the clouds cleared it was found that the Gurkhas were still distant from the enemy's positions. As the Tibetans fire was perfectly harmless, General Macdonald decided to send the mounted infantry through the gorge to reconnoitre. They came back with information that there was a second position behind the first with a lot more of the enemy with jingals beside rocks. The Sikh then advanced on this position but could not see the rocks. They marched through the gorge the Tibetans firing furiously the while. Finally they found themselves in a fairly open valley behind the enemy's position. The Tibetans could then be seen running about therocks and descending into the valley with leaps in a great fright. The mounted infantry pursued, killing many and they could have killed more but that the officers restrained the men. Meanwhile the Gurkhas on reaching the top of the mountain found large remainders of Tibetans hiding in caves in a great fright. These were called out and reassured. They were merely followers, and were told to break their swords and matchlocks, which they did with manifest delight, dancing and jumping on them with pleasure. They were brought down into camp as prisoners. Many are now working with us as coolie bearers. They explained they were peasants who did not want to fight but were forced by the Lamas, who threatened to burn down their villages. The Mission is now comfortably established at Gyantse, a large and flourishing town. The inhabitants appear well disposed, and are bringing supplies. As a certain number of monks fought against us Colonel Younghusband asked for an explanation from the abbot at the Gyantse monastery who replied that the monks were forced to fight by Lhasa officials and prayed to be forgiven. Colonel Younghusband said the offence was most serious in future the monks must confine themselves to religious duties. A fine in grain has been levied on the monastery.

THE MISSION TO TIBET.

COLONEL YOUNGHUSBAND'S PASSAGE OPPOSED.

HEAVY LOSSES OF THE TIBETANS.

Tanu, March 31. Colonel Younghusband, escorted by nearly the full strength of Brigadier-General Macdonald's force moved out to-day at 8-20 a. m. After the Mission had proceeded about five miles one of the Lhasan generals, with his suite, approached. The two Englishmen and two Tibetans sat down in the middle of the plain and discussed the position in the same tedious manner as before, the Tibetans demanding that the Mission should retire to Yatung. After 15 minutes Colonel Younghusband definitely refused to turn back, and announced his intention of going on to Guru. An excited scene ensued, and then the Tibetans galloped back to their sangars and wall. According to our well-defined policy, every effort was made in clearing the intrenchments and sangars to avoid a resort to force and the restraint of the 23rd Pioneer and the 8th Gurkhas in moving the Tibetans from their fortifications without violence deserves the highest praise. But in view of the advance and the language adopted by the Tibetans it was decided that it was necessary to disarm them. The force numbered about 1,500 men. After the Tibetans had been quietly induced to retire from the sangars to the wall built across the highway for the purpose of opposing our advance, trouble was caused by the lead-in officials, who encouraged the men to resist when an attempt was made to take their weapons from them. Several men acting apparently on a suggestion, fired their matchlocks point blank in the ring or soldiers guarding them and made a sudden attack with swords. The situation was critical for a few moments. Brigadier-General Macdonald and his Staff were actually within ten yards of the advancing Tibetans, and Colonel Younghusband was hardly further off. Revolvers and bayonets were used, and then, under rifle fire, the Tibetans failed and ran, but not before there had been several casualties on the British side. Major Dunlop was wounded in the hand, and Mr. Candler, the "Daily Mail" correspondent was severely wounded in both hands and in the head. The retreating Tibetans lost heavily, but when Brigadier-General Macdonald's force advanced to Guru further resistance was made, and a few more casualties were suffered in driving the Tibetans from the village. The whole affair was brought upon the Tibetans entirely by themselves, as both Colonel Younghusband and Brigadier-General Macdonald and the troops exercised the greatest possible forbearance and patience. Among the Tibetans killed were the Lhasan general and military commandant of Phari. Another was Lata, representative of the Golden Monastery, to whose influence and violent hostility a great part of the present difficulty is due. Though the incident is to be regretted, it is probable that the short sharp lesson now taught to the Tibetans will save many hundred lives eventually and make Tibet understand that procrastination is no longer useful and that we are in earnest.

Our casualties amount to ten or 12. The loss of the Tibetans was considerable; it is estimated at 400 or 500. Every care is being taken of the Tibetan wounded, who are now being treated by ourselves and by Tibetans from Guru at the scene of the fight. One most significant fact is that three of the escort of the Tibetan general were armed with rifles bearing the Russian Imperial stamp. I have personally secured one from a dead Tibetan. Russian ammunition was also found.—"The Mail."

SENSATION AT DACCA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Dacca, April 19. Great sensation prevails here owing to the cases brought by Mr. A. C. Roy against Babu Lal Mohan Sha Shankhyani, a rich merchant of this town, and Mr. Hari Nath Dey, Professor of the Dacca College. Mr. A. C. Roy, who is a Phonograph Exhibitioner, came to Dacca during the last Puja vacation with his wife. Mr. Roy being a friend of Mr. Dey, the latter allowed him to stay in a house belonging to Babu Lal Mohan Sha which Mr. Dey had originally rented for the poor deserving students of the Jagannath College. Subsequently, the relations between Mr. Dey and Mr. Roy became somewhat strained. A few days after this Mrs. Roy happened to visit Lal Mohan Babu's family. She was talking to the sisters-in-law and daughter of Lal Mohan Babu, when it is said that Lal Mohan Babu entered the room in order to take out some medicine from the sub-board for a cholera patient. While he was taking out the medicine, he is said to have stared at Mrs. Roy in a manner which made the lady feel insulted. Subsequently a criminal complaint was filed in the Court of the senior Deputy Magistrate to the effect that Lal Mohan Babu had, by his insulting gaze, outraged the modesty of Mr. Roy's wife, who, it is alleged, is a Pardanashin lady. Babu Lal Mohan Sha was then summoned. The wives of Babu Lal Mohan Sha and of his brothers were cited as witnesses by the prosecution and I am told that a petition was made on their behalf before the Deputy Magistrate that they should be examined by Commission, but it was rejected. They made an appeal against this order to the District Magistrate, when Mr. Roy having showed cause the Magistrate ordered that they must attend and remain in readiness to give deposition when called and also ordered that suitable arrangement should be made for them. At the instance of the defence, the Magistrate also ordered that Mr. Roy would also bring his wife, since she is the person aggrieved. The Magistrate, as I am told, further ordered the transfer of the case to his own file from that of the Deputy Magistrate. The hearing of the above case came on the 11th April. Babu Ananda Chunder Roy and Trailokho Nath Bosa were the pleaders for the defence; the prosecution was conducted by Mr. A. C. Roy himself. The hearing took place in the "khas camera" or the private room of the Magistrate, so public had no access, but the following has come out somehow or other. After Mr. Roy's deposition the pleaders for the defence urged that there was no case against Babu Lal Mohan Sha, but supposing if he entered the room where Mrs. Roy was sitting, he (Lal Mohan) was prepared to express his regret. He could not proceed against under section 504 I. P. C. Mr. Roy urged that there was no doubt that he could be proceeded against under section 509, he urged that the Magistrate should not pass any orders before examining his wife. He also urged that since the question was one of Parda against the violation of which he came to the court, it would be just if his wife were examined along with the other ladies instead of alone in the camera, for if after hearing her, the Magistrate did not proceed further, it would be insulting his wife twice. The Magistrate, I am told, insisted upon the examination of his wife upon which Mr. Roy took an adjournment to consider whether he would produce his wife or not. The date of the case being accordingly fixed 21st April. This case which has produced so much sensation ought to be tried in open court, although the ladies may be examined in camera. Not long after the institution of the above case against Babu Lal Mohan came the defamatory case against Mr. Dey. The grounds as stated in the petition of complaint were that Mr. Dey had called Mr. Roy, a dishonest blackguard and had circulated the report that the case instituted against Lal Mohan Sha was false, its motive being to extort money from Lal Mohan. Mr. Roy has also stated in his petition that Mr. Dey had deferred payment of Rs. 90 which Mr. Roy had with Mr. Dey on the ground that Mr. Roy "might run away from Dacca on receipt of that payment, thereby cheating others of the dues and misappropriating certain public money on account of a business which your humble petitioner had to conduct before, at and after the time." The Court after examining Babu Nalini Kumar Dutt, M.A. lecturer, Dacca College, issued summons against Mr. Dey under section 500 I.P.C., 19th April is fixed for the hearing of the case. An Aligarh deputation, consisting of the Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk and Mr. Morison reached Bahraich on the 14th and waited on the Raja of Nanpara who promised support not the College. On the 15th a meeting was held presided by Mr. Davis, Deputy Commissioner. The Raja of Nanpara promised a donation of Rs. 30,000 for a school building to be named after him and Mr. Davis. The following account of hoodliganism by a band of French soldiers reached here by the last mail:—A hundred and fifty French "hoodligan" soldiers, who have served terms in the African Penitentiary Corps, and are now undergoing training at Caen, broke into the Chapel of the Capuchin Monastery, and committed some wild excesses. They lit up all the candles on the altar, turned on the electric lights, and dressed themselves in the priests' robes. One of the men then began ringing the bell, which attracted many of the villagers to the chapel, under the impression that a service was to be held. Eventually the men were arrested. The pranks of the above soldiers, though objectionable, were yet innocent. But in India the acts of "hoodligan" soldiers are deadly, and their excursions are generally followed by lamentable consequences.

Calcutta Gazette.—April 20.

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS. Babu Tara Prasanna Acharya, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Saran, is appointed to have charge of the Bihar subdivision of the Patna district. Maulvi Hashmat Hossain, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Patna, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Saran district. Babu Jamini Mohan Mitra, substantive pro tempore Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Midnapore, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Chittagong district. Babu Bopin Behari Pramanik, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave is posted to the head-quarters station of the Patna district. Mr. J. H. Kerr, I.C.S., acted as Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, in addition to his duties as Officiating Junior Secretary, Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, from 3rd March to 15th March. Mr. P. C. Lyon, Officiating Commissioner, Chota Nagpur Division, is appointed to act as Commissioner of the Patna Division during the absence, on leave, of Mr. C. J. S. Faulder. Mr. W. Maude, Deputy Commissioner, Ranchi, is appointed to act as Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. F. A. Slacke. Mr. A. W. Watson, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Ranchi, is appointed to act temporarily as Deputy Commissioner of that district. Babu Divya Singha Misra, Assistant Head Master of the Cuttack Training School, is appointed to act as Head Master of the same Institution, in addition to his own duties, during the absence on deputation of Babu Madhu Rao. Babu Madhu Sudan Rao, Head Master, Cuttack Training School, is appointed to act as Inspector of Schools, Orissa Division, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. H. A. Stark. Mr. H. A. Stark, Inspector of Schools, Orissa Division, is allowed leave for six weeks. Promotions. The following confirmations and promotions are sanctioned in the Executive Branch of the Provincial Civil Service:— Confirmed in the first grade. Babu Nobin Chunder Sen (No. 1) Promoted substantively to the first grade. Babu Mohin Chandra Ghosh. Confirmed in the second grade. Maulvi Syed Faizuddin Hossain. Promoted substantively pro tempore to the second grade. Babu Narain Banerjee, and Juggobundoo Bhattacharjee. Confirmed in the third grade. Babu Nagendro Nath Gupta. Promoted substantively pro tempore to the third grade. Maulvi Syed Mahomed, Khan Bahadur, and Mr. J. S. Davidson. Confirmed in the fourth grade. Babu Gopal Bullub Das, Jamini Mohan Das and Prakash Chandra Sinha. Promoted substantively pro tempore to the fourth grade. Babu Abhilas Chandra Mookerjee, Gati Krishna Neogy, Mr. Nitya Gopal Mukerji and Babu Surendra Nath Mozoomdar. Confirmed in the fifth grade. Babu Chandra Nath Ghose, Maulvi Muhammad Shams-uz-zoha and Babu Syam Lal Gupta. Promoted substantively pro tempore to the fifth grade. Babu Basanto Kumar Raha, Mr. J. Taylor, Babu Nogensdra Nath Mitter and Maulvi Syed Abdool Malek. Confirmed in the sixth grade. Messrs. A. W. Ward-Jones, R. B. Bainbridge, Babu Nund Kishore Lal and Maulvi Syed Mohiuddin. Promoted substantively pro tempore to the sixth grade. Babu Ram Niranjan Prosad, Maulvi Syed Ali Ashraf, Babu Bidhi Nath Chatterjee, Hem Chandra Chatterjee (No. II), Mr. A. J. Ollenbach and Babu Suresh Chunder Sarkar. Confirmed in the seventh grade. Babu Hem Kumar Mullick, Monmotho Nath Sircar, Maulvi Syed Ali Mazhar and Babu Ambica Charan Dutt. Confirmed in the eighth grade. Maulvi Syed Abdus Samad, Anisuzzaman Khan, Syed Mohamed Abdul Hayat, Messrs F. W. Martin, E. A. Oakley, Maulvi Shamsuddin Haidar, Babu Bhupendra Nath Mukerjee, Chuni Lal Ray, Durga Prosad and Amarendra Nath Pal Chaudhuri. Promoted substantively pro tempore to the seventh grade. Maulvi Syed Abdus Samad, Anisuzzaman Khan, Syed Mohamed Abdul Hayat, Messrs. F. W. Martin and E. A. Oakley. Leave. Mr. F. S. Hamilton, District and Sessions Judge, Purnea is allowed leave for fourteen days, under article 260 of the Civil Service Regulations. Mr. E. F. Ainslie, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bihar, Patna, is allowed combined leave for eight months viz., privilege leave for 2 months and thirteen days and furlough for the remaining period. Babu Nalini Kanta Bose, Munsif, is appointed to be an Additional Munsif in the district of Backergunge, but to be on deputation to Barisal. Babu Suresh Chandra Ghose, Subordinate Judge, Backergunge, on leave, is appointed to be Subordinate Judge, Midnapore, vice Babu Jadupati Banerjee about to retire. Babu Nistarun Banerji, Munsif of Sealdah, is appointed to act as Small Cause Court Judge of Sealdah, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Lal Gopal Sen. Mr. Nut Behari Chatterjee, Barrister-at-Law, is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of the 24-Parganas, to be ordinarily stationed at Sealdah, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Nistarun Banerji. Babu Sasi Kumar Ghosh, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Tippera, to be ordinarily stationed at Conilla, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Rajendra Lal Sadhu. Babu Bimal Chandra Chatterjee, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of the 24-Parganas, to be ordinarily stationed at Basirhat, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Jugal Kisor De. Babu Aswini Kumar Das Gupta, M. A., B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the

district of Backergunge, to be ordinarily stationed at Patuakhali, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Rama Prosad Moitra. Babu Brajendra Kumar Ghose, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Bankura, to be ordinarily stationed at the Sadar station, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Kisor Mohan Sikdar. Babu Jogendra Nath Mookerjee, Munsif of Tamuk, in the district of Midnapore, is appointed to act as Subordinate Judge of Midnapore, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Nando Lal Dey. Babu Baku Lal Biswas is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Midnapore, to be ordinarily stationed at Tamuk, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Jogendra Nath Mookerjee. Babu Netaji Charan Ghosh, Munsif of Satkania, in the district of Chittagong, is allowed an extension of leave for five weeks, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations. Babu Rama Prasad Moitra, Munsif of Patuakhali, in the district of Backergunge, is allowed leave for thirty days, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations. Babu Kisor Mohan Sikdar, Munsif of Bankura, is allowed leave for one month, viz., 6 days under article 274 of the Civil Service Regulations, and the remaining period under article 271 of the same Regulations. Babu Surjo Narain Das, Munsif of Malda, in the district of Rajshahi, is allowed leave for thirty-three days, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations. Babu Uma Nath Ghosh, Munsif of Arrah, in the district of Shahabad, is allowed an extension of leave for seven days under article 71 of the Civil Service Regulations. Babu Satis Chandra Banerjee, Munsif of Arrah, in the district of Shahabad, is allowed an extension of leave for sixteen days, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations. Babu Ambica Charan Mozoomdar, Munsif of Chapra, in the district of Saran, is allowed leave for one month, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations. SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICE. Babu Braja Nath Rai, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Hooghly, is transferred to the Rajshahi Division. Babu Madhab Chandra Misra, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Sakhalia, Khulna, is transferred to the Orissa Division. Babu Chunder Sikhar Mukerjee, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Khurda, Puri, is transferred to the Presidency Division. Babu Uma Charan Roy Chowdhury, Sub-Deputy Collector, Presidency Division, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Khulna district. Maulvi Ahmed Ali, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Dacca, is transferred to the Jamalpur subdivision of the Mymensingh district. Babu Aswini Kumar Datta, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, is posted to the Dacca Division. Babu Nishi Kant Mukerji substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Dacca Division, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Dacca district. Babu Rajendra Narain Banerjee, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Presidency Division, is posted temporarily to the head-quarters station of the 24th-Parganas district. Babu Kasiswar Chakrabarti, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Chittagong Division, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Chittagong district. Babu Kunja Lal Ghose, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to the Patna Division. Babu Hemanta Kumar Moitra, Sub-Deputy Collector, Buxar, Shahabad, is allowed combined leave for eighteen months, viz., privilege leave for one month and twenty-five days, under article 260 of the Civil Service Regulations, and medical leave for the remaining period under article 336 of the Regulations. Babu Rajani Kanta Chaudhuri, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Rajshahi Division, is appointed to have charge of the Falakata Tahsil in the Jalpaiguri district. Subordinate Educational Service. The following confirmation and promotion are sanctioned in the Subordinate Educational Service:— Confirmed in Class II. Babu Madhu Sudan Sinha, B.A., vice Babu Nil Mani Pal, about to retire. Promoted substantively pro tempore to Class II. Babu Harendra Narayan Chakravarti, B.A., vice Babu Madhu Sudan Sinha, B.A., confirmed. With effect from the 1st instant Chitral has been transferred to the Punjab Command, the garrison being included in the Peshawar District. His Excellency Lord Lamington has been pleased to become a Patron of the Poona Gayan Samaj—Native Musical Society—of which His Majesty the King and the Duke of Connaught are also Patrons. The body of one of the two unfortunate West Indians, who were drowned by their sampan capsizing during a squall in the river near Rangoon has been recovered. It is believed to be that of Frazer, though the head is missing. Materials for the Morvi Railway, which is to be converted into metre gauge, are arriving daily at Wadhwan Camp by R. M. trains. Bridge work is progressing rapidly, and three workshops have been erected, one being at Wankancer, and the two others at Than and Morvi, where they are also building trucks. The following is a summary of the crop and weather report of the United Provinces for the week ending 13th April:—Rain has fallen in 17 districts accompanied by a slight fall of hail in Moradabad. The harvesting of spring crops is nearing completion and threshing and winnowing have commenced. The sowing and irrigation of extra crops and sugarcane continue. Opium weighments have begun in places. Fodder continues to be scarce in part of Budaun. Supplies are adequate and prices almost stationary. A case has recently come to notice in which a Deputy Commissioner in the Punjab opened negotiations with a private bank with a view to obtaining a loan on behalf of a Court of Wards Estate under his charge. Sir Lewis Tupper has, accordingly, issued instructions that no negotiations with any banks for loans to the Court of Wards for the benefit of wards or their properties, are to be begun by any Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, or other revenue officer, without the sanction of the Financial Commissioner.

Ahmedabad, April 8. Cast down by plague we are this season. The scorching sun, the sultry weather and the burning heat—the proved enemies of plague—have failed to send it out of our walls—may, to check, its fury or control its havoc. A veritable grim demon our visitor has proved; not even the wailings of many husband and wife, father and child, brother and sister whom it has been cruelly separating from each other have appealed to the sorry heart of the marauder who has been playing with human lives as it were particles of matter or drops of water. Further not even the gubernatorial visit had its desired effect upon the deadly scourge. Well may the reader of the "Patrick" ask, why all this mournful aloofness? It is not because we selfish mortals are attacked by plague nor are we true students of theosophy as we are, afraid of death which only opens the door of evolution, but because our highest hopes would be foiled and because with Ahmedabad falls the whole of Guzrat which whole province is thus left without any quarter for its residents to resort to, amidst all the confusion of plague, famine and pestilence. Plague in Ahmedabad thus does not mean the ruin of the city and its citizens, but a blow to the forward movement and progress which is the direction toward which our rulers, say they, lead us in a march. To return to concrete, plague has as the figures speak, perhaps come in our midst with a main to halt a bit and not walk away after a fly visit. The mortality for the last week has been over 350, of which no less than 200 must have been due to plague. There is an exodus now a days of timid Ahmedabadis running out of our city limits; under these circumstances the new circular of our popular head of the district executive Mr. Doderate I.C.S., is welcome to us all for the people intending to build temporary buildings on agricultural lands will be allowed to do so within certain limits. This is indeed a distinctly right step, but much better it would be if the Government or at least the Municipality and Local Boards were to erect Kacha sheds for the poor who hardly manage to eke out a bare subsistence for themselves and their family members. It is a patent fact that such people can hardly afford to bear the expenses of a shed and they are the people who inhabit the most unhealthy parts of the city where the epidemic is rife and are therefore the greatest contributors to the total of the victims claimed. It is they that work from morning to evening, toil day and night in the service of the rulers, wait and hang upon them at their beck and call, and it is but natural, if not absolutely imperatively necessary in the cause of humanity that the Government, the officials and the officialized prosperity-trumpeting school should come forward with substantial help for the teeming thousands of our province who are now being sacrificed, for no fault of any one, at the altar of the demon plague. The best of localities are getting infected more and more and the situation is rendered the worse by cases happening all round. Be it said to the credit of the backward and illiterate that one and all realize the efficiency of going to live in open areas, but it is want of funds that has proved as the hindrance. April has set in and May follows soon and judging by the light of past facts we may well expect a fall in the fury and force of the scourge and consequently in the total mortality of the city. By the way the wonder of wonders is that our city should have been in such a close grip of the plague in the epidemic form in this season when the thermometer proudly registers a high temperature over 105 degrees. This is but an age of wonders and that is the consolation and reply to such queries. Indeed we are but suffering for past sins and that these difficulties are but trials and that out of evil will come forth good. NOTES FROM ALLAHABAD. Allahabad, April 12. DEFAUDING THE RY. COMPANY. On the 6th instant Ticket Collector P. O. Sen charged one Jai Ram for travelling with two short journey tickets one from Delhi to Delhi-Sahdara and the other from Cawnpur to Chaderi, with the intention of defrauding the Railway Company. The accused pleaded himself to be Sadhu and defended that he was overcarried being asleep from Chauderi to Allahabad. While in regard to the other ticket from Delhi to Delhi-Sahdara he stated that he had found it in the compartment he was travelling and had only picked it up to make it over to the Ticket Collector at Allahabad. He was fined Rs. 5 in addition to Rs. 1-5-9 the railway fares from Delhi-Sahdara to Cawnpur and from Chakeri to Allahabad or in default to undergo 10 days imprisonment by Babu Bankey Behari Lal, Dy. Magistrate, 1st class, in whose file the cause was transferred from that of Mr. Ormrod, Joint Magistrate, on the 8th owing to indisposition. The accused had in his possession two small parcels wrapped up with cloth and neatly sewn and on a search being made by the Police various wearing apparels of silk for children of specially Bengali choice and some golden lace have been found in one of them among some fried eatables. The usefulness of such articles by a Sadhu looks suspicious and deserves enquiry. On the 12th before the Joint Magistrate of Allahabad the same Ticket Collector charged one E. De'Roze for travelling without a ticket and defrauding the Ry. Company. The accused was travelling from Cawnpur without a ticket and at Bamhrooli he got out to buy a ticket for Allahabad, the next station, which he was refused, and the Station-master Bamhrooli sent a wire suspecting him to be travelling without ticket. He pleaded guilty and was fined Rs. 5, in addition to the Ry. fare Rs. 2-9 including the higher excess charge or in default to 3 days imprisonment. RAILWAY EMPLOYEES PROSECUTED. Guard Cleveland, who stood charged with offences under Sections 408, 409 and 411, I.P.C., was put on his trial before Mr. Ashworth, the Sessions Judge, on the 12th. The accused having pleaded guilty to one of the charges being in possession of stolen property he was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment and the other Sections were withdrawn. One Bankman also has been caught at Mirzapur with similar offences and will be tried shortly at Benares.

Notes on Russo-Japanese War

"MAFFICKING" AT TOKIO.

HOW THE PEOPLE RECEIVE THE WAR NEWS.

The "St. James's Gazette's" special correspondent in the Far East, writing from Tokio recently, says:-

Like a bolt from the blue came obituary notices of two Russian cruisers lately anchored off Chemulpho. Before Tokio could take second breath the telegraph announced that the Port Arthur fleet had likewise been smashed. Then impassive shopkeepers in Ginza hunted up their festival flags, and by noon the blood-red emblem of the rising sun floated from nearly every building in the city. Newspaper vendors, with handbells and bulletins, proclaimed the tidings, and diplomats buzzed around the Government offices seeking confirmation.

Still, the common or garden Tokioan did not immediately abandon his reserve. Substantial business men read the bulletins critically and, despite the flags, were inclined to be doubtful. When native newspapers are given to irresponsible "extras," public confidence is often strained. But as fresh messages were received from Chetu, each more sweeping than the last in recounting Russian losses, a perceptible flutter of excitement passed over Tokio.

It was in the Ginza, at a quarter past two, that I witnessed the unprecedented spectacle of the Japanese in native dress, trying to cheer. The effort was sincere, although amateurish. He looked slightly embarrassed when a crowd gathered. Half an hour later a friend called me up on the telephone to report a similar occurrence in a north-western suburb. The ice thus broken, Tokio speedily became a city of rejoicing—as Europeans rejoice.

By dusk there were distinct symptoms of Mafficking. Irrepressible students patrolled the streets "hivising" shrilly, and playfully interfering with the Jimriksha traffic in a way that aroused the ire of point-duty policemen.

There must have been five thousand people in the column which trailed unsteadily across the park, at seven o'clock, and steered for the gates of the Imperial Palace. They marched three or four or six abreast, as fancy dictated. There were women and children as well as men. Hardly five per cent were in European dress.

One did not need an interpreter to understand the triumphal banners which passed. Here came Nicholas of Russia, a shock-headed apparition in a reach-me-down uniform, drunkenly surveying two broken battleships at his feet. Next, an immense charcoal sketch on an illuminated banner, portraying a happy Japanese bluejacket with a Russian battleship under each arm and Admiral Alexieff tied to his waist. Then the Russian bear with his head in a sack, another bear with his feet in a trap, and many cartoons of Cossacks in various attitudes of surrender or despair.

THE "ANGLO-JAPANESE" ALLIANCE.

At the bridge which spans the ancient palace moat we met the Anglo-Japanese alliance. A man, unmistakably English, surveyed the army of lanterns with obvious surprise. Then, as the crowd cheered, he cheered, too, with the heartiness of one who had looked long and kindly upon warm sake.

The name and antecedents of the foreigner mattered not. I doubt if he remembered them himself at that moment. The master of a British tramp lying in Yokohama might have identified him as his second engineer. The procession knew him only as an Englishman, which was, in their estimation, the next best thing to being a Japanese.

The head of the column shook him warmly by the hand. "Ainglish?" "Rather!" "God-seve-Keeng." "Hooray; God save Mikado."

Formalities thus concluded, they pressed upon him a bamboo rod strung with lanterns. He tilted it at a wild angle and asked for more. Then they filled his hands with other poles, until he looked like an illuminated garden party. They crowded round him until the bridge was blocked. He smiled upon them impartially, and asked for cigarettes.

No one understood, but surmising that he wanted something one of the marchers called loudly for a jimriksha. It was undignified that an honourable guest and an ally should travel afoot. The first riksha was rejected because of its dilapidated condition; the second because it had no lap rope. The third was found acceptable, and the second engineer carefully hoisted aboard with his cargo of warm sake and lanterns. Then, with a coolie to pull and another to push, the jimriksha swung to the head of the column, and the Imperial policeman moved it along amid great applause.

Tokio witnessed an equally noteworthy scene to-night, when Baron Rosen departed from Japan. More than two hundred letters received at the Legation, while the Minister packed his despatch boxes, contained sincere expressions of regret from well known Japanese that the war necessitated his departure. The old butler, who has been at the Legation for thirty years, was moved to tears. The firm which attended to the removal of Baron Rosen's effects and the Legation fittings begged to be allowed to do it without pay as an expression of personal good will. The Empress presented the Baroness with silver vases and the Emperor sent to the Minister himself some costly Satsuma ware.

FIFTH BOMBARDMENT OF PORT ARTHUR.

The reports, brought by the current mail, of the rival Admirals in the Far East regarding the bombardment of Port Arthur on the 22nd March, show the same contradiction in details as was noticeable in their accounts of previous engagements. Admiral Togo's report is as follows:-

The combined fleet acted according to programme. Two flotillas of our best oars were outside Port Arthur, as instructed, from the night of the 21st until the morning of 22nd. Although during this time our destroyers were under the enemy's fire, they did not sustain any damage. Our main fleet arrived off Port Arthur at eight o'clock on the morning of the 22nd. I despatched part of the fleet in the direction of Pigon Bay, and ordered the battleships "Fuji" and "Yashima" to make an indirect bombardment against the inner of the side port. During the bombardment the enemy's ships gradually came out of the harbour, and at the time when the indirect bombardment stopped, which was about two o'clock, the number of Russian ships was five battleships, four cruisers, and six destroyers. We believe that the enemy was trying, by making this movement to draw us near the forts. The enemy's ships shelled us indirectly. Many

of their shots fell near the "Fuji," but our ships sustained no damage. At three o'clock our vessels withdrew off the port.

JAPAN'S TOMMY ATKINS.

JUDGED FROM A WESTERN MILITARY STANDPOINT.

Mr. Frederick Palmer, writing in the "Chronicle" on the 22nd March, says:-

Litterally, "Nippon Denji" means man of Japan. Broadly, it means what the Little Soldier of France means to France, or Tommy Atkins means in England. According to the Japanese idea, "Nippon Denji" is the favoured youth of Japan, who has the physique and the good fortune to get into the army. He has little money to spend, but spends that like a king. He is generous, charitable, light-hearted in hardships, and longing to die for his Emperor. In a word, he stands for the heart of the nation, for the patriotism which is the nation's religion. Of all the warriors I have seen, he has the least weakness for cafe boasting. You like him better when he is in uniform than when he is not, for he is more gentlemanly.

That fighting army which is now prepared for invasion is the flower of the land's physique and humble character. Not half of the available youths who reach conscription age each year are used. The strong boys and the good boys are picked out, and the surplus is discarded by lot. The chosen ones have the distinction of a volunteer and far more; for not every man who chooses can be a soldier. In height, "Nippon Denji," is not more than five feet four or five inches. This is to his advantage. But when I tell my Japanese friends so, they are not pleased. Rather, they say that the race is growing taller, and the foreigner overlooks the fact that many Japanese are good-sized. (I wonder if Napoleon ever wished that he was six feet two. He may have, when the old generals looked down to the level of their shoulders to find the head of the man who was to take command of the army in Italy.)

LITTLE MEN, BUT STRONG MEN.

Like all other peoples, the Japanese most want that which they have not. With the doll-like women and short men, they admire the big wrestlers with their vast paunches and big wads of flesh, who form pictorial triumphs for the masses in place of the lean, agile prize-fighters for a taller race.

It is not the height of a man, but how he is built, that counts in a soldier. To the slim, tall column of bone and tissue, the heart is what auxiliary steam power is to a sailing yacht. "Nippon Denji" has the power of a towing tug. He has some strength to put into the transport of his rifle and kit, as well as transporting himself. Anyone who has seen a Japanese coolie with bare body at work, his muscle as firm under his brown skin as if it were bronze, knows that for his weight no race can give the Japanese odds in strength. Look over the ranks of any regiment, and you will never find a spindle-shank. At twenty, the Japanese reach the solidity of maturity which with twenty-seven or eight in other races. Best of all, "Nippon Denji" is a small target. The bullet that would go through the throat of a tall man goes over his head. As a sailor, his size means more coal and gun space. An Occidental cannot stand up in his engine-room, and bumps his head between decks.

If there is any chivalry in your heart, "Nippon Denji," will find it. I have been his neighbour now for ten days. He owns the land, but does not seem to claim it. Hot water makes him near to godliness. He is always washing as he may to his heart's content in this land of moisture. Your reservist's trousers may not fit; he may be able to tell which is seat and which is front only by technical inspection; but they are speckless, and his face shimes with soap. For rest he plays in water. You may sleep elbow to elbow with him, feeling that he is as clean as you are. Rich and poor alike welcome him as a guest whom the Government billets. A well-to-do Japanese friend of mine had a dozen soldiers in his house. The Government officially paid him a dollar and a quarter for lodging. Of course, the "Nippon Denji's" received this back in tobacco. They need not shoot the Russians out of Manchuria; they will go there with cigarette enough to smoke them out. The women of Japan are playing the same part in this war as the foreign sisters have in others. While the Emperor devotes the bullion and plate in the palace to the war fund, the sweet bears and wives throw their pinmoney into the common coffer, and lay aside luxuries from their tables for "Nippon Denjis."

THE MILITARY SIDE OF JAPAN.

To me, the undying source of wonder is how "Nippon Denji" manages to efface himself. He owns the land, and enforces his ownership with politeness and modesty. Mobilisation with war ahead has come to be a synonym for a kind of riotous possession at which patrols have winked from time immemorial. Going forth to die, the fighting man has his foibles overlooked. In a town of tiny houses of wood and paper in narrow streets, booted warriors should produce some of the havoc of the bull in the china shop.

It is the Japanese art of using feet and hands, his industrious habit of keeping out of mischief by washing, the diversion of chatting with his host, and thanking all the world for the sweetmeats and tobacco that it brings, the expedition and quietness with which he is moved here and there, which make him already seem a part of Tokio rather than an overwhelming visitor on an epochal occasion. He is lined up in the narrow streets and put through a limited drill without confusion, until he marches away to Shimbashi Station to be entrained. How anyone who looks at a line of these sturdy men can think of the Japanese as play soldiers is past understanding. The square jaws, the high cheek-bones, the bronze, tightly-drawn skin, even the expression of the slant eyes as they guide on

WHOPING 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 spasms of coughing less frequent and less severe. It has been used in many epidemics of the disease with perfect success. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., and Abdool Rahaman and Abdool Karim, Calcutta.

the line, bespeak the other side of Japan, the military side. "Nippon Denji" is more than picturesque: he is martial-looking. Without exactly defining how, you feel that war is to his taste. These people are proud of their physical vigour and their prowess, not of their art products. The so-called femininity of the nation, at the very point where it seems most essentially characteristic, breaks into a masculinity that is Spartan.

Your "Samurai" of the feudal days might go from an elaborate tea ceremony to commit suicide by hara-kiri with coolness which has no parallel in any other land. The "Samurai" youth, who studied the arrangement of flowers in the morning, might in the afternoon eat rice soaked with fresh blood to show his fortitude. The Russian towering over the Japanese—even as the barbarous tribes that Caesar conquered towered over the Romans—is not as military-looking as his antagonist. Glance in at a shop window or at a passing jimriksha, and you see in the flesh the delicate women painted on the screens and fans. It is they who bear a race of men who, new to mechanical civilisation, manning modern battleships, spring toward action in frozen seas with a spirit equalled only by their skill, who on land are to face in snowbound mountain passes a vigorous northern race.

NONE OF THE POMP OF WAR.

The front of the station is the same as in times of peace. Except for the troop trains that he passes, the average passenger would not know that anything unusual is going on. But go to the rear and side of the stone building at Shimbashi, and in the little yard by the freight platform you see where all the work is done. There is a method, almost a leisurely method, about everything, which in the end, thanks to years of calculation, amounts to a rapidity scarcely appreciated because it has none of the signs of haste. Detachments are brought in only as fast as they can be entrained. All night long, every day, the embankment goes on in the same uniform way as if the working day were twenty-four hours long, Sundays included.

The Japanese horse is the only living thing in Japan, apparently, that does not long to go to war in Manchuria. He backs at sight of the train and bites, and once he has been roped in so fast that he cannot even shake his head, he beats a tattoo of protest against the walls of the box car. No horse in the world seems to need so much looking after. Two sets of four are put into the box car facing each other, with the troopers and their baggage between them. However enthusiastic the foreigner may grow over the infantry and artillery, when it comes to the cavalry he has to confess some indifference. Beside those of Europe if not of America, the Japanese mount makes a poor comparison. I should have said "outwardly" a poor comparison. The horse is of a part with the rider's habit and one is accustomed to have the Japanese surpass expectations. Being surprised at nothing these days, one may soon be accepting as a common-places the superiority of the Japanese over the Cossack cavalry.

INNER HISTORY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "New York Herald" (Paris Edition) sends a remarkably interesting political story, the aim of which is to show that the Japanese are just as cunning in diplomacy as they have shown themselves in war. Summed up it is to the effect that M. Kurino, the Japanese Minister, at the instigation of his Government, most successfully misled Russia as to the true intentions of Japan.

This was done in a very methodical and calculated manner, and with such an air of ingenuity and sincerity that such thoroughly smart men as Admiral Abazov, the President of the Far Eastern Committee; M. Bezabrazov, the much-talked-of Secretary of State, and even, in a lesser degree, such a trained and tried diplomatist as Count Lamsdorff.

And in the following account it will be seen how simple yet subtle were the means employed to dupe the Russian authorities into the idea that Japan really meant nothing at all that the patriotic call for war was a mere "bluff" and that there was no immediate necessity for this country to hurry her armaments. And it will explain much, which many people have been unable to understand concerning Russia's comparative state of unpreparedness when the war began, and the assurances given to all the representatives of the Diplomatic Corps even up to the very last moment, that war would certainly be avoided. First of all M. Kurino was informed by his Government in June last that Japan intended war. At that moment, in order to lull the Russian authorities into security, M. Kurino was instructed to take very much more imposing quarters for the Legation, which then moved from the flat it had in the Chevalier Gardes avenue to a large house, within a few doors of the French Embassy, on the fashionable quay facing the Neva.

There, with marked ostentation, orders were given that the house should be thoroughly decorated, as though for a long occupation.

"What did it matter the paying of the rent of a large house and the extra decoration of it?" said the informant, "at a time when millions were flying about for the purposes of our country's great patriotic effort."

Admiral Abazov and M. Bezabrazov were the men of the moment. They were the active and stirring men of the Far Eastern Committee, and they were also of the war party. These two it was specially necessary to keep still. Everything they knew went directly to the Imperial ear—went directly to that of Admiral Alexieff.

M. KURINO'S CUNNING.

Accordingly these two important personages in the great political game were very cleverly attended to. M. Kurino and his First Secretary called daily, sometimes twice a day, upon them. They were invited to the Legation and were often there. Mme. Kurino and Mme. Abazov became close friends.

Each time the Minister or his First Secretary called upon the members of the Far Eastern committee it was to ask for certain concession and privileges for the poor Japanese immigrants. All these requests were accompanied by protestations of Japan's undying love of and desire for peace, and left behind them the strongest impression that Japan would be quite satisfied with what was done and that war was not thought of but on the contrary anything which would give a peaceful solution was all that was wanted.

Meanwhile Japan was pushing on her war preparations with an immense amount of secrecy but none the less, with intense energy. M. Kurino was one of the most peace inspiring men you could imagine. His velvety affirmations of peace quite captivated all those who went near him. Count Lamsdorff was delighted with the tone of M. Kurino. The correspondents of newspapers who saw him went away and telegraphed messages of peace all over the world.

It was only when M. Kurino was taken by surprise that one found that behind the gentle looking man, who charmed the Far Eastern Committee and the Foreign Office with his words of peace and good will, there was quite a good deal of the Jingo.

Just about this time, having occasion to call upon M. Kurino, and having received the usual preface of peace and goodwill, I said: "But, M. Kurino, you are going to war."

He replied simply: "Well perhaps it would be well for the Russians not to underestimate our forces. We have an army of over 600,000 men and a fine navy."

And then, in his quiet way, he said "Who do you think would get the best of it?"

My impression each time I called upon M. Kurino was that he in spite of his almost overdone protestations of peace—was all for war, and long ago knew that war was sure to come.

One day M. Oda, one of the Secretaries, gave a long interview to a correspondent of one of the papers here and it breathed war from one end to the other. I sent it on to the "Herald."

THE CLIMAX.

M. Kurino, whom I saw later, said he had told M. Oda to see some one from a paper. He would not, however, be responsible for it. But he smiled. Japan's preparations were then well nigh ready. A few days later—it was the following Friday—M. Kurino called at the Foreign Office at six o'clock in the evening, and to Count Lamsdorff's intense astonishment, told the Minister of Foreign Affairs that diplomatic negotiations were broken off. If anyone was more surprised than the Minister of State, it was the Emperor himself.

Up to the last M. Kurino kept up the same, saying to Count Lamsdorff that he was going, but felt sure it would not be for long.

Forty-eight hours later came the news of the night attack by the Japanese at Port Arthur, which caused such damage to the Russian ships. The Japanese Legation was still here. And by one who was in the Legation I was told that the rejoicings over the event were great.

BOYS' COURTSHIP.

GIRL'S MOTHER AWARDED £1,000 DAMAGES.

The painful sequel to the romantic acquaintance of a Shropshire college student and a schoolgirl ended at the Birmingham Assizes the other day in the mother of the wronged girl gaining a verdict with £1,000 damages.

The defendant, Arthur Hulston Harrop, the son of a county magistrate residing at Lythwood Hall, near Shrewsbury, first met Miss Gertrude Howle, a pretty brunette of seventeen and a musician of unusual promise at a country fair. Subsequently surreptitious notes passed between them and they went long walks together.

Miss Howle, her face bearing traces of much suffering, sat the other day with her arm locked in that of the white-haired principal of the college at which she had studied music, who described her in the box as a sweet, unsophisticated, and absolutely modest girl.

Her mother wept bitterly as she told the jury of her distrust of young Harrop. "Did you think he was paying his addresses to your daughter with a view to matrimony?" asked counsel for the defendant.—"certainly not," he said. "I thought it was nothing more than a passing flirtation."

Young Harrop, a fair-haired youth with considerable assurance of manner, did not deny misconduct. His defence was that Miss Howle was a girl of indiscreet character, who was often seen "chaffing" and flirting with young men along the roads near the college, and that she had been guilty of similar relations with other young men.

The writing of improper letters was not the least repulsive of the boy's allegations against his former sweetheart, who later stood up in court at the bidding of her counsel and indignantly denied making use of expressions which he attributed to her.

"I say that the evidence of the defendant," Mr. Stanger, K.C., observed, in a vigorous closing speech, "so far as it reflects on Miss Howle's character is a lie from beginning to end."

After a short consultation the jury found for the plaintiff.

A BLACK KANGAROO.

Mr. B. H. Woodward, C.M.Z.S., the Director of the Western Australian Museum, recently received from a collector, some skins and skulls of a black kangaroo, which appeared to be a new species as it differed in many structural points, as well as in colour, from anything previously seen in Western Australia. The skins were sent Home for scientific investigation, and have been described in "Novitates Zoologicae," by the Hon'ble Walter Rothschild who finds that it is not only a new species, but also a new genus. In many respects it occupies an intermediate place between the rock wallabies ("Dorcopsis") of New Guinea and the tree kangaroos (Dendrolagus) of New Guinea and Queensland, so he has named it "Dendrodorcopsis Woodwardi." Mr. Oldfield Thomas, of the British Museum, in his Report on the skull of this curious new kangaroo, finds that its essential generic characters do not differ from those of the true kangaroo (Macropus). Especially noticeable is the absence of the canine teeth, which are found in both the other general named above. The colour above and below is a sooty brown-black, while the fore limbs and the lower parts of hind limbs and the tail are deep black. The habit, as far as is at present known, is limited to the granite ranges at the head of the South Alligator River, in the Northern Territory. In the course of a few weeks, specimens of this interesting genus will be on view in the Western Australian Museum, when, says a local paper, visitors will be able to see for themselves that while it retains the head of a true kangaroo, its limbs are modified owing to its haunting and arboreal habits.

MURDER BY A GIRL.

—10:—

DAUGHTERS CHARGED WITH KILLING THEIR FATHER.

Rome, Monday, March 28.

To-day a trial which has caused an enormous sensation throughout Italy concluded at Lucera, in the southern part of the peninsula.

Three sisters—Catherine, Berenice, and Escher, aged respectively nineteen, seventeen, and ten—were accused of murdering their father, Domenico da Francesco, at Torre Pelose, near Bari.

The story unfolded to the court was of the most heartrending description. The mother of the girls died six years ago, and was hardly in her grave before the husband took a woman and his natural son to live with him. From that time onward a life of terror began. The other children were fed on bread and water, or more often on herbs which they collected in the fields.

They were beaten and ill-used in every conceivable manner by their father and the woman. The father showed particular hatred of his eldest daughter, because she had fallen in love with a man of whom disapproved. On October, 8, 1901, Catherine was alone with her father when he attempted to assault her. In her rage she snatched up a revolver and shot him dead.

Then she called her sisters together, and they hid the body and the clothes in a cupboard and washed away all traces of the deed. When the woman, who is named Romana, returned, the daughters said that their father had gone out with a friend.

DISCOVERY OF THE BODY.

During the night the three girls left the house and fled for refuge to an aunt who lived in the neighbourhood. In the morning the woman Romana became nervous and made a search, which resulted in the discovery of the body, whereupon the three sisters were arrested and charged with murder.

All the witnesses, both for the prosecution and the defence, spoke of the cruel conditions prevailing in the family, but no direct evidence could be found of Catherine's final and terrible charge against her father.

On the fifth day of the trial the Public Prosecutor withdrew the charges against the younger children, but attacked Catherine so bitterly that she appealed to the Judge against his vituperation with the words, "Why is this man so bitter against me?"

Catherine's lawyer, who came specially from Rome to defend her for the sake of humanity, made an eloquent speech, resting the defence mainly on the character of the murdered man, who had driven his daughter to the deed. Secondly, he set up the plea of unsound mind, based on the fact that there had been epilepsy for two generations in the family.

To-day the final scene was reached. The jury declined Catherine guilty by a majority of seven. Immediately yells of indignation filled the court. Everybody was wild with anger, and it was several minutes before the second question as to the mental condition of the prisoner could be asked.

A unanimous verdict of unsound mind was returned, and then a pandemonium of joy ensued, everybody cheering the prisoner, who was in a fainting condition.

THE RAILWAY PROVIDENT FUND CASE.

On Friday, on the Appellate Side of the Bombay High Court, the Hon. Sir Lawrence Jenkins, Chief Justice, and the Hon. Mr. Justice Batty heard the appeal made by the B.B. and O.I. Railway Company from an order passed by the Hon. Mr. Justice Russell as Commissioner of the Insolvency Court in the matter of Alexander Miller, an engine driver in the employ of the Company. The Hon. Mr. Scott and Md. Lowndes appeared for the Railway Company and Mr. Jardine for the Official Assignee of Bombay.

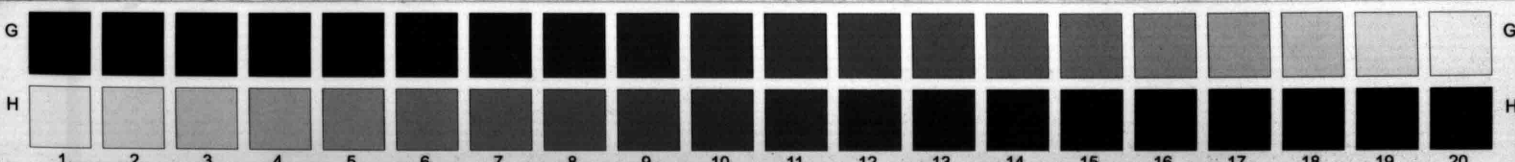
It appeared that Alexander Miller, while in the service of the Company, incurred large debts. In August, 1892, he filed his petition for insolvency and the amount of his debts was then put down at Rs. 4,689. He got his discharge in 1893, and the Official Assignee wrote to the Secretary of the Provident Fund claiming Rs. 2,103, standing to the insolvent's credit. Miller retired from the Company's service in 1903, and payment was made to him from Provident Fund, and the Secretary of the Fund wrote to the Official Assignee to get and order from a Court of Law for the amount he claimed. A rule was then taken out, and on the arguments the Commissioner held that the Company were wrong in paying over so much of the sum in their hands, to the insolvent as would have paid his debts after due notice of the Official Assignee's claim. His Lordship held that under Section 5 of the Act he had no power to direct the Company to pay so much as with the Rs. 2,103 would satisfy the Official Assignee's claim, and ordered the Official Assignee to take what steps he liked to recover the whole amount.

Their Lordships, after hearing the arguments, held that the fund in the hand of the Railway Company was vested in the Official Assignee and was attachable. Their Lordships accordingly confirmed the decree of lower Court with costs.

The "Ceylon Independent" writes:—Babu Jagadanand Sahai, B.A., a visitor from India, is at present in the Island, having come here for the benefit of his health, and is in residence at Mount Lavinia. He is the son of the late Hon. Babu Herbas Sahai, Zemindar of Shahabad and is a wealthy and educated gentleman. He has been in the island for nearly a month, and has spent his time in writing a book on Ceylon, which is already in the hands of the printers. The Babu left for Ramesswarum to visit the famous temple, and will come back to Colombo in a few days. He is attended by an Indian medical man with about six attendants.

BEFORE YOU START on a journey, procure a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhea Remedy. This may save you much trouble and annoyance as it can not be bought on some of our steamships. 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 Co. and Abdool Rahaman and Abdool Kareem Calcutta.



Calcutta University.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SENATE.

The annual meeting of the Senate was held at the Senate House, College Square, on Saturday evening. In the absence of the Vice-Chancellor, the Rev. Father Lafont presided.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR.

The Chairman read a letter from the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, in the Home Department, stating for the information of the Senate and the Senate, that the Governor-General in Council has been pleased to appoint the Hon. Mr. Alexander Pedler, C.I.E., to be Vice-Chancellor of this University in succession to the Hon. Sir Thomas Raleigh, K.C.S.I., who has resigned. The letter was recorded.

HIGH SCHOOL EXAMINATION.

The recommendation of the Syndicate that Mr. W. K. Wright, teacher, St. Paul's School, Darjeeling, who has passed the High School Examination of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, be permitted to appear at the F.A. Examination of this University without being required to pass its Entrance Examination, was adopted.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Registrar laid before the Senate the annual report of the Syndicate for the year 1903-04. The following extracts are taken from the report:—The total number of candidates who appeared at this year's examination was 14,677 against 14,888 in the previous year. The number of candidates registered for the Entrance Examination held in March, 1903 was 7,106, of whom 3,262 passed, 3,731 failed, 109 were absent, and four were expelled. Of the successful candidates, 601 were placed in the First Division 1,248 in the second, and 1,413 in the third; 3,928 candidates took up Drawing as an optional subject, of whom 688 passed, 1,882 failed, and 1,358 were absent. At the Entrance Examination held in March 1904, there were 7,421 candidates. The number of candidates registered for the First Examination in Arts held in March, 1903, was 4,050, of whom 1,321 passed, 2,444 failed, 284 were absent and one was expelled. Of the successful candidates, 98 were placed in the first division, 382 in the second, and 841 in the third. At the First Arts Examination held in March, 1904, there were 3,953 candidates. The number of candidates registered for the B.A. Examination held in March, 1903, was 2,054. Of these, 1,267 took up the A. Course and 787 the B. Course. Of the 1,267 candidates in the A. Course, 281 or over 22 per cent. were successful, 875 or over 69 per cent. failed, and 111 were absent. Of the successful candidates, 238 were placed in the Pass list, and 43 in the Honour lists. Of the latter, 10 obtained Honours in two subjects. Of the 53 names thus appearing in the Honour lists, six were placed in the First Division, and 47 in the Second. Of the 787 candidates in the B. Course, 149 or over 18 per cent. were successful, 589 or over 74 per cent. failed, and 49 were absent. Of the successful candidates, 124 were placed in the Pass list, and 25 in the Honour lists. Of the latter, five obtained Honours in two subjects. Of the 30 names thus appearing in the Honour lists two were placed in the first Division, and 28 in the Second. Of the whole number examined, 430 or over 20 per cent. passed against 22 per cent. in the year 1902. At the B.A. Examination held in March, 1904, there were 2,231 candidates. For the B. Sc. Examination held in March, 1903, there were 19 candidates of whom eight passed and 11 failed. Of the successful candidates one obtained Second Class Honours in Physics and Botany, and seven passed. At the B. Sc. Examination held in March, 1904, there were 14 candidates. The M.A. Examination was held in November, 1903. There were 202 candidates for that degree, of whom 74 were successful, 103 failed, and 25 were absent. Of the three candidates who were placed in the First Class, two passed in English, and one in Natural and Physical Science (C). The Examination for the Pre-chand Roychand Studentship was held this year in Literary subjects. Application were received from eight candidates four of whom presented themselves for examination. On the result of the examination, a studentship of Rs. 1,400 a year, tenable for two years, was awarded to Adityanath Mukhopadhyay, M.A., of the F. C. of Scotland's Institution and Duff College. At the B.L. Examination held in November, 1903, there were 661 candidates of whom 154 were successful, 51 were absent, and 456 failed. Of the successful candidates, four were placed in the First Division and 150 in the Second. On the recommendation of the Board of Examiners the Syndicate awarded a gold medal to P. Lobo of the Morris College, Nagpur, who stood first in the First Division. At the Honours-in-Law Examination held in November, 1903, there were two candidates of whom one was absent and one failed. For the Preliminary Scientific M.B. Examination held in March, 1903, there were 89 candidates, of whom 10 passed in the Second Division, five were absent, and 74 failed. Of the candidates who failed, 35 attained the standard of the Preliminary Scientific L.M.S. Examination. For the first M.B. Examination held in March, 1903, there were 40 candidates, of whom two passed in the First Division, 16 in the Second, and 22 failed. For the Combined Preliminary Scientific and First M.B. Examination held in March 1903, there were 15 candidates, of whom one passed in the Second Division, three attained the standard of the First L.M.S. Examination, and 10 attained the standard of the Preliminary Scientific L.M.S. Examination, and one was expelled. For the Second M.B. Examination, held in March, 1903, there were 10 candidates, of whom two passed in the Second Division and eight failed.

BOARD OF ACCOUNTS.

Babu Gouri Sunker Dey, Mr. I. C. Bose, and Mr. H. M. Rustomjee were appointed a Board of Accounts for the year 1904-05.

THE VARIOUS FACULTIES.

The Senate confirmed the recommendation of the Syndicate regarding the constitution of the various Faculties for the year 1904-1905. The President of the Faculty of Arts was the Rev. Father Lafont; of the Faculty of Law, Mr. Justice Sarada Charan Mitra; of the Faculty of Medicine, Lieut.-Colonel Harris; and of the Faculty of Engineering, Mr. D. B. Horn.

"THE GAZETTE OF INDIA."

The following notifications appear in "The Gazette of India":—

Home Department.—The services of Colonel O'Brien, I.M.S., are replaced at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief.

Lieutenant-Colonel Murray, Professor of Surgery, Medical College, Calcutta, is appointed to officiate as Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals in the United Provinces, during the absence, on leave, of Colonel Joubert. Major Bird to officiate as Professor of Surgery Medical College, Calcutta.

The services of Captain Hooton, I.M.S., are placed permanently at the disposal of the Government of Bombay.

His Majesty is pleased to appoint Mr. Frank Bodilly to be Judge of the High Court, Fort William, with effect from the 29th March, vice Mr. Justice Hill retired.

The following appointments have been made in the Chief Court of the Punjab during the absence on furlough of Mr. Justice Reid:—Mr. F. A. Robertson, officiating temporary Additional Judge to officiate as a Judge of that Court. Mr. H. H. B. Rattigan, Legal Remembrancer to officiate as temporary Additional Judge of the Chief Court.

Foreign Department.—Major Macwatt is granted privilege leave for three months, combined with furlough for one year and nine months.

The services of Mr. Hastings, Punjab Police, are replaced at the disposal of the Government of the Punjab.

Mr. Kealy is posted as Assistant Commissioner of Ajmere. Captain Ducat is posted as Assistant Commissioner of Merwara.

Financial Department.—Mr. Waterfield is posted as Assistant Comptroller, India Treasuries.

The following permanent appointments are made in the Postal Department with effect from the 9th November: Mr. Whympster to be Postmaster-General, 2nd grade; Mr. O'Shea, Deputy Postmaster-General, 2nd grade; Mr. Knox Homan, Deputy Postmaster-General, 3rd grade.

Mr. Mant is appointed Deputy Secretary of the Finance and Commerce Department, the services of Mr. McIntosh being replaced at the disposal of the Home Department.

Mr. Bryning, Chief Superintendent, attached to the Local Audit Department of the Office of Accountant-General, Bengal, is granted privilege leave for three months, Mr. K. Datta to act for him.

The following appointments in the Postal Department are made with effect from the 16th March:—Mr. Van Someran to be promoted to the 2nd grade of Deputy Postmaster-General; Mr. Bennett to be appointed Deputy Postmaster-General, 3rd grade, and placed in charge of the Eastern Bengal Circle; Mr. H. C. Sheridan, Officiating 2nd Assistant Director-General of Post Offices, and Mr. Schoneman, officiating 3rd Assistant to be confirmed in their appointments.

Mr. Michael is granted privilege leave for three months and furlough for sixteen months, Mr. Grantlet to officiate temporarily as accountant-General, Bengal. Mr. Bleazy to officiate as Deputy Accountant-General of the United Provinces.

Public Works Department.—Colonel Constable, Manager of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, is granted special leave for six months.

Mr. Maclean, Traffic Inspector, North-Western Railway, to officiate as Assistant Traffic Superintendent on that Railway.

Mr. J. E. Robinson, Workshop Manager, North-Western Railway, is granted the honorary rank of Assistant Locomotive Superintendent.

Mr. Biernacki, District Locomotive Superintendent, Eastern Bengal State Railway, to officiate as Superintendent of that Railway.

THE TRAINING OF ZEBRAS.

CAPTAIN HAYS AT THE ZOO.

The authorities at the Zoological Gardens have determined to do something by way of utilising the fine stock of zebras and wild asses in the Regent Park menagerie. No official pronouncement has been made, but the general scheme seems to be somewhat like this; and there is reasonable ground for supposing this could be done to advantage; the breaking and training of zebras for draught and burden, as an attraction to the gardens, and to throw light on the problem of the possible utilisation of these animals in the service of man. Lastly, but not till the other two projects have been started with a fair hope of success, the question of hybridisation may be considered. The first step was the engagement of the man who had been in charge of Professor Cossar Ewart's animals at Pencuik, and was consequently well fitted to deal with these animals. Under his direction the young Grevy mare belonging to the King was handled with so much success that on Thursday she was led out in the walks to accustom her to the people, and her behaviour is said to have been all that could be desired. Next came an arrangement with Captain Hayes, who began his work on Tuesday, when Professor Cossar Ewart was present in the paddock, with the secretary and the superintendent. His system may be described as a modification of Rarey's with an Australian wrinkle or two, and others which are the result of his own experience. He practices the old hopping and throwing of Rareyism, and the Southern dodge of tying up the animal head to tail; but in addition he does a good deal of gentling with hand and voice, when some trainer might be inclined to adopt sterner ways. Jess, the Grevy mare, which was sent by King Menelik as a present to Queen Victoria in 1899, was the first to be taken in hand, and she gave more trouble than was expected before she could be got out into the paddock. A great mistake was made in not dealing with this animal and the stallion which came with her immediately on their arrival at the gardens in 1899. On their passage home they were detained at Aden for ten days waiting for transport; every day she was exercised on the beach, and both had headstalls when they were unpacked. Her light in the paddock on Tuesday was unsuccessful, and after nearly three hours she was saddled and mouted, as was a younger mare in the afternoon. This does not advance us much, for more has already been done by Captain Hayes with the mountain zebra, and by other trainers with Burchell's zebras, which though driven by Mr. Walter Rothschild, who

professed himself satisfied with them, were found too soft coach work in South Africa. The lesson will probably need a good deal of repetition before these animals can be considered safe mounts, though when led they may probably be trusted in a month or two. Indeed, with regard to the younger mare, Professor Cossar Ewart thought so long a period of training would not be necessary. On Wednesday morning the mares were handled again and in the afternoon Captain Hayes went to work with the stallion, which made such a good fight for it as to surprise Colonel Sutherland, who, with Professor Cossar Ewart and Mr. W. B. Tegetmeier, was in the paddock. The animal was thrown with a good deal of difficulty; again and again when nearly down he would regain his footing by a violent muscular effort, and the struggle for mastery began anew. With him the success was not so decided as with the mares; at last he was mounted, and walked about quietly with a keeper on his back. But when he was being led round the paddock by Captain Hayes he broke away and bolted back to his stall.

So far as they went the experiments were successful. They do not, however, establish much more than was already known—that it is possible to subdue zebras, and to employ them, with more or less success, for draught or burden. This is only what one might expect, for till a domesticated race has been established, or at any rate till foals bred in captivity and accustomed to be handled from the first, are made the subjects of experiment—and that on a large scale—it will be difficult to draw conclusions of practical value. Of course, with each succeeding generation the work of training will be less difficult. Then comes the question. Is the work worth the trouble? Will the zebra pay for such partial domestication as can be given it in this country? One is inclined to look for better results from the work now being done in German East Africa and our own experiments in the East African Protectorate. If the zebra is to be utilised as beast of draught and burden, the domestication must be done in Africa by the natives under the supervision of Europeans, and Grevy zebra, the largest and most horse-like form, will no doubt give the best results. Show teams and mounts may and possibly will be bred in this country. At any rate the authorities at Regent's Park have done well to make an attempt to turn their own stock to good account. They are acting with the advice of experts, and have secured the services of qualified trainers; so that if they do not achieve success, they will least have gone a long way to deserve it. Even should the animals which have been handled not carry, though they probably will, a parade of led zebras will add to the attractiveness of the gardens, and valuable experience will have been gained for the treatment of foals that may be born there.

A MACHINE THAT TALKS.

A talking machine that has created no little sensation is that just produced by Dr. R. Marage, a well known member of the French Academy of Medicine. It is an interesting device, which reproduces with perfect accuracy the sounds of the human voice, not as in the case of the phonograph, by merely repeating words spoken by persons, but by a process which is purely mechanical from start to finish and in which no word is spoken by any human being. The sounds are produced by a system of vibration, says the London Sketch. Attached to the machine is a series of plaster heads, five in all, representing the five vowels, a, e, i, o, u. They are each a perfect model of a person's mouth, fitted with pliable lips and perfect teeth. Air currents set in motion by the machine are made to pass through the dummy mouths, which are fitted with stress. Through his invention Dr. Marage has discovered that the steam sires used on board ships can be so constructed as to imitate certain sounds. This different phonetic syllables may be obtained which could be used to form an internal alphabet. By an ingenious contrivance attached to this wonderful instrument it is possible to see reflected in a tiny mirror the vocal chords of a singer.

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