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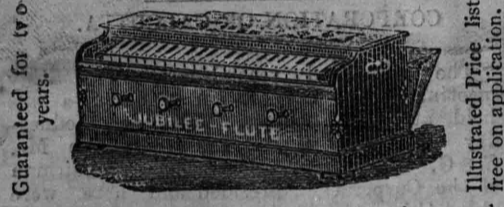
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INTERESTING AND UPTODATE
The INDIAN REVIEW for February contains amongst others the following interesting articles: Mr. Kipling and his World By Mr. John M. Robertson on What's in a Name? By Mr. H. G. Keene, C. I. E., I. C. Mr. G. S. Aiyar on "Some Economic Aspects of British Rule in India" By Prof Amkha Charan Ukil, M. A., Herbert Spencer and his Teachings By Doctor Guglielmo E. Salvadori, Maitreyi: A Vedic Story By Pandit Sitnath Tattvabhushan, The Tariff Problem. By Mr. C. S. Morrison, M. A. The Indian Govt. on Preferential Tariffs. By "An Indian Publicist." Current Events, By Rajdun Tolstoy on "Peace and War." The War between Russia and Japan. By "Britannicus" The Indian Universities' Bill By the Editor, Herber Spencer's Advice to Japan, with this number 5, issued a war map which is given free to subscribers and another noteworthy feature is that it contains the portraits of the czar Russia, the Emperor of fefar, king Edward, Herbert spence, court loiatory, Lord Curzon and the frible me Gobehall.
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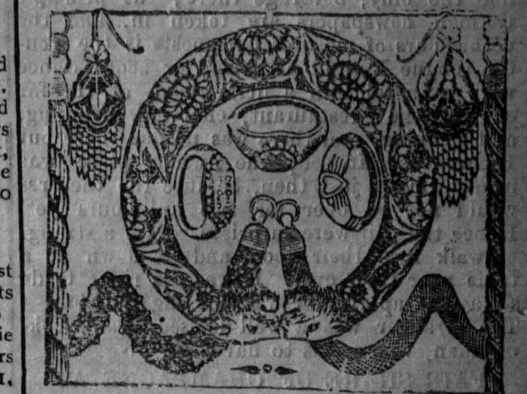
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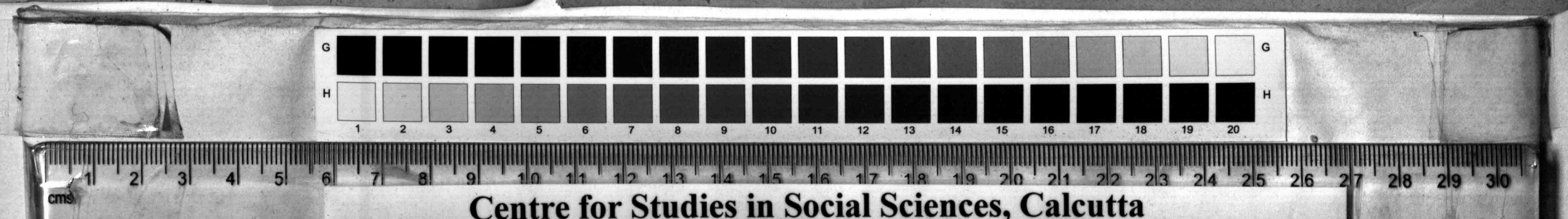
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NOTES ON RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

TREASON IN RUSSIA.

AN OFFICER'S TREACHERY AND PUNISHMENT.

An official of the St. Petersburg Commissariat Department, well known in the Russian capital, disappeared suddenly some weeks ago, and nobody knew what had become of him. His wife falling ill at the same time, quite a cloud of mystery hung over the family, all the more dense because of the absurd rumours that were circulating. One report had it that he had committed suicide while in a fit of depression. Others affirmed that he had failed to account for large sums of money entrusted to him, and had been arrested for embezzlement. According to a third story, he had speculated widely on the Exchange, had lost enormous sums, and being unable to meet his liabilities, had fled from the country. His friends shook their heads, and remarked that it was not in him to commit such follies. The rumours were absurd. But most absurd of all was the statement that he had sold plans describing the despatch of war material and provisions to the Far East, and was a traitor to his country. Anything was possible, they affirmed, rather than that, Days passed, however, says the "Telegraph," and the mystery lifted a little. Not much it is true, for there is an impenetrable have even now round the name and the fame of the once popular official—but enough to show that he had not embezzled money belonging to the Crown, had not speculated on Change, and had not died by his own hand. It was the most "absurd" report of all which acquired the consistency of a fact. He had sold the most secret plans of the Commissariat to a Foreign Power, and was now in the most secret prison of the Empire, awaiting his fate. To what Government could he have betrayed the secret of his own country? Of course, to the English, people answered. The English Sovereign circulates in all Continental countries, English spies are everywhere, the Secret Service Fund of the British Foreign Office is inexhaustible. Besides, the person whom he frequented most—But that being a doubtful point, people remarked that proofs were superfluous, for everybody knew that the English had bribed the official, made him a traitor, and ruined him and his family. But what use could the British have for Commissariat plans sceptics queried. A makeshift answer was quickly found, which would satisfy the average Russian man, and the matter was judged. All over the capital the report spread that England has bought the plans in the possession of the official, and that he had confessed his crime. In this there was, of course, not only no truth, but not even the semblance of it. No Englishman had any dealings with the traitor, good, bad, or different; his plans would not have been accepted gratis by any British official, here or in England, because they would be wholly useless. In time it leaked out that M. X. had

SOLD HIS PLANS TO JAPAN.

Shortly before the war broke out, and it was added this act of treason enabled Russia's foe to seize the Yekaterinoslav, with its stores and provisions. The traitor had already been tried, condemned, and hanged in the terrible prison of Schlussburg. But the official papers have published no account of the arrest, trial, condemnation, or execution. Hence nothing is known for certain, except that M.X. has been spirited away by the authorities on a charge of treason to his country. The latest version of how he arrested and proved guilty is very interesting in itself. It also throws a sidelight upon the ways of the secret police, who are now organised after the French model, and act with far greater circumspection and skill than, say, ten years ago. This is the story, for the exact truth of which the correspondent cannot vouch. The authorities suspected X. of having had dealings with the Japanese, but they lacked proofs of the fact, and it was now impossible to obtain any. One or two indications there were—strong enough, perhaps, to awaken misgivings, but not sufficient to hang a dog. The matter was placed in the hands of the secret police, who are all disciples of Sherlock Holmes. X. was shadowed day and night; every person to whom he spoke at home or abroad, was also watched, but no facts of importance were elicited. Whatever he might have done in the past, was not selling his country's secrets at present, but then, there was no one to betray them to, since the Japanese Embassy had gone. A certain foreigner against whom the police had nothing to urge, was among the acquaintances whom X. met from time to time. One evening the two were seated together in a restaurant on the Nevsky Prospekt, which is commonly frequented by German merchants and by foreigners. Beer is the drink, but not the only beverage there; the principal German newspapers are taken in, and the vernaculars of most of the guests is the Teuton tongue. X. and his friend or acquaintance were at a table in a little room, at the far end of the restaurant, chatting, drinking, and smoking, and there was no one there but themselves. Indeed, the whole place was nearly empty just then, because the theatres would not be over for two full hours yet. Hence the pair were surprised to see a stranger walk into their room and sit down at a table near their own. It was his right to do so, as the apartment was not engaged but—The stranger was a well-dressed, frank-looking man, who seems to have had his

FAIR SHARE OF CHAMPAGNE AT DINNER.

He was a Russian to the backbone; for after having listened to the conversation of his neighbours for a few minutes he corrected a slip of theirs here and got in an additional remark there. At last he moved his chair and sat by them. Curiously enough, he seemed specially taken with the foreigner to whom he spoke much of Russian hospitality, invited him to dinner, and at last he induced the man to rise up and accompany him to the bar, which was in another room, there to drink each other's health in Russian vodka. The foreigner was very unwilling, pleading that he never drank vodka nor strong spirits, but finally, not to seem ungracious, he humoured the hospitable Russian, and leaving X. went to the bar. There they drank and chatted—"in Russian fashion," said the new acquaintance—while time sped. While the diversion was taking place, X. was not long

alone. A man, dressed like an official, hurriedly entered the room, and puffing and panting as though he had been running for his life, asked: "Is your name X.?" "Yes," "my name is Y.," was the ungracious reply; "what business is that of yours?" "No offence, I assure you, sir, but I have been sent to find you about a very urgent affair. The police have for months been looking out for a dangerous man named Y., and they have at last arrested him. Ten minutes ago, not more. But he denies that he is Y., and what is more, he gives your name as his and your address. Please come with me." At the Police Department they found a number of high officials awaiting them. X. entered, and saluted the company. Then a voice said "In the name of the law I arrest you, X., for having committed one of the blackest crimes that any subject of His Majesty can be guilty of. You have sold secret plans to Russia's enemy. You have forfeited your life thereby, and as all the proofs are in our possession, you had better use the little time left you in this life in preparing for the next." The world must have grown black in the eyes of the wretched man on hearing his doom. He must have looked the very picture of despair, because even those hardened officials appeared to pity him, and one of them said, sympathetically: "It is still possible to avoid death. If you wait until the proofs are read to you it will be too late. But sit down here, and write a humble petition to His Majesty for mercy. He will surely pardon you. But mind and make a clean breast of it. Your only hope is in the 'Tsar.'" X. drooped heavily into a chair, mechanically took a pen in his hand, wrote a full confession of his guilt and having signed the paper sealed his doom. No further proof of his guilt was needed.

DO WOMEN WANT GREAT LOVE?

Does a woman really desire to receive, from the man of her choice, impassioned declarations of his undying affection, gifts which represent the limit of his resources by their costliness, and other extreme indications of his love?

Does it really please her to have such lavish expressions, material and figurative, of his affection showered upon her?

The mere man will reply very promptly in the affirmative, but the affectionate, thoughtful woman unhesitatingly declares that he is wrong.

The giddy, thoughtless woman is always on the look-out for these things, and she is the woman who, as a wife, is most likely to bring disaster on the home by her extravagant demands, and to be perpetually carping at the supposed decline of her husband's affection if he acts more soberly as time passes.

But this kind of woman is, fortunately, the exception.

To the majority of women it is not the great, but the small, things which are the more pleasing; those are the things which she waits for, often in vain.

As it is small worries, constantly recurring, which do us the most harm, so it is the small attentions, constantly bestowed, which procure for us the greatest amount of happiness. And it is just there that the average man fails, as every reflective woman will tell you.

If you were to put to all the married men of your acquaintance the question: "Which would a woman prefer, a £5 note to buy herself a brooch, or a fifth of that sum expended by you in the shape of gloves, and brought home to her?" there is little doubt that the answer in all cases would be in favour of the gift of a £5 note; yet it is very doubtful if that response would be the correct one.

The mere man misses the important fact that, in the case of the gloves, this is a present brought home for her without giving her the least trouble; it shows that the husband has given himself some trouble in order to pay her a small attention.

It comes to her, most probably, unexpectedly, and the pleasure of possession is intensified.

Look at some of the other small things which will tend to make a woman happy, and increase her affection for the man she has married.

You take home with you a little bunch of flowers—it may be only a penny bunch of violets—or some inexpensive article which shows her that you have been thinking of her. That is the point.

You may go home and utter protestations of affection, and tell her, when she mentions that her dress is getting shabby, that your cheque book is at her disposal, but that will not please her so much as the knowledge that you remember her when you are away from her, and that you watch for any little opportunity of doing something, or bringing home something, that will give her pleasure!

How many men have lost a large share of domestic happiness by failing to learn this knowledge of womankind!

Most of them imagine that a wife finds perfect happiness in keeping the house clean and preparing the food in a manner that will not offend their taste, and that all they need do is to hand over some cash on her birthday, or on similar memorable occasions, so that she may "buy something entirely for herself!"

The great percentage of wives do not want this, although (having been disappointed by not receiving what they do want) they finally settle into a dull kind of contentment, and appear luke-warmly happy on receiving these marks of lordly munificence.

What the intelligent, loving woman really wants is the little attention, often given; it demonstrates to her that the man to whom she has given herself for better or worse is considerate of her happiness.

The little kindnesses or attentions shown to a wife need not take the form of gifts in every instance.

You note whether she is looking well or ill, you tell her that she looks charming in this hat or that blouse, or you candidly inform her that you do not like her in that costume—it does not become her!—and a score of small actions of this nature.

She will love you a great deal more than if you are very demonstrative in your affection once in a while.

There are some men whose disposition would not allow them to do this, but the greater number omit to do it simply because they do not understand the importance of the little things, and so express their undoubted affection in the only way they can think of, namely, by extravagances!

Here is a piece of good advice to all married men. Try the little things!

BOOMS IN BEASTS.

The wild beast trade has its ups and downs like every other business. Would it surprise you to know that an animal importer would rub his hands and look pleasant if you asked how chimpanzees were booming, but would greet you with derision if you inquired anything about lions? For the price of chimpanzees, and creatures of the superior ape-tribe, are "up" just now, and the majestic lord of the desert is decidedly "down."

Booms in the animal trade are regulated by many causes. The prosperity of the chimpanzee, and the high prices he commands at present, were caused by Consul, the educated ape that appeared at the music halls until his death recently.

Trained chimpanzees being popular, shown generally have found it necessary to secure specimens. Consequently, the animal importer finds that he can command higher prices for his goods than was the case before the boom. His hunters abroad have more inducement to secure apes, and get higher value for them when caught.

Lions, on the other hand, are slack. There is no demand for imported lions. The Zoos already possess quite sufficient, and future generations are amply provided by those bred in this country, who have never seen the desert.

The price of lions has dwindled enormously of late years. Nowadays, a young one will only fetch £20, or a full grown one £60, while if he has an exceptionally full mane he will realise £100.

Half a century ago, when Zoos were a novelty, the prices of these beasts were very much larger. But Zoos at the present day are self-satisfied bodies who are overfed with fine live stock, so make few demands on the importer. All they want nowadays is rare animals, and for these alone are they willing to pay high prices.

Tigers are steady, and vary from £60 to £70, but new ones are scarcely any more in demand than lions.

Camels are desperately bad. In fact, it positively does not pay to import these interesting beasts. They fetch no more than £25, or less than half the price of a lion, and cost the importer that sum to carry from the desert to London. Besides, the camel is by no means a pleasant sea passenger, and gives a lot of trouble, besides being a great sufferer from sea-sickness.

There has been of late years quite a boom in giraffes. These beasts have been a cause of concern to the trade for twenty years. They hail from the Soudan and Abyssinia, and when the former country fell under the sway of the Mahdi in 1884, closing it to trade, the giraffe practically ceased to arrive on our shores.

Specimens became so rare as to command sometimes £1,000 apiece. The London Zoo paid £800 for one of their specimens. The papers boomed giraffes at the time, as it was the current opinion in the eighties that they were about to join the ranks of extinct monsters.

Kitchener lowered the prices of giraffes by conquering the Soudan. Directly the country was thrown open to hunters again, giraffes began to arrive in larger numbers. Accordingly, a specimen realised only £250 up to the time of going to press.

Rhinoceros have fluctuated in the same way. This particular market has had the ups and downs of a sea-saw.

With the opening up of Africa, large quantities of rhinoceros arrived on our shores. At first they fetched about £800 apiece, and were quite worth an explorer's while to capture. Too many, however, discovered this source of wealth, and accordingly, the market became overstocked, and the price fell.

Then it became worth nobody's while to secure a "rhino," as they were too cheap. In a few years, therefore, no rhinoceroses at all arrived, and up went the price again. Once more, they became a rarity, and once more travellers made a bid for them. And so on proceeded the "rhino" market from up to down.

Elephants are a Yankee monopoly. There is practically no trade in importing them to Britain, but the springing up of new towns in America, each having its own Zoo, and its menagerie, has made it profitable to send them to the States. Consequently, it pays nobody to secure an elephant for the stable and flat British market, which only pays £100 a head for the monsters.

Crocodiles are simply not worth catching, as owing to the glut in the present market, and the general lack of interest in this reptile, a specimen fetches only from £3 to £5. But a big snake is quite a profitable catch for the market.

A snake twenty feet long, at the time of writing, fetches £40—that is, two pounds a foot. This does not mean that snakes are paid for by the foot or yard, like drapery stuffs, but this sum may be taken as the average price of a big snake, boa constrictor, or python. A small snake, if of a rare kind, might, of course, command a much higher rate.

The kangaroo boomed about ten years ago, when he showed such prowess with the gloves, as the "boxing kangaroo." In fact, the kangaroo boom was then what the chimpanzee boom is to-day.

Booms in the animal trade are caused by many other causes. Chief among these is the fancy of the private collector. Thus, Mr. Walter Rothschild has practically regulated the demand and supply of late years.

This gentleman is a wild animal enthusiast, and always on the look out for novelties. When he decides that a certain animal is wanted, the price of that animal goes up accordingly, and all other fanciers have to pay it. The latest boom caused by this enthusiast is in cassowaries, of which twenty new specimens, and two hundred animals have lately been imported.

Another influence on the wild animal market is the Duke of Bedford, whose fancy for deer of every kind, and his willingness to pay high

CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY is the mother's favourite. It is pleasant and safe for children to take and always cures. It is intended especially for coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough, and is the best medicine made for these diseases. There is not the least danger in giving it to children for it contains no opium or other injurious drug and may be given as confidently to a babe as to an adult. For sale by Smith Stanistreet & Co., Wholesale Agents B. K. Paul & Co., Abdool Rahaman and Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.

prices, has sent up the market considerably. He has paid so much as £150 for a specimen.

Then some young man of means will perhaps take a fancy to keep bears, wolves, ostriches, or some other odd pet. He offers certain prices, and thus fixes the market value. A full-grown ostrich at present fetches £40.

A boom, but one which is not at all liked by the beast trade, is sometimes blown up by surgical experimenters of such bodies as the Pasteur Institute. Orang-outangs are at present in demand by these scientists, for purposes of inoculation, at from £20 to £100 apiece, but the importer who after all, is a lover of animals, does not like to sell them for such uses.

Antelopes boomed some years ago as a result of the attractive pictures of them to be seen in illustrated weeklies, and their popularity sent up the price of the beautiful creatures.

But the wild animal trade is not what it was. In the opinion of Mr. Jamrach, the well-known importer, too many restrictions are placed by the Government on their importation.

AIRSHIPS AND FLYING MACHINES.

The following is an interesting article written by Major Baden Powell in the "Morning Post." He says: Now that we have arrived at such perfection in travelling over land and sea with mechanically propelled machines, it is not unnatural to turn our attention to the air and to investigate the possibilities of our being able to utilise it as a high way for travel. During the past few years the subject has progressed very materially. M. Santos Dumont has shown what can be done with a propelled balloon, and if he has not accomplished any great feat from a practical point of view, he has, at all events, opened the eyes of others to the possibilities of aerial navigation. It is said that this intrepid aeronaut is going to Japan at the request of the Japanese Government to superintend the construction of some airships for use against the Russians. Meanwhile, in France, Great Britain, and Germany the aeronautical dockyards are busy. The Messrs. Lebaudy are having a new airship constructed, an improvement on their former vessel, which was unfortunately wrecked after a most successful career. As that machine was capable of covering some twenty-five miles an hour, we may hope that the new one will be capable of accomplishing still more, and thus be able to proceed against any ordinary wind.

NEW AIRSHIPS.

M. Dentsch, the donor of the prize won by M. Santos Dumont some years ago, has also built a very large balloon with which he hopes to achieve great things. In Great Britain we have two navigable balloons approaching completion. Mr. Beedle's has actually been tried, but it met with several small mishaps, which rendered some alterations necessary. After exhibiting the car and engines at the recent motor show at the Agricultural Hall, Mr. Beedle is now ready to make further trials. Then there is the great airship of Dr. Barton, which has been slowly growing into shape after several years of deferred hope. The huge mass of scaffolding which forms car, and which can hardly be said to have the appearance of a really practical contrivance, is now complete. The two fifty horsepower engines are in place, and two sets of very unwieldy looking propellers are fitted at the sides. A large balloon, forty three feet in diameter, is to lift the structure, and the inventor cherishes strong hopes that it will proceed at a good speed through the air. We shall see. Count Zeppelin, whose enormous balloon was tried, with doubtful success, three or four years ago, is said to be building another in Germany.

SCIENTIFIC INVENTORS.

During the last few years so many attempts have been made to propel balloons, and with so little success, that many of the more scientific inventors, such as Sir Hiram Maxim, Professor Langley, and Professor Graham Bell, have given up all thought of raising their machinery by means of cumbersome gasbags, and have been experimenting with the theoretically more promising aeroplane. When people realise that in the case of the aeroplane a contrivance like the awning of a small steam launch is capable of supporting the man and the engines, and that in the case of the balloon a mass like a big ship is necessary to lift the same weight, one can readily understand the advantages of the aeroplane, especially when to the drawbacks of the bulky balloon are added the great difficulties inherent in the retention of a large volume of expensive, inflammable, and subtle gas ever varying in its density.

EXPERIMENTAL DATA.

Recently in America the Brothers Wright have succeeded in rising by means of an aeroplane only. This machine consists of two superposed plans, about forty feet wide and twenty feet fore and aft. A sixteen horsepower motor drives the screw propeller. The machine was put on a short track placed on level ground and after running along this for about forty feet it rose into the air and made a flight said to be about half a mile. Sir Hiram Maxim, it will be remembered, constructed some ten years ago a large flying machine, which though proving of great value in providing experimental data, could hardly be called a success. He has ever since been anxious to build another machine embodying the improvements, which his previous apparatus showed to be necessary, but the construction involves so great an expenditure that he has not been able to carry out his intentions. Recently he has hit on a plan of combining experimenting with money-making, however in his great "merry-go-round" which is shortly to be erected at Earl's Court and at the Crystal Palace. By this means he hopes to collect sufficient money to construct another regular flying machine. I hope shortly also to exhibit a new contrivance at the Crystal Palace. It consists of what may be described as a "winged boat" which runs down an inclined track similar to that of a water chute. Having thus gained considerable speed, the "boat" shoots off into the air above a lake, and glides for a considerable distance before settling on the water. This, besides being of great use in ascertaining the most efficient form of aeroplane and steering mechanism, should also prove an attractive novelty for the holiday maker.

AS THE CROW FLIES.

It is now reported that Professor Langley, who has been for some time carrying on experiments for the United States Government, has just received a further grant of £5,000 for the purpose of containing his trials. Some years ago he made a model which, propelled by a small steam engine, successfully performed several flights of many hundreds of years. Lately he constructed a full-sized apparatus on the same lines, but at its first starts it plunged headlong into the water and became hopelessly damaged. With so many scientific engineers at work we may expect to see some definite results shortly. Whether or not a really useful airship will suddenly emerge cannot yet be predicted. The air as a highway as doubtless advantages, it is not likely to become overcrowded, journeys could be made direct from place to place, that is, "as the crow flies," and finally far greater speeds would probably be possible than can be attained by any other known means of traveling. The authorities of the St. Louis Exhibition have offered a number of large money prizes to encourage inventors in the airship line. The first prize amounts to no less than £20,000, and there are others for all branches of aeronautics.

FISH-FARMING.

Probably we are all of us agreed—all of us who own no land—as to what we should do with land if we got it. We should let it or sell it. But the purpose of this article is to suggest an entirely novel reason why it would be agreeable to own land, and to offer a possible consolation to those afflicted with the possession. If you have land and keep it in your own management, you can, as we all know, either have it in pasture or put it under crops, under cattle, or under sheep. But you can also, under favourable circumstances, put it under fish, and this is the kind of agriculture which shall be practised at the home farm of my castle in Iberian Donegal or Spanish Connemara. Once I had some notion of settling on the Island of Valencia to supply London with arum lilies which grow there in the gardens till they become a nuisance; and the gardener throws them over the cliff-edge, and then they grow on the cliff. But it is clear now, since I read the proceedings of the Inland Fisheries Conference held at Cork last summer that the really desirable "requies senectoe" will be afforded by a trout farm.

In this matter, at least, Great Britain lags behind the world. American farmers have already discovered that trout pay—positively pay—better than poultry and conceive the transfiguration. Instead of noisy, scratching, dirt-making hens, the gardeners' ruin, you have your horde of silent, swimming, beautiful creatures, who can never stray beyond their allotted bounds in which to watch them is an unceasing pleasure. But it is in Germany that the thing has been done on the largest scale, and as usual by Government.—Stephen Gwynn in the "Pilot."

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

The adjourned second ordinary monthly meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday at 4 p.m. The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. H. Allen, Acting Chairman of the Corporation, presided and there were about thirty commissioners present.

MR. BABU NALIN BEHARY SIRCAR'S NOTE. The first item of the business was to consider the report of the Special Committee appointed to consider Babu Nalin Behary Sircar's Note and the re-organisation of the Accounts Department.

Mr. Silk asked whether it was competent for the Corporation to discuss paragraph 2 of the report. Section 142 of the Act laid down that the General Committee should decide the matter. He said that clause (a) and (b) of that paragraph were out of order.

The Chairman said that he considered that the Corporation had authority to prescribe that the accounts, as provided in clause (a) should be kept separately. As for clause (b) the Chairman did not think that it was a matter for the Corporation to deal with.

Babu Nalin Behary Sircar enquired whether the Chairman treated that as a question of order.

The Chairman replied in the affirmative. Babu Nalin Behary Sircar submitted that it was a point of law and asked not to decide it as a point of order.

The Chairman said that it was raised to him as a point of order and he ruled it as such.

Mr. Tremearne moved that the matter be sent to the General Committee with request that they would be good enough to report thereon to the Commissioners at large within a month.

Mr. Apar said that it was of no use to send the matter to the General Committee.

Mr. Braumfield seconded Mr. Apar. Babu Priya Nath Mullick seconded Mr. Tremearne and said that instead of one month let the General Committee be asked to report within two weeks.

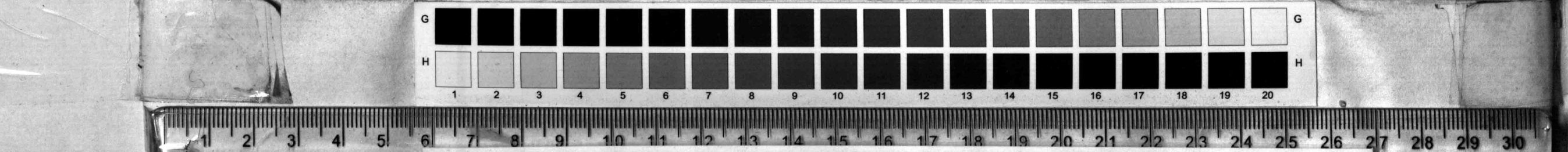
Mr. Tremearne accepted the suggestion of Babu Priya Nath Mullick.

Babu Kali Charan Paulit said that it was of no use sending the whole matter to the General Committee. What he suggested was that only clause (b) of paragraph 2 be referred to the General Committee.

Mr. Tremearne's motion, which was to the effect that the whole matter to be sent to the General Committee with request to report within two weeks, was then put to the vote and carried.

The next item of business was to confirm the minutes of the proceedings of the special committee appointed to consider Babu Nalin Behary Sircar's note and the re-organisation of the Accounts Department. The matter was postponed.

HOW TO AVOID TROUBLE.—Now is the time to provide yourself and family with a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It is almost certain to be needed before the summer is over, and if procured now may save you a trip to town in the night or in your busiest season. It is everywhere admitted to be the most successful medicine in use for bowel complaints, both for children and adults. No family can afford to be without it. For sale by Smith Stanistreet & Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul & Co., Abdool Rahaman and Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.



THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, MAY 15, 1904.

THE JHAJHA SHOOTING CASE.

This result of what is known as the Jhajha shooting case will not of course surprise any one. That is the rule now-a-days. In the opinion of the jury, which, with the exception of one, was composed wholly of Europeans, the accused, Robert Stuart, was not guilty of the charge brought against him, namely, that he had deliberately shot Tulshi Dhoi in his right armpit with his pistol. The jury held that Stuart was not at all to blame; for, it was purely an accident. That is the orthodox way of viewing such cases when tried by a European jury. But may we enquire, if the pistol exploded by an accident, how was it that it wounded the Dhoi and not Mr. Stuart, who had it in his pocket? Mr. Martin of the notorious Raneejgunj shooting case also urged the same plea when he shot Bistoo Bowree dead. An expert witness, however, demolished the theory.

Let us now state the main facts of the case, and see whether the verdict is reasonable or not. The version of the wounded man is that, on the 12th of December last, the accused went to his house and demanded some clothes which he and his sister had given to the brother of Tulshi, Ram Prosad, to wash. Tulshi, who lived separate from his brother, denied all knowledge of these clothes. Thereupon Stuart began to search them among the clothes which Tulshi was ironing. Tulshi remonstrated. Hot words passed between them. Stuart got offended, drew out a pistol and fired him in the armpit, when he caught hold of the weapon in one hand, and pressed the wound in another. Three men who were close by saw the occurrence and interfered, and one of them snatched away the revolver from Stuart, who ran away leaving the weapon behind.

More than half-a-dozen prosecution witnesses came forward and supported the above version in a more or less direct manner. Buksh Meah, a Mussalman, and thus in no way related to Tulshi, who is a Hindu, deposed that he saw the occurrence at Tulshi's house with two others, and corroborated every statement of the wounded man. He also said he had snatched away the pistol from Stuart's hand.

Gonesh Dhoi, another eye-witness, said that the clothes were found scattered on the floor of Tulshi's house; that he saw Buksh Meah and Dukhi there; that he saw Stuart take out the pistol from his pocket and shoot Tulshi; that he heard Stuart say Tulshi "Chup-roa" more than once; and that he saw Buksh Meah catch hold of the pistol after it had been fired.

Guin Dhoi deposed that after he had heard the report of the revolver and a cry of distress, he ran to Tulshi's house and saw Tulshi's left hand over his wound and his right hand on the pistol which the accused was trying to take away.

Ram Charan, a shop-keeper, no way connected with Tulshi, deposed that he went inside Tulshi's room and saw the pistol taken away by Buksh Meah.

Moonchi Marwari, another independent witness, deposed that he saw Guin catch hold of the accused's waist, and Buksh Meah to snatch away the pistol from the accused's hands in the house of Tulshi. The accused then ran away.

Frangi Sing, another independent witness, deposed that, while passing by Tulshi's house, he heard Tulshi crying that the Sahib had shot him. He saw Tulshi pressing his wound with one hand, and holding a pistol with the other which the accused was also holding. He saw Buksh Meah snatch away the pistol from the accused.

Makundi Mudi, another independent witness, also spoke to the same effect.

The statements of all the above witnesses were taken almost immediately after the occurrence by the Police Sub-Inspector. There was thus no time for them to manufacture anything. In the Magistrate's Court they substantially confirmed what they had stated before the Police, and although there were some immaterial discrepancies in their statements when they were cross-examined before the High Court Sessions by a Counsel like Mr. Garth, they all in one voice maintained the main facts, namely, that the occurrence took place at Tulshi Dhoi's place; that the pistol was deliberately fired by the accused, and did not go off accidentally; and that the accused was the aggressor.

The defence was a most extraordinary one. The accused made two statements, one before the Police, and another before the Magistrate. In both these statements he said the occurrence took place at the house of Ram Prosad, and not that of Tulshi! It was, however, pointed out to the jury by the Standing Counsel that the story of the accused was improbable on the face of it, for he hopelessly contradicted himself in his two statements. His version before the police was that he went to Tulshi's place and asked him where his brother Ram Prosad's house was. Thereupon Tulshi took him to Ram Prosad's house which was found closed. The accused wanted to open it, but Tulshi prevented him. The accused, however, entered the house, and Tulshi rushed on him. In the scuffle Tulshi threw the accused down. As they were struggling the pistol accidentally went off.

He said the above to the Police Sub-Inspector. Before the Magistrate he stated a quite different story, namely, that Tulshi was on him and touched the pistol, which was in his pocket. Accused got frightened and touched the same. A third suggestion put forward was that Tulshi was preventing the accused from entering the house of Ram Prosad. When the accused was leaning over, Tulshi caught hold of the muzzle and the pistol went off.

These contradictions left no room for doubt that the story of the accused was not correct. It was also not supported by a single independent witness. Yet these contradictory and unsupported statements of the accused were believed by the jury, and the sworn testimony of more than half a dozen men was rejected by them, and the accused was acquitted! Their verdict is not likely to raise them in public estimation.

Now why should a Dhoi bring a false charge against a European, and half-a-dozen witnesses, many of whom had no relationship whatever with the complainant, agree to swear away the accused's life, if he

were innocent? It was contended on behalf of the accused that, it was hardly possible for a young man like him to use his revolver against the Dhoi upon the provocation he had received. On the other hand, his youth was very much against him. Armed with a revolver, what was more natural for a young man, when under a passion, than to lodge its contents upon the party who had offended him? It is quite clear that the accused was bent upon some mischief, otherwise why should he go in a Dhoi's house with a pistol in his pocket?

What has caused us pain and surprise is the Judge's charge to the jury. Mr. Justice Geidt, who tried the case, is one of the best Judges we have got in the High Court. From him, we expected a better and fairer summing up. How could his Lordship disbelieve the statements of so many independent witnesses and believe the improbable story of the accused? Of course he did not ask the jury, in so many words, to acquit, but that was the only possible construction that could be put upon his charge to the jury.

HOW THIEVES ARE FLOURISHING IN THE VILLAGES.

When the East India Company obtained possession of Bengal, they found themselves confined within the capital city. It was then that sovereign Zemindars, dacoit-Zemindars and professional dacoits ruled the country. Bisswanath Babu was the Robin Hood of the Districts adjoining Calcutta. His headquarters were Nadia and Jessore. Robin Hood's scouts, whenever they got hold of a way-farer worth robbing, addressed him to this effect: "Our master, the Earl of Huntingdon, known all over the world as Robin Hood, has invited you to a dinner." As a matter of fact, the victim was well treated though robbed by Robin Hood.

Bisswanath Babu followed a similar course. He would send a note to his victim intimating that he and his men would pay him a visit the following evening and take their dinner at his house. If the victim felt himself strong enough to resist his attack, he put his house into a position of defence. But this was rarely done; for, Bisswanath Babu was irresistible with his five hundred men armed with matchlock. The usual course was, however, to send rupees three hundred to the Babu to avert the honour of a visit from him. These dacoit bands have been annihilated by the energetic rulers of the land. But their place has been filled by thieves. The Bengal villages are now full of them.

Indeed, the present is the era of thieves, as the past was that of dacoits. Thieving has become now a flourishing and very safe trade in this country. One thief is enough to demoralize an entire village. Whoever has heard of a thief being caught by the police? If it is ever done, it is a rare spectacle.

Villagers when robbed by thieves never willingly go to give information to the police. For if they do it, they never derive any benefit; on the other hand, they have to see those who come to help him.

Often times a man who has given information to the police is prosecuted for having given false information. Even respectable men are not safe from such prosecutions. Take the case of Rai Bahadur Goput Singh of Azimganj, which we noticed the other day, and in which Mr. Magistrate Carey took such a disgraceful part.

This is how the thieves are kept in check in the villages: Here is a story true in every particular. Madan is a thief, at least, he got two years for alleged theft. So he is kept in surveillance by a Police constable of almost Rs. 9 per month. This constable has to see that Madan is not marauding, but peacefully sleeping in his house, at night. But Madan has now more opportunities of thieving than he had before. He pays a portion of his spoil to the constable; and the result of this arrangement is that while Madan keeps himself awake, especially in dark nights, the constable sleeps peacefully in his station. Madan is now more reckless than before; for if he is caught the constable will swear to his being found asleep in his house on the night of the occurrence.

While all violent criminals have practically disappeared from the country, it is petty thieves only who are flourishing. So the main duty of the Police Commission was to gather information on this subject, and suggest proper remedies. They however did nothing of the kind. They should have held at least some of their sittings in important villages, and acquainted themselves with the actual state of the crime in the rural tracts. If they had done it, they would have at once fingered the real plague-spot.

On the other hand, the Commission started with the idea that the country teemed with crimes of all sorts, and a stronger Police than what exists was needed to eradicate them. And hence they were for increasing the number of the police force and strengthening its hands in every possible way. What the people, however, require is protection from petty thefts, and the over-zeal of the Police.

There is no doubt about the fact that the country is over-ruled. We have a stronger police here than we need; and the result is this universal cry of bitterness against the institution, and the emasculation of the nation. Just see how powerful the police are. The police constable, and the thief whom he has to watch, combine, and commit thefts. But, if a villager ventures to complain against the constable, he runs the risk of the Magistrate and the Police Superintendent coming down upon and crushing him by instituting a false case against him! Why will not the thieves carry on a roaring trade under such circumstances?

It was no less an authority than the late Dr. Sir W. W. Hunter, who bore testimony to the non-criminal nature of the people, in the following words, in a lecture he delivered before the members of the Philosophical Institution, Edinburgh, in November 1882:— "There was no only about one-third of the crime in Bengal that there was in England. While for each million persons in England and Wales there were 870 criminals always in jail, in Bengal where the Police was completely organized, there were 500 convicts in jail for each million; and while in England and Wales there were 340 women in jail for each million of female population, in Bengal there were less than 20 women in jail for each million of the female population."

Dr. Hunter was at the time the Director-General of the Statistics to the Government of India; his testimony is therefore of special

value. But, it is not necessary to refer to statistics to prove the crime-abhorring character of the people when it is remembered that more than 85 per cent. of them are agriculturists or carry other peaceful avocations; and drink is practically unknown to them. It is only a band of petty thieves who, as a rule, infest them, and the petty theft is the only prevalent crime in Bengal.

The Police Commission apparently was quite unaware of this fact; otherwise, they would have never recommended the recruitment of heedless English youths from England to catch thieves in the villages of Bengal.

Unless competent Indians are placed at the head of the District Police, and the Police and the Magistracy are separated, the Police will ever remain a source of trouble to the people. It is the Indians alone who can control the subordinate police and make them do their duties properly. It is impossible for a Sub-Inspector to hood-wink an educated countryman of his when placed over his head; but an Englishman, however able and clever he may be, is bound to play in the hands of the Osman Ali's in the Police.

INCONSISTENCIES OF LORD CURZON.

When the East India Company owned India, they had extensive patronage in their hands. As soon as the Empire was taken up by the Crown, the British public naturally demanded the system of competitive examination, that it to say, an opportunity of entering public services in India by fair means. In India, it is quite true, as Lord Curzon contends, competitive examination did not exist; but so did not also any alien rule before the English came. The Mussalman rule was not alien, for the ruling classes made India their home; and, though competitive examinations did not exist then, that did not prevent the deserving Hindus from occupying the highest posts of the State. Why the competitive examinations were introduced after the close of the Company's reign has been explained above. It was done in the interests of the ruling classes themselves, and not those of the Indians.

Bengal was wrested from a Mussalman sovereignty by the present rulers, and in deference to that fact, the Mahomedans were given a preference by early British authorities in the matter of public appointments. The Suddar Amins, the Daroggs and some other officers were mainly Mahomedans in the beginning of British rule in this country. But many of them proved either incompetent or corrupt. This necessitated the introduction of a competitive system in India also in a modified form later on. To make a story short, the system of competitive examinations was introduced here for two good reasons. One was to secure the best men available; the other was to silence "influential families with failures," who wanted to make provisions for their incompetent relations.

When men of influence clamoured for posts for their proteges, the Government found in this system of competitive examination an excellent way of keeping them quiet. "Make your men fit and they shall have the posts," said the authorities, and thus silenced the Mussalman and European. For, however, unreasonable they were, they could not find fault with so reasonable a reply.

Now it must be borne in mind that at one time Lord Curzon alarmed the anti-Indian English papers by his pro-Indian utterances. If his Lordship to-day is an open opponent of the competitive system, he was at one time, its open advocate. If he is now eager to create fat berths for his countrymen and the Eurasians, there was a time when he was sincerely anxious to mete out some measure of justice to the natives of the soil. In short, if Lord Curzon is at the present moment an object of ardent praise to papers like the "St. James Gazette," because he, by knocking the competitive system of examinations on the head, has dealt a serious blow to the prospects of deserving Indians, at one time he was blamed by the very same "St. James Gazette" for advocating competitive examinations in the name of justice to Indians.

All this happened in this wise. Mr. McNeill moved an amendment to the Royal Address in 1892, contending that the claims of the Indians to public services have ruthlessly been disregarded. He bitterly complained that the Indians—"the poorest people on earth—are saddled with the most expensive Government," because of importations of costly officials from England.

Mr. Curzon was then Under-Secretary of State for India. In reply to Mr. McNeill's strictures, he said the Government was doing its best, and that the excellent system of competitive examination would remove all the grievances of the Indians. The same statesman, now Lord Curzon, contends that competitive examinations never obtained in India, and would stand in the way of a liberal education! Mr. Curzon's declaration as Indian Under-Secretary of State, upholding the competitive examination on the ground that it would remove the grievances of the Indians, elicited, at the time, the following bitter and malicious comments from the "St. James Gazette":—

"The educated native would beat most Englishmen at the examination game; but nobody who knows India believes that this quality makes him any the more fit to exercise power or responsibility. That able and capable natives should share in the administration is only right and proper. They have not been denied their share. The Bengalee Baboo may come home, pass the Civil Service examination, and become, in the fulness of time, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. There is nothing to prevent him if he has the right stuff in him, which as a rule he has not. The poor student who learns his lessons by the borrowed light of a shop-lamp may in time sit on the bench of a High Court with distinguished English jurists. But if the Queen's peace is to be kept in India, if the country is to be strongly governed, if the peasant is to be protected from the peril of famine and the menace of invasion, if justice is to be rightly dispensed, if the revenues are to be fairly collected and expended, promotion in the public services must be regulated, not by sentiment, but by expediency. And expediency does not require, nor even justify, the selection of an Asiatic for a post which would be more efficiently filled by a European."

This same "St. James Gazette" is now derisive with joy in consequence of Lord Curzon's utterances against competitive examinations! But how was it that Lord Curzon could act so inconsistently? If his Lordship had been here, we would have pointed out to him that, his deliberate declarations as Indian Under-Secretary of State in 1892 are quite at

variance with his declarations in his Educational Resolution as Viceroy of India. What brought about this radical change of views in him?

When Lord Curzon first came out as Viceroy, he was very much struck with the abilities that the Bengalees displayed. Apparently this did not give him pleasure; on the other hand, he seemed to feel that something should be done to check the progress that this intellectual race was making. He found in the Eurasians a community which could be pitted against the Bengalees and so encouraged as to be able to put in check the "pretensions" of the latter. But competitive examinations were not the means to accomplish the object, as Eurasians, as a rule, faint away at the name of these examinations. Hence the system was cleverly done away with and replaced by nomination. Nothing will now prevent the authorities from keeping away brilliant Bengalee youths from the public services, and filling them up with mediocre Eurasians.

We are very grateful to Sir Andrew Fraser for the prompt action His Honour has taken in connection with the chur land scandal at Berhampore. It will be remembered that, Mr. Carey, the Magistrate-Collector of Murshidabad, sought to oust the proprietors of this land by sheer brute force, that is to say, by issuing an illegal notification and proclaiming by beat of drums that the land belonged to Government. The Collector went the length of empowering a Sub-Deputy Collector to proceed to the spot after dusk and take possession of the land, which the latter actually did. The conduct of Mr. Carey created the greatest alarm possible, for every one felt that his property was not safe under the energetic administration of such a Collector. We drew the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to these high-handed proceedings in rather strong terms, and we are glad to learn that the Collector has been compelled to eat the humble pie, and undo the mischief his act was calculated to do, by issuing the following counter notice:—

"NOTICE. It is hereby notified for general information that so much of the proceeding dated 5th April, 1904, by the Collector of Murshidabad taking possession of the chur accreted to the Bagirathi embankment as purports to take possession under Regulation XI of 1825 and Act III (B.C.) of 1868 is hereby withdrawn, as the said chur is not an Island and the provisions of the said Regulation and Act are not applicable. H. D. CAREY, Murshidabad Collector. The 4th May 1904."

Mr. Carey has to thank himself for this humiliation. Fancy his ridiculous position. As the lord of the district, he cannot afford to play the ignorant. He is, however, obliged to confess that he did not understand the law when he issued his previous notification! What makes his position still more humiliating is that it was pointed out to him that he was making a stupid blunder, but he paid no attention to it. It is now for His Honour to decide whether or not Mr. Carey should be allowed to stay in Murshidabad where his prestige has suffered so seriously in the eyes of the public. Another illegal notification of his was also withdrawn on a previous occasion, though he forced it upon the Khas Mehal ryots and caused great consternation among them. As a Magistrate, Mr. Carey has proved himself equally high-handed as he is as a Collector. We trust His Honour will be pleased to ask him to explain his conduct with regard to the monstrous case which at his instance, was instituted against Rai Bahadur Goput Singh of Azimganj, and which caused such terror in the district.

A MURDER case came on appeal before Mr. Justice Pratt and Mr. Justice Handley on Thursday last from Tippera. The accused were one Jaffar Ali and another, who were convicted by the lower court under section 302 I. P. Code, and sentenced to transportation for life by the Sessions Judge of Tippera. The Hon'ble Judges, after hearing the arguments on behalf of the appellants, convicted them under section 326 I.P.C. and reduced their sentence to five years' rigorous imprisonment each. Now, who can deny in view of the result of the appeal, that the Sessions Judge was more unduly severe than he ought to have been? Surely there can be no pleasure in inflicting unnecessary pain upon one's fellow creatures. Yet, the Sessions Judge of Tippera subjected two men, criminals though they were, to life-long miseries, though, under the law, he might have treated them more gently. One piece of advice to the Sessions Judges. We are all criminals, more or less, in the eyes of God. How would a Sessions Judge fare in the other world, before the Great Judge, if he were judged, for his slips, by the same standard which he uses when sentencing an unfortunate fellow-being, hauled up before him for punishment for his slips?

In India ninety per cent. of the population have to toil daily from morning to evening to earn a pittance to keep their bodies and souls together. They have thus absolutely no time to devote to the amelioration of their condition, which is perhaps the most deplorable in the world. In England they have superabundance of energy because of its being the wealthiest country in the world, and they do not know how to expend it. Such a question as prison-life affects the Indians the most; for, not only are criminal laws here draconian in their character, but they are administered in a right ferocious spirit, as a rule, when the Indian culprits are concerned. A reform in this direction is therefore very much needed. But where is the man who has leisure enough to take it up? In 1893 the Indian Relief Society did good service in this connection by opening communication with the Howard Association in England; but since then, no step has been taken to mitigate the rigors of the hard lot of the Indian convict. From the mail papers to hand, we find that, Lord Alverstone, the Lord Chief Justice of England, presided, on April 20, at the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society; and in moving the adoption of the report, he appealed to the public for help towards the improvement of the criminals:—"He said he was glad to think that of recent years Judges had a further duty than sentencing people, and that there was a larger question than mere punishment. Lately he had been reading with great interest reports and

articles on the probationary system, or system of control apart from actual confinement in prison, which was being practised in some of the States of America."

"Those articles showed that people were looking at this question from a broader standpoint, and one great reason why this society should be supported was that it would land people to consider whether or not improved methods could be found of reclaiming prisoners. "The experience of the society's agents showed that a large proportion of discharged prisoners were really anxious to turn over a new leaf, and a man or woman should never be able to say that he or she was not given a chance on coming out of prison."

If we remember aright, a similar society was started at Allahabad under the presidency of Sir A. P. MacDonnell. Is it still in existence? Here is a movement which can be started in Bengal, and in which all classes of people, official and non-official, irrespective of their religion or creed, may join with heart and thereby further the cause of humanity.

It is only now and then that Providence allows Himself to be seen by mortals below. When pious men find that injustice is thriving—wrong-doers lord it over innocent people—they naturally come to the conclusion that if God exists, He does not take any interest in the affairs of mankind. But Providence, there is no doubt of it, has at last taken pity on Bal Gangadhar Tilak. There was no earthly chance of Tilak's being able to extricate himself from the net of difficulties in which he was enmeshed. Here in India the officials, as a rule, hunt, like the dhole, in packs. It was known that Mr. Tilak was to be extinguished; and they all, each in his own way, contributed his mite to the accomplishment of this object. The success of the mission was all but complete—what only remained to be done was to consign Tilak in jail as soon as the High Court had confirmed the sentence of the Sessions Judge. There is however many a slip between the cup and the lip; or the conspiracy, formed and nourished with such tender care, was smashed to pieces! In this extraordinary incident, many will see the hand of Providence. Why Mr. Tilak was persecuted we know not; possibly he was persecuted because he was believed to be the last of the wily Maharattas from whom the English wrested the Indian Empire. We do not know, but it seems to us that a persecuted man like Mr. Tilak we have rarely come across. And when Mr. Lucas, the Sessions Judge did not cancel the sentence passed upon him by the lower court though reduced it to six months, we prayed to God to take Mr. Tilak away from this world of wrong and misery, into His all-loving bosom. He is, however, now not only free, but getting sympathy from all quarters; nay, even from Englishmen, who never knew him. A noble-hearted relation of a noble-hearted Englishman is going to publish a narrative of his sufferings in a pamphlet. We dare say the generous sentiments of Englishmen will now be roused to speak not only words of consolation to the much-oppressed Maharatta Brahmin, but also to express their abhorrence of the methods followed by his persecutors. We expect some good from the persecution to which Mr. Tilak was so relentlessly subjected.

Our Jubbulpur correspondent, whose letter was published in our yesterday's issue, has given a short history as to how the Reading Room connected with the local Hitkari High School was compelled to discontinue Mr. Tilak's paper "Kesari." Thick-headed must be the officials, who seek to punish "disagreeable" newspapers in this fashion; for far from hurting them, they, on the contrary, rather do service to them by the betrayal of such petty feelings. We can guarantee that, if they have succeeded in making Mr. Tilak lose one subscriber, the announcement of the fact will go to swell the number of "Kesari's" subscribers by dozens.

"The Statist" in a recent article on the Indian Problem says:—

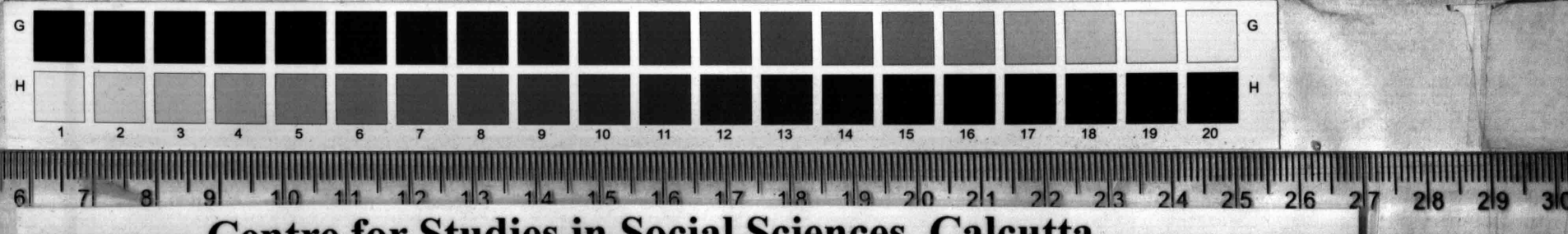
"India is a great producer of both wheat and cotton. But Indian wheat and Indian cotton rank low in the European markets. It is to be hoped that new attention will be given to these matters. Of course, we know it is said that the climate accounts for the inferiority of the Indian products. We are, however, not satisfied that that is so. Anyone who is interested in such questions will learn much, if he studies for a little while what is being done in the United States to improve the quality of almost every commercial article produced there. Already very material results have been obtained, and we do not ourselves entertain the least doubt that if a department for the study of all these matters in India were liberally endowed and provided with the best talent that could be found, it would soon revolutionise Indian agriculture and Indian trade."

The Pusa Agricultural College has been started for the improvement of Indian agriculture on scientific basis. Whether the institution will serve the purpose or not, it is more than we can say. But one thing is certain. It has created some fat berths for Europeans.

The London "Echo" observe:—

"THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN INDIA. "We are surprised to hear from the "Amrita Bazar Patrika," that the Punjab Government is going to appeal against the decision of the magistrate in regard to what is called the Sardarjung case—a case which created a good deal of sensation. It may be in the recollection of the reader that some time ago a vernacular paper in the Punjab published something against the official conduct of Sardarjung, Police Inspector of Mooltan. The authorities took notice of it and the Police Inspector had to bring a libel suit against the editor to vindicate his character. The case assumed the form of something like a State prosecution. Subsequently the trying magistrate decided in favour of the accused. The matter ought to have stopped there. But no, that is not to be. The Government has now declared in favour of the Mussulman Police Inspector in an open manner, as its present intention clearly implies."

Our brother, the Lahore "Tribune" ought to be able to inform the public as regards the further development of the case. The Indian papers are an eye-sore to the authorities, generally speaking. Yet, with all their faults, they do more real service to the Government



[From our own Correspondent.]

London, April 22.

THE INDIAN POLICE COMMISSION. A question asked yesterday in the House of Commons to Mr. Brodriek on the subject of the Police Commission brought a lengthy reply from that gentleman. The questioner was Sir Seymour King, who wished to know whether the attention of the Secretary of State for India had been called to a statement made officially on 15th February last by Sir Denzil Ibbetson, at a meeting of the Viceroy's Council, to the effect that the issues involved in the recommendations of the Indian Police Commission were at that time before the Secretary of State for India, and that the publication of the Report depended upon his consideration of the question; and whether he would explain the delay in the consideration of the question.

To this, Mr. Brodriek replied as follows: "I have not seen any report of a statement by Sir D. Ibbetson that the recommendations of the Police Commission were before me for consideration, nor would such a statement have been correct. But he appears to have said, quite accurately, that the publication of the Report was deferred under my orders and those of my predecessor, until the consideration of the issues involved should be further advanced. As I have already explained on more than one occasion, and as the Viceroy has also stated in the speech which he delivered on the Budget on 30th March, the report had to be laid before local governments for their opinions; and until those opinions have been obtained orders cannot be passed upon the recommendations of the Commission. So far as I am aware, there have been no unavoidable delays in the consideration of the subject, and I have pressed the Government of India to expedite their recommendations so far as they are able.

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN HUMANITARIANISM.

Is the Anglo-Saxon race degenerating? I must confess that, to me, there seems to be only too many signs that this question must be answered in the affirmative. There are men like that popular London preacher, the Rev. R. J. Campbell, of the City Temple, who strenuously advocate the unity of the Anglo-Saxon races in order that they may dominate the world and regard this as the grandest secular undertaking to which Englishmen and Americans can devote themselves. In the face of what the two chief Anglo-Saxon countries are doing collectively and individually, I confess I do not see how good can come to the world at large by the increasingly-brutal Anglo-Saxon securing complete domination. As, if the Campbell idea should ever be realised, you in India, would certainly be brought more completely under the control of that idea than you are at present, it may be well that you should see how individually and collectively, some Anglo-Saxons are sporting themselves.

1. The Individual Example.—England. When Francis Parkin, a North Milton farmer, was charged on Tuesday last with ill-treating his eleven-year old son, a daughter said that on one occasion the lad was tied by the heels and suspended head downwards from a hook in the ceiling. The defendant then asked all the children who had been assembled how many strokes he should give the lad, and threatened to kill them if they did not reply. They answered, "One", and he struck the boy with a stick. Then he said he would give him sixty strokes for his mother, and sixty for himself, and sixty for the baby, and the defendant was alleged to have inflicted this number of stripes. The boy was unable to go to school for several days. Parkin was committed for trial.

2. The Collective Example.—America. Serious rioting broke out on Tuesday at Garretts, Pennsylvania, where a number of anthracite coal miners have gone out on strike. The miners secured possession of a number of guns, and proceeded out to terrorise the town. They advanced in a body against the coal miners, and called on the non-unionists to join the strike. On receiving a negative reply, the miners opened fire on the mines, and the unionists replied with pistol shots. About two hundred shots were exchanged, when the rioters retired, having several of their number wounded. Some of them then proceeded to a house occupied by a non-unionist worker and set fire to it. Six persons were inside at the time, and they were all burned to death. The rioters gained full control of the principal streets of the town, the local police being powerless against them.

If the exponents of the Anglo-Saxon Idea that all the peoples of the world should come under the domination of the Western race, would give a little more time to the bettering of the Anglo-Saxon character and conduct, they would be more wisely occupied than in dreaming dreams of a world-empire. And they would not look so ridiculous.

ANOTHER LINK IN A BINDING AND FLESH-CORRODING CHAIN.

What, probably, will prove another wrong to India is manifest in the new army arrangements which the new Secretary of State for War is making. Mr. Arnold-Forster, who succeeded Mr. Brodriek at the War Office has drafted a new scheme of drastic reorganisation which is now being considered by the experts of the Army Council. Briefly summarised, the reforms advocated by Mr. Arnold-Forster are as follows:—

- (1) New principle of organisation to replace the army corps.
(2) Separation of Army at home and abroad.
(3) London to be directly responsible to the Army Council.
(4) Unification of the British and the Indian Armies.
(5) Popularisation of the Army, to secure better recruiting returns.

Under this scheme the whole of the Empire will be grouped into a new administration system, whose underlying principle of organisation will be that of the divisional units for peace and war composed of compact bodies of 10,000 men of all arms under independent generals. Four out of five of the proposed reforms may command ready assent and enlist hearty support. But the fifth, that is No. (4) of the summarised reforms given above, ought to be opposed. For the unification of the Indian Army must be disastrous to India. In all respects the Indian forces will have to be maintained on an equality with the other portions of the combined forces. The rate of expenditure will be dictated by the ability to

than they do to their own countrymen. They no doubt advocate the interests of their motherland, but their voice is not heard and they only cry in wilderness. It is, however, through their help that the Government is enabled to keep itself informed daily of the currents and under-currents of the Indian society without spending a pice, and about which it is impossible for its own paid agents to know anything. When the Sham Bazar and the Tallah riots took place, a few years ago, and a rabble of Mussalman fanatics defied the police and kept the city of Calcutta in a state of terror for two or three days together, it was this journal which prevented the despatch of a company of troops from Dinapur, by stating authoritatively that the apprehended descent of thousands of up-country Mussalman to help their co-religionists in the town was a myth, and that the rioters would disperse of their own motion in a day or two. Even the greatest of the Bengalee detectives, the late Rai Jogendra Nath Mitter Bahadur, believed in the rumour circulated by some mischievous persons, and thought it his duty to place the information before the Government. The fact was, our emissaries had access to the rioters and they knew their movements, but a Government official could approach them only at the risk of his head being broken. Similarly, it is the Indian papers which supply the Government with information regarding the manner in which the administration of the country is carried on, and thus enable it to remove popular grievances or correct its erring officers. In this way the press renders substantial service to the Government; yet, the latter, in its heart of hearts, does not like the journalist because he criticises its men and measures. Hence the sedition law; the prosecution of newspapers whenever they make a slip; the Official Secrets Act and so forth. When will the Government realize that by muzzling the press, it will harm itself more than the newspaper man? The press now serves the purpose of a beacon light to Government. If it is put out or dimmed, the Government will find itself enveloped in full or semi-meridian darkness, and thus commit blunders at almost every step, and see a spectre in every bush.

ONE of the objects of the circulation of a large number of the copies of the "Patrika" in England is to keep our friends there acquainted with the real state of affairs in India. It is impossible for them to know it either from blue-books or Anglo-Indian papers. In the former, the lion paints himself; indeed, the authorities here cannot speak the whole truth without condemning themselves. As regards the latter, the Anglo-Indian press rarely deals with questions purely Indian, and a very few of its members can discuss a subject dispassionately when it affects both Indians and Anglo-Indians. Thus, the general notion in England is that the Indians are better governed than even the Englishmen themselves! Whereas the truth is that the Hindus, who were once a great people, who gave civilisation, religion and literature to half the world, and who succeeded in preserving their greatness to a large extent even during the time of the Mussalmans, have lost all their manliness and virility under the enlightened rule of England. And why should they not deteriorate in this manner when they have not the privilege of even appointing and dismissing their own village watchmen; when they are treated as perpetual children by their rulers; when they are subjected to a systematic economic drain which would have impoverished even England, the richest country in the world, in a few years, and rendered it liable to frequent famines; and when repressive laws, draconian in their character and administered with relentless severity, hang over their heads like the sword of Damocles? Our London correspondent is perfectly right when he says that it is the duty of those good and large-hearted Englishmen, who have kindly taken up the cause of India in their hands, to know something of the country and its people. For, by their ignorance they may do more injury to the Indians than the open enemies of the latter are able to do by their malice. And the best thing they can do to acquire a true knowledge of Indian affairs is to read newspapers conducted by the Indians themselves.

How cholera is decimating some of the districts of Bengal will appear from the following facts gleaned from the Annual Report of the Government of India's Sanitary Commissioner for 1902 just published:—

"In Bengal in 1902 the total number of deaths recorded as due to cholera was 150,971, or 2.02 per mille of the population, as compared with 110,753 or 1.43 per mille in 1901. The disease appeared in every district during 1902, attacked 22,642 villages and assumed an epidemic form in 67 registering circles, as compared with 43 in 1901. The highest district ratios were those of Muzaffarpur, 24-Parganas, Howrah, Nadia, and Faridpur, while Ranchi and Darjeeling were the least affected of all the districts. As compared with 1901 the incidence of the disease during 1902 was higher in all but 11 districts. The highest municipality and town death ratios were 27.46 per mille in Sitamarhi in the Muzaffarpur district, 16.31 in Kotruing and 12.34 in Baidabati, both in the Hooghly district. The ratios of 27 other towns ranged from 5 to 11.67 per mille. The provincial Sanitary Commissioner offers no remarks on the increased prevalence of cholera during 1902. In twenty districts during the cholera outbreaks, the tanks and wells used for drinking purposes were disinfected with permanganate of potassium, and the Sanitary Commissioner remarks that though in most places no systematic record of results was kept, the measure is generally said to be attended with beneficial results."

There is no doubt that one of the main causes of cholera is foul water. Sixty or seventy years ago the disease was practically unknown among the people; and this was, because, good drinking water was at that time available in sufficient quantity in every part of the country. There was not a village, or even a petty hamlet, which had not its separate tanks for bathing and drinking purposes as well as for washing cattle and clothes and cleansing utensils. But now there is scarcely a village, even a big one, which can boast of a single tank containing wholesome water. As a rule, during the three or four hot months of the year, all the tanks and beels are wholly or almost wholly dried up; and thousands have to use the muddy water of the same tank, or rather pond, not only to quench their thirst, but also to wash themselves, their clothes and cattle. Many of the rivers have

also silted up during the last five or six decades. Those who live on the river side are thus no better than their fellows who cannot avail themselves of river water. It is a wonder that more men do not die of cholera and other diseases; for, the water which they drink, generally speaking, is nothing but veritable poison. The water problem ought to attract the first and the most serious attention of Sir Andrew Fraser. For, as stated above, cholera and malarial fever are directly due to the use of dirty water by the millions in this Province. If the Road Cess Fund has any legitimate duty to do, it is to remove the water difficulty from Bengal.

A CORRESPONDENT from Dacca has furnished us with the circumstances under which a girl, who was sentenced to transportation for life, succeeded in escaping from the clutches of the law. Soudamini Jugi—that is the name of the girl, and who is still in her teens—was sent up by the police of thanna Keranigunj on a charge of murder by arsenic poison. In due course, she was committed to the Sessions for trial under sec. 302 I. P. Code by the Senior Deputy Magistrate of Dacca. In the Sessions three out of five jurors returned a verdict of "guilty" and the Sessions Judge, accepting the verdict of the majority, sentenced the girl to transportation for life. For a time, it seemed it was all over with her. Luckily for her, her fate moved the heart of a pleader of the Bar, Babu Sanyasi Charan Roy, who, though a junior pleader, conducted the defence out of pity for her and without any remuneration in the Sessions Court. When the Sessions Judge passed his judgment, the pleader did not despair, so fully was he convinced of her innocence. He got an appeal filed at the High Court at his own expense and succeeded in enlisting the sympathy of Babu Harendra Narain Mitter of the Calcutta High Court, who very kindly argued on her behalf without any fee. The result was, that the Judges, convinced of the innocence of the girl, set her at liberty. And thus a God's creature, a girl of tender years, was saved from life-long misery. We hope that the result of the case will have a wholesome effect upon those, who had a direct hand in bringing about the ruin of the innocent girl from which she had a narrow escape. Great credit no doubt is due to Babu Sanyasi Charan for the part he took in the case. The correspondent gives the following compliment to Babu Sanyasi Charan, which he fully deserves:—

"Now Mr. Editor, had not Babu Sanyasi Charan Roy advocated and most ably pleaded her cause in the Sessions Court, and not taken the further steps as narrated above, all would have been over with the innocent girl. The Sessions Judge bore ample testimony in his judgment to the ability of this young gentleman, and the public is greatly indebted to him for this his philanthropic act and for his fearless independence which other gentlemen of the Bar would do well to follow as an example. It is terrible to think of the fate of a girl of tender years still in her teens, from which she has been rescued by the instrumentality of this good man and true."

THE INFLUENCE IN ENGLAND OF "THE PATRIKA".

We call the following from the letter of our London correspondent:—

I doubt if any propaganda work for India in England has been more splendidly justified than the free circulation of a number of copies of the weekly issue of The Patrika amongst the newspapers and prominent politicians of the United Kingdom. Again and again in conversation your correspondent is delighted with references he hears to something or other which appeared in The Patrika and attracted sufficient attention to become the subject of comment. There can be little doubt that every copy is opened on receipt and eagerly read. How much the sub-editors of the newspapers which receive the summarized issue of the great Calcutta daily appreciate their contemporary may be judged by the frequency with which they quote from its columns, it is not going too far to say that The Amrita Bazar Patrika is now much more frequently quoted in the English press than all the other Indian papers put together. This enterprise of Press education, undertaken so quietly and so effectively between one and two years ago, has fully justified itself. I do not often refer to comments which The Patrika calls forth in its English contemporaries. For once my practice may be broken to draw attention to a paragraph from the pen of that most devoted of Indian's friends, Mr. J. A. Wilson, editor of the Investor's Review. This paragraph deserves quotation because of the rebuke to the too mild characteristics of the Indian people in the presence of terrible suffering which is contained in its last sentence. That sentence is as follows:—

"Unfortunately India is so quiet that the average citizen has no occasion to turn his attention to it as a part of the Empire needing his vigilance unless roused by a famine of unusual intensity."

The sentence, as it stands, detached from its context, conveys a rebuke. But, in its natural position, as the climax of Mr. Wilson's comments it gains largely. This is the whole paragraph:—

"The London correspondent of the Amrita Bazar Patrika waxes indignant with Dr. MacNamara for omitting all reference to the high mortality in India when dealing with that on the Witwatersrand. The figures he contrasts are appalling enough, showing as they do that the death rate in India has been much higher than even amongst the often ill-treated blacks at the Transvaal mines, but is he not a little hard upon Dr. MacNamara? It is one of the penalties of our enormous empire that men's minds cannot keep a synchronous grasp of the facts relating to its myriad interests. The average mind, even if an acute mind, is capable of concentration upon only one set of facts at a time. By and by, perhaps, it may be the turn of India to get some attention. Unfortunately India is so quiet that the average citizen has no occasion to turn his attention to it, does not regard it as a part of the empire needing his vigilance, unless roused by a famine of unusual intensity."

I do not plead guilty to being a little hard on Dr. MacNamara, M. P. The Doctor is one of the Members for India, and it is his duty to know something of the country and the people which he represents. It may, as Mr. Wilson says, soon be the turn of India to

get some attention, but, if this should happen, the attention will be of a very unsatisfactory character and can only be such while the Indian people accept their position of inferiority and suffering with such bewildering and disastrous equanimity.

SCRAPS.

No official announcement has been made regarding reinforcements for the force in Tibet, but the fighting on the 5th and 6th instant shows that operations on a larger scale than has been anticipated are now practically certain.

The full text of the Police Commissioner's Report is not likely to be published shortly. Judging from Mr. Brodriek's reply to Mr. Herbert Roberts in the House of Commons on the 20th April last there seems no probability of the immediate publication of the Police Commissioner's Report. The Secretary of State declines to sanction this proceeding until he receives the views of the Government of India and the Local Governments on the subject.

War means loss of life. It not only carries havoc and devastation all along its line, but sometimes runs to the powers concerned on account of the heavy expenses. An idea of the enormous expenditure which Russia will have to bear on account of the present war may be formed from the following. The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Times" provides an estimate of the cost of the war to Russia. By the beginning of June, he states, the expenses will have reached £20,000,000. From that date the Government expect to expend £4,000,000 a month, in addition to the proportion of £4,500,000 provided for transport to the end of the year. If the war lasts for a year and a half, it is estimated that the total cost will not be less than £80,000,000.

Particulars of the recent skirmish, which the mission had with the Tibetans on the 6th instant at Karo La, are as follows. The British casualties were Captain Bethune and four sepoy killed, and fourteen wounded, one since dead. The Mounted Infantry pursued the Tibetans twelve miles, killing many, and found a second camp, on the road to Nangatse, which was burned. The Tibetan loss is about 250 killed, many wounded, and several prisoners, including seven monks, one from the large monastery of Samding. Colonel Brander's force has returned to Gyantse without molestation. The Maxims were fired on Jong during the afternoon, but the fire was not returned. At dusk, however, the Tibetans opened fire from large jingals, and one Gurkha and one follower were hit and have since died.

We have quoted many stories of Japanese patriotism and heroism, here is one taken from the mail papers showing the patriotism of the Russians. Having fallen into trance several times since the outbreak of the war with Japan a young and beautiful Russian fortune teller named Aksinja Petrovoff, living at Liebiask, in the Government of Poltava, said she saw in a vision that at Port Arthur the soldiers were being ill-treated and starved, and subsequently announced that all the soldiers belonging to the reserve were either dead or dying. An inquiry addressed to the Governor having shown that these statements were false, the infuriated villagers burst into the soothsayer's house, stripped her, and bound her to the tail of a horse, which they whipped round the village. Their victim was in a dying condition. But pray, is it patriotism or brutality?

That the British soldier in India is paid more highly than the soldiers in other countries will be patent from the fact that a thrifty man can save quite a round sum in a few years, especially if he is a "single man in barracks," with no family expenses. That thrift is being exercised in many cases is proved by the recent issue of a G. O. C. in which it is notified that a depositor in the Post Office Savings Bank cannot have more than Rs. 2,000 to his credit, exclusive of interest, the inference being that soldiers are known to have put by more than this amount. Attention is accordingly directed to the fact that further savings may be invested through the Post Office in Government securities carrying a higher rate of interest than that paid by the Savings Bank. Is it for this high pay that our rulers are so very eager to send here the surplus of English youths to serve as soldiers in India, though this country does not require their services?

Mr. A. Clark has been confirmed in his officiating appointment as the Traffic Manager of the Bengal Nagpur Railway. With his elevation we expected some additional convenience to the travelling public in that line, but to our utter disappointment we find that he has given us stone instead bread. So long the third class passenger fare on the railway between Howrah and Puri was Rs. 4-1 by both mail and passenger trains, but since the confirmation of his acting appointment, the fare for mail train has been raised to Rs. 4-14. The fares by mail have also been raised between other Stations from Calcutta to Puri and Howrah, Andul, Kolaghat, via Kalaghat and Kharajpur. This is indeed a very retrograde measure specially when the tendency of the Indian Railway is to introduce reduced rates for passenger traffic. We hope the authorities of the Bengal Nagpur Railway will reconsider their decision and thereby remove the additional burden which they have just now imposed upon the laos of poor Hindu pilgrims who travel between these Station all the year round.

That the epithet Ruling Chief, though high sounding, is yet a misnomer is proved clearly by the treatment accorded, now and then to Indian chiefs by the suzerain Government. The world is told that in India the chiefs have unlimited powers in their own states, but practically they are mere puppets in the hands of politicians—their conditions is worse than Indian subjects in British India. The sad fate of the late Maharaja of Patna is still fresh in the minds of our readers. In India we can employ our own servants, but in Indian states the chiefs have not that power. Take the case of the Raja of Nojode. Some time ago the Government asked the Raja to appoint one of its nominees as his Dewan. The Raja refused to accept the Government proffered as his Dewan and asked the Government to allow him a free hand in the matter. But the British Government was determined to have its protégé as the Dewan. The Raja could not brook this humiliation, but he was quite helpless. He had no other alternative but to leave the state and live a retired life at Benares. The Government recognised his adopted son and took charge of the state.

There are sins of commission and omission, but here is an instance of another class of sin, namely unconscious commission of sin. Toiling along a London suburban road with a heavy box, an old woman was overtaken by a clergyman, who out of pity relieved her of her burden and carried it for about a mile and a half. She told him the pathetic story of her life, and was profuse in her thanks for the assistance received. A few days later the clergyman called at the address she had given him, near Kingston, and was told that his aged friend certainly had lived there, but during the absence of the family she had packed up the valuables and made off with them. It was added that she evidently had an accomplice, for "quite a respectable-looking man" had been seen helping her to carry off the booty.

Members of the Temperance Society and everyman who has a drop of sympathy for the humanity must be alarmed or rather horrified to learn that another more deadly intoxicant than the fermented liquor has come to the fore and is now being introduced in several countries. At a recent meeting of an agricultural society at Varulam, Natal, a speaker gave some interesting details regarding the deadly native intoxicant made from treacle. An analysis of this drink—which is called Isitshimiyana—by an eminent doctor showed that it was 50 per cent. stronger than any known alcohol. Four milk-tinsful given to a pig produced death in half an hour. This poisonous stuff is taking the place of Kaffir beer, and is exterminating the population on the coast. Whole kraals, including women and little children of four years old, have been seen reeling drunk, said the speaker, according to "The Natal Mercury" and the scenes of debauchery which followed cannot be described.

The reader is aware that the question of carriage of Bombay mails by the Bengal Nagpur Railway had well-nigh been settled and the company had made the necessary arrangements to run their accelerated mail service from the 1st of April last. But when everything was ready the public were told just a few days before the date fixed that there would be a postponement of 3 months of the arrangement. The public are still in the dark as to why the arrangement was postponed. A correspondent, however sends us the reasons taken from the letter of the Junior Consulting Engineer to the Government of India to the acting Agent and Chief Engineer, B. N. Railway. Here are the reasons:—"This sanction was based on the Inspection Report from the first half of 1903, as I had not then had an opportunity of making myself personally acquainted with the line. Having now inspected the line, I consider that in the absence of fencing there is no guarantee of immunity from serious accidents to trains travelling at high speed; and that unrestricted speed on an unfenced line is opposed to the interests of the public safety." So far so good. But why was the previous sanction accorded at all with out an inspection? This sudden postponement has caused inconvenience to all the railways and the Post Office, for it will be remembered that their representatives had a conference at Simla in October last and decided to alter their time table accordingly.

ACCORDING to the rotation system followed in electing a member to the Bengal Council, the District Boards of the Dacca Division would have the privilege this time of electing a member, but His Honour for special reasons have decided to ask the District Boards of the Chota Nagpur Division to recommend a member to his Council. The Notification says:—"The seat in the Bengal Legislative Council occupied by the Hon. Maulvi Serajul-Islam, Khan Bahadur, who was nominated as the representative of the District Boards of the Chittagong Division, becomes vacant on the 28th July. On the occurrence of the vacancy caused by the expiry, on the 19th August, 1903, of the term of office of the Hon. Babu Chaturbhooj Sahay, who represented the District Boards of the Patna Division, it became the turn of the District Boards of the Dacca Division, in Bengal, to exercise the privilege of recommending a candidate to fill the seat to be so vacated. For special reasons, however, the Lieutenant-Governor decides to invite the District Boards of Chota Nagpur instead of those of the Dacca Division to submit a recommendation for filling the vacancy on that occasion. For the purposes of filling the vacancy which will occur in the expiry on the 28th July next of the Hon. Maulvi Seraj-ul-Islam Khan Bahadur's term of office, rotation will be made to the rotation laid down in the Resolution of 1893; and the District Boards of the Dacca Division will accordingly be invited to exercise the privilege of recommendation on this occasion."

We have almost cried ourselves hoarse over the maladministration of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation now as it is. Its coffers is mainly filled up by the quota of contribution the Indian rate-payers of the city pay towards it, and the money executives of the Corporation like water without being in any held responsible for it to any one. Improvements in some shape or other are being worked out almost daily in the southern portion of the town to add to the comforts and convenience of our white citizens, but the northern part is as bad and filthy as it ever has been. So, the pathetic part of the whole affair is, that the comforts and convenience of those, who pay the major portion of the Municipal revenue, are not at all cared for. Our Municipality is therefore, literally robbing Peter to pay Paul, and we do not know how long this strange system of administration will obtain in Calcutta. In this rainy season the rate-payers of the northern portion of the city have to labour under a sore grievance. As soon as a shower of rain pours down here the streets and lanes in the northern part of the town presents a picturesque appearance. The premises look like so many hillocks standing up majestically in the midst of a vast sheet of water. For hours together, and sometimes even for days together, the streets and lanes remain under water to the greatest disadvantage and distress of the "native" townspeople, while not a drop of water nor an atom of dust is allowed to stand on any of the roads in the European quarters of the town. We wish the Chairman of the Corporation would have a drive in the northern part of the town after a heavy down-pour on one of these days. He will in that case realize and feel that the unpleasant things we so often record against the administration of Municipality are true to the very letter.

The Sipi Fair, one of the annual Simla holidays, has been postponed from the 12th and 13th instant for a month owing to the illness of the Raja of Kothi.

pay of the richest part of the Empire,—that is, the United Kingdom. India, poor though it be, will have to keep in line with England. Proof in this respect is found in the iniquitous impost of English scale of pay—a scale arranged in accordance with English Trade Unions high rate of wages—for British soldiers serving in India. What has happened in that respect will happen in many other respects until the Indian military burden will, in India, become a back-breaking burden for the over-taxed Indian. It has very nearly reached that point already. An expansion of item (4) shows that the proposed unification of the British and the Indian Armies will ensure that the whole of the positions in the Empire will be filled by the best men, irrespective of the section of the Imperial forces to which they belong. Both Lord Kitchener, the commander-in-chief in India, and Sir Neville Lytton, it is stated, hold strong similar views on this point, and the appointment of Colonel Sclater, a home officer, to be Quartermaster-General of India, is in harmony with this new spirit of vital reform, which amounts to a revolution in traditional control. Is it not possible for someone in India or in England to draw attention to India's interest in this matter so that irreparable mischief may not be done? As I ask the question I look around me in England here to try and find the man who should intervene. I look in vain. It is true Sir Charles Dilke at once occupies one's moral vision, only, however, to fade away into nothingness. Sir Charles could do much if he would give adequate and earnest attention to this matter. But, in Indian affairs, the Baronet is never more than perfunctory. He'll make a speech and he'll stop at that speech. He could do very much to save India from injustice in the framing of the new rules. The probability is he will do nothing substantial. If in England one looks in vain for the needed champion can one find him in India? You, who are in India, must answer the question. I cannot. And, I suppose, you can answer it only in one way and that an unsatisfactory way.

ANOTHER ANGLO-INDIAN "CHERISHED ILLUSION" GONE.

Judging by what some of our journals are saying, Lord Kitchener must have joined the ranks of those pernicious rascals whose leader is Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji. The aim of these gentlemen seems to be to make it clear that India is a LAND OF MAKE-BELIEVE, the Paradise of Shams. They seem never to tire of turning the electric searchlight of truth and accurate observation upon the pretensions of a heavenly perfection of rule which are the stock-in-trade of all official persons. And, when these seekers after things as they really are reveal the sorry pretence which has masqueraded as the personification of Justice and Benevolence, what terrible traitors they become. Not they who do the wrong, but those who expose it are the criminals. No self-respecting Briton can even look on the side of the road along which they may be walking. And, now Lord Kitchener has joined their ranks, and with the proverbial zeal of the new convert, has outpaced them all! If there was one thing more than another in the changing phantasmagoria of the many and diverse countries which constitute the British Dominions and which was believed to be beyond doubt or cavil, it was that the British officer and British commanded Army in India was as near perfection as any such organisation could be, and, as such, was a model for all the armies of the world. Lord Kitchener, in that Rescript of his concerning the needed reforms in the Indian Army, has proved, once for all, that this belief is a mere illusion and must disappear. It will not trouble your readers with the opinions I, myself, may have formed concerning Lord Kitchener's famous Order to the Army in India, which Order will be about five weeks old when this Letter is published,—a period quite long enough to permit it to be forgotten, for these days in which we live are crowded days, indeed. It would be better, perhaps, were I to let another "show up" Lord Kitchener's Order in its true light. I select one of the journals belonging to that redoubted Jingo, Alfred Harmsworth, the Napoleon of the British Press, as his fond admirers (and employes) call him. The "Leeds Mercury," the finest output of high-minded and sane journalism for nearly a hundred years until the Harmsworths bought it, is now a Jingo journal. This unimpeachable authority shall testify as to the sham and the deceit which so long imposed upon the British public and led them to repose trust and confidence in Lord Roberts and other eminent soldiers who have preceded and followed him in the supreme command of the Indian Army. Hear what Mr. Harmsworth's carefully selected Jingo Editor says:

- 1. "Another Cherished Illusion Gone." "Hitherto the opinion has prevailed, almost universally, that, whatever the shortcomings of the War Office at home, at least the Army in India had reached, and was kept in, the pink of perfection—ably officered, animated by the finest military spirit, and ready to take the field anywhere within the Dependency at a moment's notice, thoroughly equipped for the most serious calls that could be made upon it. The disposition of various units, too, was concurrently imagined to be on the best method conceivable both for the purposes of offence and defence."
2. Lord Kitchener a Quick Learner. "After holding the command in India for less than a couple of years, during which time he has personally made an exhaustive enquiry into the present condition of the Army there, Lord Kitchener has come to the conclusion that things are not exactly what they seem, and that the picture of the Army, in which it was set forth as being in a state of thorough efficiency has been painted in far too glowing colours."
3. The Bubble Pricked with a Ruthless Hand. "He has pricked the bubble with a ruthless hand. Without mincing words, he declares the military system prevailing in India to be faulty in numerous particulars, both as regards detail and personnel. The forces, he declares, must change their methods of training, eliminate obsolete traditions, and mould themselves on principles suited to modern warfare on a grand scale. Increased knowledge and improved martial qualities are called for all round, and especially does he dwell upon the necessity of greater stress being placed upon the subject of individual training."
4. The System "has grown up without Plan or Method." "Regarding the existing disposition of troops and commands, Lord Kitchener's scathing remarks must make the ears of many of his predecessors tingle. What, for example, will

Lord Roberts think of his curt statement that the present system 'has grown up without plan or method'? No more radical criticism could possibly be passed than that contained in these words; and yet we have all along been resting in the fond illusion that perfection was the key-note of each and every detail in the Indian military organisation."
5. General English Views of India "A Veritable Fool's Paradise."
"Lord Kitchener's proposals will certainly come as a decided shock to the people in this country, who must, after reading the Order, be almost driven to the conclusion that they have been living in a veritable fool's paradise."
The foregoing, let me impress upon the readers of the "Patrika," are not splenetic splutterings from the pen of one of those pernicious persons of the Naoroji-Weddern-Cotton School, but they are the criticisms of the carefully-selected representative of Alfred Harmsworth, one of the greatest of pro-Britons and Gorgeous Imperialists. It does not seem to me that any one of the outsiders, among whom the gentlemen named occupy no mean position, could have bettered this Imperialist's criticism even after putting their best endeavours into the effort. This being the case perhaps, it will, in the future be admitted when the critics express themselves with some vigour on Indian misgovernment and official shortcomings and blunders, that probably there may be good grounds for their animadversions. Anyhow to stand in the pillory with Lord Kitchener may afford them some consolation, for, clearly no one can throw opprobrious epithets at them and leave Lord Kitchener alone, to say nothing of his admiring, yet astonished, critic in a Yorkshire town. Lord Kitchener a leading member of the School of Indian critics! This should yield much comfort to Indian and English critics alike.

High Court.—May 13.

CRIMINAL BENCH

(Before Justices Pratt and Handley.)

OFFSHOOT OF THE SANGRAMGAR SHOOTING CASE.

Rule Issued.

Mr. Pugh with Babus Darasathi Sanyal and Dwarika Nath Mitra moved on behalf of Rajani Kanta Chatterjee and five others for the issue of a rule calling upon the District Magistrate of Burdwan to show cause why proceedings against the petitioners now pending before Mr. Berthoud should not be quashed or in the alternative why the said proceedings should not be transferred to some other Magistrate in the Sadar Station and stay further proceedings in the case pending the hearing of this application or pass such other or further order as to their Lordships might seem just and proper.

Mr. Pugh said that he would put this case before their Lordships very shortly because it arose out of another case which is known as the Sangramgar Shooting Case and which came before Mr. Justice Handley or more than one occasion. Learned Counsel then read some portions from the petition, which dealt with the facts of the case. The following is the full text of the petition:

That on the 27th day of December 1902, at about 12 a.m. one Pashupati Hathi, then a servant of the Hazra Babus of Sangramgar, laid on information in the police station of Assansole, stating that on the same day at about 8 p.m. Mr. Martin, proprietor of the Sangramgar Colliery shot one Bistoo Bowri dead and thereby committed an offence under section 302 I.P.C.

That on the same day at about 6 p.m., the said Mr. Martin laid a counter information at Sangramgar when the police officer, Upendra Nath Choudhury came to investigate the aforesaid charge of murder against Mr. Martin, alleging amongst other matters that your petitioners Rajani Kanta Chatterjee, Haripada Samanta and others committed riot and assaulted the said Mr. Martin, and one Mr. Roberts, who was with him at the time.

That the police investigated both the complaints and submitted an A Form in the case against Mr. Martin on charge of murder under section 302 I.P.C. and so far as your petitioners are aware the police did not at the time submit any final report in the case of the said Mr. Martin against your petitioners Rajani Kanta Chatterjee and others.

That upon Mr. Martin's making an application before Mr. Skinner, the then Sub-divisional Magistrate of Raniganj, praying for sending up the accused persons in a case of riot instituted by Mr. Martin. Mr. Skinner on the 10th January 1903 passed the following order:

"I have perused papers and diaries. The murder case must be tried first. Under the circumstances it will be best for the police to delay submitting final report in the murder case, until after the disposal of the murder case."

That in the murder case Mr. Martin after a preliminary enquiry held by the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Raniganj, was committed to take his trial in the Sub-court of Burdwan on a charge of murder under section 302 I.P.C. and of riot under section 148 I.P.C.

That in the said trial which was held by the Sessions Judge of Burdwan and a jury, Mr. Martin was acquitted.

That the Government of Bengal thereafter having appealed against the said order of acquittal to this Hon'ble Court; the Hon. Mr. Justice Rampini and the Hon. Mr. Justice Handley who heard the said appeal, by their Lordships' order dated the ... set aside the said order of acquittal and directed a retrial of the case by the Sessions Judge of 24 Parganas and a jury.

That in the said retrial the jury having found Mr. Martin guilty under the second part of section 304 I.P.C. the learned Sessions Judge of 24 Parganas sentenced Mr. Martin to undergo rigorous imprisonment for 3 years by his order dated 17-7-03.

That the said Mr. Martin having appealed to the High Court their Lordships the Hon. Mr. Justice Sale and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Handley by their Lordships' order dated ... affirmed the conviction but reduced the sentence to one year's rigorous imprisonment.

That after the decision of the said appeal Mr. Stinton the then Sub-divisional Magistrate of Raniganj on the 10th of December 1903 passed the following order:

"Police to submit A Form under section 147 I.P.C. against the persons named in the first information fixing 4.1.04 for trial." A certified copy of the said order is annexed herewith and marked A.

That on the 9th January 1904 your petitioners surrendered before the Sub-divisional Magistrate and were let out on bail.

That your petitioners are not aware on what materials Mr. Stinton passed that order but your petitioners subsequently learnt from what the Court Sub-Inspector said in Court in the presence of two of your petitioners before Mr. Berthoud that Mr. Stinton passed the aforesaid order on the basis of the judgment of this Hon'ble Court on Mr. Martin's appeal.

That your petitioners submit that your petitioners were no parties to the proceedings to which the said judgment of the High Court related.

That on the 14th April 1904 your petitioners Rajani Kanta and Haripada Samanta through their Muktear presented a petition stating that in the police enquiry there was no evidence against them and as it did not appear on what grounds Mr. Stinton passed an order on the Police directing them to submit an A Form and praying that they might be discharged or in the alternative a month's time might be granted to enable them to "question the legality and propriety of the order of Mr. Stinton before Competent Authorities". Whereupon the learned Sub-divisional Magistrate granted time to your petitioners till the 16th of May 1904. A certified copy of the said petition is hereto annexed and marked B.

That on the aforesaid 14th of April 1904 the Court Sub-Inspector, S. C. Khan and Troilokya Nath Mukerjee the pleader who was appointed to conduct the prosecution in this case put in a petition before the Sub-divisional Magistrate stating that the Police had applied for warrant against the accused persons named by Mr. Martin in the First Information but there was evidence against other persons, some of whom were identified by Mr. Martin during the Police investigation and that there was sufficient evidence against your petitioners Mohesh Bowri, Rungal Muchi, Jadu Muchi, Gosto Bowri and another person and prayed that warrants might be issued against them. Whereupon Mr. Berthoud on the same day without any further materials ordered the issue of warrants against the said 5 persons named in the petition. A certified copy of the said petition and the order thereon are annexed herewith and marked C and D respectively.

That your petitioners 3, 4, 5, and 6, surrendered before the Magistrate and were let out on bail.

That your petitioners are advised that the proceedings taken against your petitioners are bad in law and without jurisdiction on the following:

GROUNDS. For that Mr. Stinton not having acted in conformity with the provisions of section 190 of the Code of Criminal Procedure his order dated the 10th December 1903, directing the Police to submit an A Form under sections 147 without jurisdiction.

For that the order of Mr. Berthoud dated the 14th of April 1904 directing the issue of warrants against your petitioners (3, 4, 5, and 6) not being based on any legal grounds and the joint petition by the Court Sub-Inspector and the pleader for the prosecution not being a complaint on the report of a police officer or the information of any person other than a police officer under clause (c), section 190 of the Code, he had no jurisdiction to make the order and the proceedings against the said petitioners are liable to be set aside.

That in case your Lordships are not pleased to quash the proceedings your Lordships will be pleased to transfer the case from the file of Mr. Berthoud, Sub-divisional Magistrate, Raniganj to that of any Magistrate in the Sadar Station of Burdwan on the ground that Mr. Berthoud having passed the order dated the 14th April 1904 directing the issue of warrants against your petitioners 3, 4, 5, and 6, who were not named in the First Information of Mr. Martin and on the A Form heretofore mentioned Mr. Berthoud ought not to try the case and it will be expedient for the ends of justice to transfer the case from his file.

Mr. Justice Pratt:—Are the petitioners on bail?

Mr. Pugh:—Yes, on bail.

Learned Counsel then read section 190 Cr. P.C. and said that clause (a) of that section provided that Magistrates might take cognizance of any offence upon receiving a complaint of facts which constituted such offence. He submitted here no complaint was made before him. Clause (b) of the said section provided that Magistrates might take cognizance of any offence upon a Police-report of such facts. Counsel submitted that there was no police report before him. Clause (c) of the said section provided that Magistrates might take cognizance of any offence upon information received from any person other than a police officer, or upon his own knowledge or suspicion that such offence had been committed. Counsel submitted suppressing the cognizance was taken from the observations made by Mr. Justice Sale then the case would come under the provisions of section 191 Cr. P. C. which meant that the case would be transferred.

Rule. Their Lordships after hearing the learned Counsel issued the following Rule:—"Let the records be sent for and let a Rule issue calling upon the District Magistrate of Burdwan, to show cause why proceedings now pending against the petitioners in the Court of the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Raniganj should not be set aside on the ground that neither Mr. Stinton nor Mr. Berthoud took cognizance of the case against any of the petitioners within the terms of section 190 of the Code of Criminal Procedure or why in the alternative Criminal Procedure or why in the alternative Criminal Procedure was taken under clause (c) of that cognizance was taken under clause (c) of that section and that accordingly the provisions of section 191 of the Code of Criminal Procedure would come into operation. In the meantime and until the disposal of this rule further proceedings in the matter will be stayed."

We hear from Aden that the Boundary Commission will remain intact for the summer as more work will probably have to be undertaken in the north-east part of the hinterland some months hence.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, May 10.

America and Britain are considering the despatch of gunboats to Nuchwang to protect the people against the bandits who are giving much trouble, and have destroyed already a culvert on the railway.

20,000 Japanese officers and men volunteered for the forlorn hope in blocking Port Arthur; 159 actually participated of which 36 were saved.

An Imperial ukase has been issued calling out large bodies of Russian reservists in Western Russia.

Military critics in England deprecate over hasty conclusions based upon the Japanese successful operations so far and emphasise that battles mainly decide a campaign. They approve of General Kurapatkin's policy of withdrawal.

Attempts have been discovered to destroy the Kronstadt Arsenal. Shavings besprinkled with petroleum were found ignited in a building in which high explosives were stored.

A telegram from Mukden says that railway communication with Port Arthur has been restored.

The Japanese loan of five millions has been fully underwritten at New York at 93 1/2 and is quoted at premium of three per cent.

London, May 11.

A Morning Post despatch from Tokio says that a high angle bombardment of Port Arthur is proceeding.

Admiral Togo reports that since the 6th many explosions at Port Arthur have been heard, but the cause was not ascertained. It is rumoured at Chifu that the Russians are blowing up their fleet to prevent its capture by the Japanese.

Reuter from Seoul says that two hundred Russians are attacking Anju in Korea and that the small Japanese garrison is fighting fiercely.

The Japanese five million loan was issued in London to-day at 93 1/2. Baron Hyashi appeared on the floor of the Stock Exchange as the prospectuses were being distributed, and received a great ovation. The premium on the loan rose to 3 1/2 times.

Foreign tenders for a Russian loan are arriving in Paris. The form of issue is still undecided. There will probably be a first issue of twenty-four millions sterling, and then of eight millions.

Tokio advices confirm the news that the Cossacks have attacked Anju. The Japanese garrison wired for reinforcements and repulsed the assailants.

In the Commons Earl Percy said that the British Consul at Nuchwang had not requested the despatch of a gunboat to protect British interests. Britain had requested the belligerents to safeguard them.

A Daily Telegraph despatch from Nuchwang says that all is quiet there and no fighting is expected, the predicted rising against foreigners is authoritatively discredited.

Russia has declared cotton to be contraband of war, because it is used in the manufacture of explosives.

A Daily Chronicle despatch from Tokio says that the Russians have captured forty-six junks laden with rice belonging to the Chinese Government on the Liaosoo. The junks were enroute to Tientsin. Yuanshikai has energetically protested and sent troops to protect the right bank.

A Daily Chronicle despatch from Shanhai-kwan says that, marching in three divisions, the Japanese Second Army pushed up quickly to co-operate with General Kuroki's force which defeated the Russians with great loss near Waungfong. The Japanese artillery was splendidly handled.

It is rumoured at St. Petersburg that the restoration of the communication with Port Arthur is due to General Stoessel having successfully engaged the Japanese. The General Staff has no confirmation and explains that the Japanese withdrawal from the railroad is either due to pressure from Stoessel or the Russians at Kaiping and other points on the railroad.

London, May 12.

Reuter telegraphing from Shanhai-kwan states that Russians still linger in the vicinity of Nuchwang, and some are even returning to the city. The Japanese are reported to be creeping closer to Port Arthur.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, May 13.

A St. Petersburg telegram says General Kharkevitch reports that a Japanese division of upwards of ten thousand men and fifty guns mostly mountain artillery, approaching Siyuen.

A Russian prisoner states that the assailants at Anju were 700 of the flying column of the Trans-Baikal Cossacks under General Mandaritoff. They started from Liaoyang with twelve days' provisions and covered twenty-five miles a day.

Reuter at Shanhai-kwan says that there are now only 350 Russians at Nuchwang.

In the English eliminating trials in the Isle of Man for the Gordon Bennett International Motor Car races, Mr. C. Earp's car was dashed against a wall at racing speed. He and his brother were hoekingly injured and a spectator was also injured.

Mr. Chamberlain speaking at Birmingham contended that the fiscal movement had produced a great change abroad; nations no longer threatened and dumping had sensibly diminished. He wished them to be certain that the fiscal question will be the issue at the next election, instead of the 'introduction of Chinese into the Transvaal' whereof he fully approved.

GENERAL.

London, May 11.

The following is the result of the race for the Newmarket Stakes:— Henry I ... 1 John O'Gaunt ... 2 St. Amant ... 3

Lancashire has beaten Leicestershire by an innings and 64. Surrey has beaten Hants by 253.

The following is the result of the match between the Warner's Australian team and the Rest of England at Lords. Warner's made 300 in the first innings and 34 for one wicket in the second innings. The Rest of England scored 247. The match was drawn. No play took place on Tuesday owing to rain.

The Chilean cruisers "Esmeralda" and "Chacabuco" have been sold to a New York firm. The loan rose to 3 1/2 times.

A telegram from Gyantse says that the Chinese Commissioner, Ma, deliberately concealed the Tibetan plot to attack the Mission on the 6th instant. Mr. Parr, of the Chinese Customs, who is a Joint Commissioner with Ma, narrowly escaped death. His servants were all butchered.

The Times in an article on Tibet says, we must go to Lhasa and make our treaty there and trusts the Government will recognise this as inevitable with the least possible delay.

London, May 12.

Mr. Brodrick in the Commons said that Government had arrived at the conclusion that recent events would make it inevitable that the Mission should advance on Lhasa unless the Tibetans consent to negotiate at Gyantse.

Mr. Brodrick in reply to question said unless the Amban and a competent Tibetan negotiator appear at Gyantse within the fixed period to be fixed by the Government of India we shall take steps to negotiate at Lhasa. The Imperial Government has informed the Indian Government that they don't in anywise depart from the policy announced in the despatch of 6th November. All necessary steps will be taken to secure the line of communications.

The Transvaal Supreme Court has decided in favour of the supplication of British Indians for an order compelling authorities to grant trading licenses in towns which have been refused by virtue of the law enabling the Government to locate coloured persons.

The Commons have read the Licensing Bill a second time by 353 against 136 votes.

A meeting of Cotton Manufacturers has been held at Washington and discussed the serious condition of the industry, urging that encouragement be given to Italian and other foreign labour. The Secretary of Commerce trusted to see raw material turned into manufactured articles before being sent abroad, enabling finished goods to be supplied when normal conditions are resumed in Asia.

NEWS LATER THAN THE MAIL.

London, April 29.

Speaking at the half-yearly meeting of the Orient Steamship Company, Mr. Kenneth Anderson said that if the company did not obtain a fresh contract with Australia the loss would not be without compensations. The Company would be free of the most onerous speed conditions and from the obligation of the despatch of a mail steamer fortnightly during the seasons when there was an impossibility of avoiding heavy loss. They would also be free to trade with ports from which they were now debarred and to drop others at which steamers now only call because they are compelled to.

The Bishop of Ripon speaking at Leeds declared that the terrible increase of fashionable childless unions was reducing marriage to a mockery. The danger affected the national safety by depriving the nation of five hundred children weekly.

Sir Henry Norman M.P. after an audience with the Tsar declares that England ought to understand that Russia is absolutely determined to emerge victorious from the war with Japan at any cost.

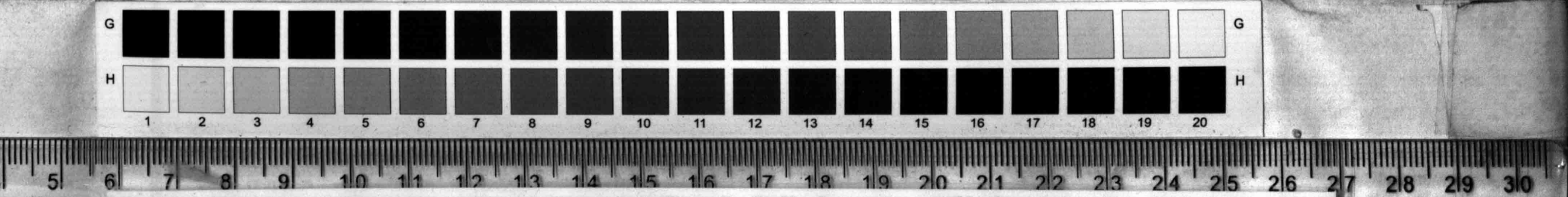
It is stated that seven young Indian Princes members of the Imperial Cadet Corps, will shortly receive commissions in the regular army.

Admiral Svyrdloff is reported to have told the Tsar that his task is almost an impossible one but he will do his utmost.

It is reported at St. Petersburg that a million and a quarter sterling of Government specie was lost in the Petropavlovsk.

Mr. Harding (Wales) completes the Rugby team for Australia. Sharnland (Surrey) replaces Jenkins.

Reports from Kabul show that the crop prospects in Afghanistan generally are good, the harvests promising well, just as is the case in the Punjab and Baluchistan. The high prices which prevailed in the Afghan bazaars consequent on the drought in 1902-03 are now falling, as food supplies seem likely to be abundant.



NOTES FROM JUBBULPORE.

Jubbulpore, May 8.

PLAGUE.

Plague has at last come in our midst. It has appeared in the city after visiting all the villages of this District. Though late in coming it means to stay here for some time. At present deaths from plague are few and far between, but the probability is that it may break out with full force during the rains. If the contingency happens, there would be no limit to our anxieties and sufferings. All the known methods for checking its spread were adopted by our ignorant village people. As soon as a plague case appeared or rats began to die in their villages, the villagers used to vacate the whole village. But this method of evacuation can not be followed by the city people.

"KESARI" UNDER BAN.

Our Hitkarini High School has a tiny little Reading Room for its students. Among other newspapers the school staff subscribed to Mr. Tilak's paper "Kesari." A few months ago the Circle Inspector of Schools visited the school and with it this little Reading Room. He was highly pleased with this useful institution but took objection to the appearance of "Kesari" there. He reported his objection to the Director and then a flat came to the Head-master ordering the discontinuance of that worthy paper. And our tame people have submitted to this uncalled-for and meaningless objection.

NOTES FROM BENARES.

Benares, May 7.

RAJA OF NOGODE.

The Raja of Nogode is living here for several years. The Government asked him to appoint a man as his Dewan whom it would nominate, but the Raja could not brook this humiliation and insisted that he should be given a free hand in his administration. The Government did not withdraw its condition, and the Raja left his state in a pet and took his abode here. He is living a most retired life. The Government wanted to fix on him an allowance of a few thousands, but like a high-souled Rajput he declined to accept the offer and although he is living the most destitute life possible, he never thinks of accepting anything from the Government. He has no issue and is now old and feeble. He had adopted a boy, the son of one of his relations, and at the request of the Government has now formally announced it. The Government has recognised his adoption and has taken charge of him for education. He will be the future Raja of Nogode.

AN HARSHIP TO RY. PASSENGERS.

An order for which the Inspector General of Police probably is responsible, has been issued to the effect that the luggage of low caste men arriving by train should be examined by the Police. I now noticed this at several way-side Railway stations and saw man detained and their goods opened and examined by the Police under their vehement protests. The idea is perhaps that low class people carry away stolen property to their houses, but it is nevertheless most objectionable and an unwarranted restraint on a free man's liberties. This is making Government easy.

OBITUARY.

Lal Jananda Sinha, who was one of the foremost Chief in Rowah State and the trusted Secretary of H. H. the Maharaja and also his Commander-in-Chief, has been prematurely carried away at the age of 32. He enjoyed the unbounded confidence of the Maharaja and was honoured by the Government with a Rao Bahadurship. The Maharaja in token of his regard and in view of his services had made valuable gifts to him, and on account of his untimely and sudden death, the whole state is plunged in deep mourning.

A FRACAS BETWEEN SCHOOL AND CHRISTIAN BOYS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ranigunj, May 10.

On the 24th April last certain native Christian boys entered into the play ground situate within the compound of the Searsole High English School between 5 and 6 p.m., while the school boys were playing there. Most of the Christian boys were grown up in age. They began laughing at the Searsole boys, who asked them to leave the compound which they refused to do. The school boys who, for the most part being younger in years, had, it is said, received a good beating from the Christians.

The Head Master and 2nd Master, who were walking to Searsole, chanced to be present at the tag end of the fight and, on seeing them, the Christians dispersed taking away with them a pair of wooden "mudgars."

The Head Master of the Searsole School, Babu Manomohan Dhar, with a view to settle the matter amicably sent for one Beni Babu, Superintendent of the Native Christian Asylum and shortly after, Beni Babu came with some of the Christian boys. While Beni Babu and the Head Master were talking over the subject, one of the Christian boys dealt a blow with a lathi on the "occupant," of one of the Searsole boys, who was listlessly hearing the conversation. This unhappy incident made an amicable settlement out of the question and the school boy lodged a complaint before the Raniganj Police.

On the following day Mr. Bliby, the Head of the Christians, came to the Asylum. On his way back Mr. Bliby saw the Head Master of the Searsole School.

The Head Master tried to convince him that his Christian boys were at fault and not the Searsole School boys. But Mr. Bliby would not believe a "native."

On the Christian boys threatening to beat the Searsole boys over again, the Head Master suspecting a serious breach of the peace, wrote a letter to Mr. Birchwood, the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Ranigunj, requesting him to take necessary steps to prevent the Christian boys from committing an assault. Probably the Head Master wrote the letter with a view to bring about an amicable settlement and did not lodge a formal complaint simply to avoid dragging young boys to a Court of Justice. But the Magistrate was pleased to advise him to lodge a formal complaint.

On the following morning the Sub-divisional Magistrate accompanied by Mr. Bliby came to the Searsole school. He wanted to see

SCENE AT BANDORA.

PARSI-EUROPEAN SQUABBLE.

The quiet of Bandora and Palli Hill has recently been somewhat perturbed by a street incident which has culminated in a police prosecution in the Court of Rao Bahadur Govindro Dadholkar, First Class Magistrate at Bandora. The interest in the proceedings seems to be accentuated by the fact that the parties concerned happen to be Europeans and Parsis.

The story told by the prosecution, in which Mr. C. E. Durnford, Assistant Secretary to the Agent, B. B. and C. I. Railway was the complainant, was that on the 25th April, at about 6-30 p.m. he was driving from the Bandora station towards Palli Hill when he saw a cyclist standing with his bicycle across the road. He drove by on the left hand side of the road at an ordinary trot. There was in the same trap with Mr. Durnford, Mr. W. P. Peachey, Deputy Traffic Manager of the B. B. and C. I. Railway, and this gentleman warned the cyclist that he was in a dangerous position. The next thing that happened was that the cyclist bicycled alongside his gharry shouting to him to stop. Mr. Durnford drove on, and at the corner turning to Palli Hill he (the cyclist), nearly ran into him. He turned the corner wide and avoided a collision. The cyclist then threw his bicycle on the road and dashed at his pony's head, and forcibly stopped it. Shortly afterwards another cyclist came upon the other side, dismounted and forcibly held his horse on the other side. Witness repeatedly tried to drive on but could not do so. The two cyclists who held the pony turned out to be the two young Parsi brothers, Messrs. Vicaji Sorab and Vicaji Framji Vicaji, the sons of a well-known local barrister. Their rash and negligent act, complainant alleged, endangered his life, Mr. Peachey's life and the life of the pony. There were a number of gharrys behind the dog-cart, which had to pull up. The lives of all the occupants of those gharrys were also endangered as the gharrys in which they were were in the risk of a collision.

Mr. W. P. Peachey, referring to the incident, said that when he passed the cyclists in Mr. Durnford's cart he shouted the remark "get out of the way, you fool, or you will be run into again." He made the remark because he had seen these cyclists almost run into by the gharry in front of it, driven by Mr. Ulinger, an assistant in Messrs. Volkart Brothers. One of the bicycles was being held broadside across the road and it was to the holder of that cycle that he addressed the remark. One cyclist rode after him shouting, and caught the cart opposite the Convent. He threw his bicycle down and rushed at the horse's head and caught it. He understood that the reason the cyclist did this was because he objected to being called a fool. Subsequently the other accused caught hold of the horse's head. The day following the incident he received a letter from Mr. M. Chothia, solicitor, and witness instructed his solicitors, Messrs. Craigie, Lynch and Owen, to write a reply in which regret was expressed for the words used to Mr. Sorab Vicaji.

Mr. Ulinger said that on the evening of the 25th April, while on his way home, he first saw the cyclists, and then heard a yell "Stop! Sepoy, sepoys, sepoys!" Then he saw Mr. Durnford's dog-cart pass at a steady trot. Soon after came two cyclists at a furious rate shouting again "Sepoy!" When witness came round the corner at Shroff's shop he saw Mr. Durnford's dog-cart right across the road and witness had to pull up in order not to run into it. He saw the horse's head held.

Mr. Romall, Assistant to Messrs. Blaschek and Co., and the sycle, Manoo Baloo, employed by Mr. Durnford, were the two other witnesses called in support of complainant's case.

Mr. K. E. Ghamat, barrister-at-law, who with Mr. J. J. Esperance, pleader, appeared for the defence, put in two affidavits by Messrs. Vicaji Sorab and Vicaji Framji Vicaji. The former denied having ridden his bicycle in a rash and negligent manner so as to endanger human life or the personal safety of any person. In the letter addressed by him through his solicitor, Mr. Chothia, on the 26th April to Mr. Peachey the former wrote—"Had it not been for my client's and his brother's presence of mind there would have been without doubt a collision and consequent serious injury. My client says that you appeared to be racing with other gentlemen whose carriages immediately preceded yours, and were being driven in an equally rash and negligent manner. My client is informed that you and some other gentlemen residing at Palli Hill are in the habit of racing with one another to test the mettle of your respective animals. Seeing the danger to which he, his wife and his brother had been exposed, he followed your carriage and asked you to stop the same in order to obtain your name and address. When you ultimately were compelled to stop you gave your name and address reluctantly."

Mr. Vicaji Framji Vicaji, the second accused, aged 24, in his statement gave his reason for giving the occupants of the dog-cart chase, because he wanted their names and address with a view to prosecuting them for rash driving and endangering human lives. There was no recourse left but to hold on to the horse's reins.

Mrs. Vicaji Sorab, a young English lady, was then called for the defence. She said—"A little later than a quarter past six I was cycling along the Bandora Main Road, in company with my husband and my brother-in-law. I saw several traps coming up when we approached Dr. Dord's dispensary. We were not riding abreast, my brother-in-law was leading. The carriages were going very furiously and were being driven on the wrong side. Mr. Ulinger drove past my brother-in-law very close on the right hand side and then went on to the middle of the road on his right hand side. Then another trap passed Mr. Ulinger's carriage and nearly knocked us over. After the carriage passed, one of the occupants turned round and called out "Get out of the way, you fool, or you will be run over too. My husband called to my brother-in-law, who turned round without dismounting and cycled after the carriage. I followed and dismounted by the step on the left side of the dog-cart. My husband said they refused to give their names."

Mr. Ghamat: Did you say anything to the complainant or to your husband?—I spoke to all—complainant, my brother-in-law, my husband and the other occupants of the cart.

Mr. Ghamat: What did you say?—I said "You are too great cowards to give your names." Mr. Peachey gave his name. When I reached the cart the horse was standing quiet. It is not true that we were standing

off our machines in the middle of the road.

In answer to Mr. D. B. Binning, barrister-at-law, who appeared to prosecute, witness admitted that it was a fact that her husband was holding her arm for protection, because the carriages were driving so furiously. She did not hear any cry of "sepoys." Re-examined—My husband dismounted because the carriages were driving fast and because we had been insulted.

Mr. Ghamat said the aggrieved parties, instead of being prosecutors, were made the accused, which was a misfortune. On the 26th April, a day after the incident, his client sent a letter asking for an explanation of complainant's conduct, and on the 27th Mr. Durnford made a complaint to the police. Mr. Peachey expressed regret but made no overtures. It was not their intention to make a row. It was the height of impertinence to call accused a fool, an epithet calculated to cause a breach of the peace. The stopping of the dog-cart was quite justifiable. They wanted the name to make an example of the driver for rash and negligent driving. Counsel then commented on the evidence, and said that Mr. Peachey was a mere reflection of the complainant, who prevailed and shuffled in his evidence.

Mr. Binning will address the Court to-day (10th May).—"A. of I."

MR. B. SMITH, DY. COMMISSIONER OF ATTOCK.

With reference to the allegation of improper conduct on the part of Mr. Bosworth Smith, Deputy Commissioner of Attock, contained in a letter published in our local columns of the 3rd instant, another correspondent places us in possession of facts the serious nature of which justifies our giving them prominent insertion in the hope of attracting the attention of His Honour Sir Charles Rivaz. The people of the Punjab have ample confidence in His Honour's sense of justice and propriety, and we can assure him that our correspondent is a gentleman of position and education whose words are deserving of weight. Our correspondent writes:—

In a decoity case which was taken up by Mr. Smith at Campbellpore on the 15th and 16th ult. the accused were defended by a Pleader from Rawalpindi. The case was heard for 2 or 3 hours on the 15th and then adjourned to the following day. On that day it was taken up at about 10-30 a.m. After the Magistrate was at it for about an hour and half "it was adjourned for 3 quarters of an hour." God knows why. "These 3 quarters of an hour however did not end until quarter past 4 p.m." when the Magistrate was pleased to reappear in his Court. He worked till half past 5 and then again the case was adjourned to 7 p.m., "while the Magistrate himself went away to enjoy his polo." He did not return until half past 8 and then worked on with the case till half past 10, when the case was nominally postponed to 28th April 1904, so as to avoid technically the difficulty of remanding the accused to the lock-up for more than 15 days, but really to the 3rd of May 1904, at Hassan Abdal. The accused, poor men, took an Advocate to Hassan Abdal for the 3rd of May 1904, but the case was not taken up until 5 p.m. when the Advocate who was engaged by the day, and had waited for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., had to come away without rendering more than 20 minutes' service to his clients. "This was the first case taken up that day." The same occurred on the day following in another case which was not taken up until the Advocate had to leave at 5-15 to catch his train of 5-52 p.m. This speaks volumes for the punctuality and regularity of work of this great cricketer D. C. It must be noted that on the 16th ultimo the Pleader and his Munshi, and others had to wait in Court from 10 a.m. to about 11 p.m., without taking any refreshments, etc. The Pleader had also the edification of hearing most unparliamentary language being used by the District Magistrate to his Court Inspector who had the misfortune to conduct the case on behalf of the prosecution.

On the 3rd instant the Advocate, after waiting till after 4 p.m., wrote a letter to the District Magistrate who was inside his retiring room to enquire whether the case was at all likely to be taken up. To this no reply was vouchsafed.

Another incident is reported which, added to the above, goes to show that Mr. Smith is hardly a desirable person for being placed in the charge of an important District. An E. A. C. sent the duplicate key of the outer door of the Treasury to Mr. Smith for being kept in his own custody, with a slip. But Mr. Smith, although he is a Deputy Commissioner and must have passed an examination in the Treasury Codes, did not know that under the rules he had to keep the key in his own charge. He asked the E. A. C. to quote chapter and verse under which this key was to be kept by him. Let our correspondent proceed with the story:—

To save time the E. A. C. thought it best to explain the rules to the D. C. personally. He went and stood by the D. C.'s chair. But the D. C. evidently could not bear the idea of a "nigger," though a Magistrate and Munsiff of the 1st class, coming so near to him. He ordered him peremptorily to remove to a distance. This the E. A. C. did and finding an empty chair sat down thereon. The D. C. on seeing this lost his temper and in a stentorian voice directed the E. A. C. to stand up. The order was repeated 3 times. The E. A. C. deserves some credit for not complying with this most uncalled for and unmannerly order of the D. C. He came away after requesting the D. C. to enquire from him in writing whatever he wanted to know. Mr. Smith may be too much of an Anglo-Indian to show any respect to Indian gentlemen. On the contrary it may be, according to him, the best policy to show Natives "their place;" but he is an Officer of Government and cannot ignore the oft-reiterated orders of the Government that Indian Subordinates like Tahsildars, Extra Assistant Commissioners, etc., etc. should be treated with respect and consideration.

Our Correspondent continues:— There is another story of similar high handedness on the part of this officer. A Pleader, who insisted on being heard in support of certain questions which he had asked in cross-examination and which had been ruled out by Mr. Bosworth Smith as irrelevant, was told to go out of the court room, stand in the verandah, and from there conduct his case. It is a pity that the Pleader, who is a junior member of the bar, did not at once protest and withdraw from the case. But there is nothing to excuse the conduct of the District Magistrate.

We believe here is a batch of cases of sufficient importance to arrest the attention of Sir Charles Rivaz and induce His Honour to institute an enquiry into the allegations made. The case smells strongly to be that of another young Officer anxious to distinguish himself as a "strong ruler."—"Tribune."

Calcutta and Mofossil

Plague Statistics.—There were 18 fatal cases of plague in Calcutta on Thursday, the 12th instant, the seizures being 20. The total mortality from all causes was 88 against a quinquennial average of 76.

Cheating.—Before a Bench of Honorary Presidency Magistrate one Mr. P. W. Robertson was re-arraigned on a charge of cheating in respect of two items, Rs. 46-8-0 and Rs. 100, by falsely representing himself to one Gajadhar that he was the agent of Messrs Graham & Co. Accused was found guilty and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment.

A Suit for Damages.—At the High Court yesterday before Mr. Justice Stephen Babu Kumar Krishna Dutta, Attorney-at-law, applied for the admission of a plaint on behalf of Baharam Chowdhury against I Billalions of Howrah claiming Rs. 4,000 as damages for the breach of contract in respect of silver bar, which the defendant failed to deliver. His Lordship admitted the plaint and ordered a written statement to be filed.

A Truant wife.—On Friday before Mr. D. Weston, the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Babu Gyan Chander Guha made an application on behalf of one Torab, under the following circumstances. The applicant was employed on board a steamer and went out on a voyage in July last. While he was at Rangoon, he heard that his wife had eloped with one Doman. On Tuesday last he came to Calcutta and made a search after his wife and found her in a house in Mirzapore where the couple are living as man and wife. The court after hearing the facts, ordered the issue of a warrant against the wife for her elopement.

A Dangerous Lover Convicted.—On Friday Babu G. N. Paul, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore disposed of a case in which one Muslaf Shaik, a young mohamedan of Borosahab began was charged with criminal trespass and causing grievous hurt. The accused was addicted to visit a female member of a neighbour in the cover of night. The complainant having come to know this, one night caught hold of the accused while stealthily entering into the females room. Whereupon the accused seriously stabbed the complainant all over his body with a knife which he kept concealed in his person and made good of his escape. The charge having satisfactorily been proved against the accused, he was sentenced to eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment.

Wife-murder at Budge-Budge.—On the night of the 10th instant a cold-blooded murder was perpetrated at Barajangal, near Budge-Budge, under the following circumstances:—One Yasin Shaik, a young mohamedan of the village, got married recently, and the wife, who was about eighteen years old, used to run away from her husband's place to her parents' house. Being disgusted with the behaviour of the girl, the young man made up his mind to do away with her. So on the last occasion when she was brought home from her parents' house, he and his wife, after taking their meal at night, retired to rest, but at midnight, when she was fast asleep, after gaging her, he killed her with a sharp dao, after which he bolted, leaving no trace. The police have failed up to this time in effecting his arrest.

A Charge of Theft Against two Women.—Before Mr. W. A. Bonnard the case in which two women and a man stood charged with the theft of ornaments and cash to the value of Rs. 1260 belonging to a woman was called on for hearing. Babu Jotindra Mohun Ghose Vakil appeared for the prosecution and Babu Ganes Chander Mukerjee for the defence. The story for the prosecution was that the two defendants were the tenants of the complainant. On the 12th of Bysack last, while the complainant was away from home, the accused robbed the ornaments and cash and absconded. They were traced in Panscoora and brought down. Tulsi, an uncle of the defendants, was charged with receiving the stolen property with a guilty knowledge. The case was partly gone into and was adjourned to the 19th instant. Tulsi was ordered to be enlarged on bail of Rs. 100.

The amount of silver coin in Indian Treasuries on the 7th was Rs. 9,45,51,277, and that of gold Rs. 16,21,89,707, making a total of Rs. 25,67,40,984.

A rather curious accident is reported to have occurred at the Chandpur Station of the Assam-Bengal Railway. During a recent cyclone some third class bogie carriages, waukeavans, and a covered goods wagon were standing empty on the sidings, and were all overturned by the force of the gale. Had they been loaded or in motion, it is probable they would have been capsized. There is a parallel case of the overturning of a loaded train on the East Indian Railway Company's Loop Line a couple of years ago. It was on the 25th June, 1902, that a mixed passenger and goods train of fifteen vehicles left the Rampore Hout Station at 3 p. m., and encountered a storm near the down distant signal. After travelling about a mile in it the force of the gale overturned thirteen of the vehicles; thirteen passengers were killed and fifteen more were injured, and it took seven hours to clear the line.

Proceedings began at the Colombo Police Court, on the 6th instant, in the case in which Mr. F. H. Frightnest stands charged with cheating Messrs. Boustead Brothers, whose ledger-keeper he was, with aiding and abetting a forger and with making false entries in his book in respect of Rs. 288. The circumstances of the fraud are that Mr. MacMahon used to send monthly reports to the office of Messrs. Boustead Brothers of the amount of metal used on the tram roads. The accused entered these amounts as well as other fictitious amounts, on the strength of appers presented by a metal contractor named Brito, and induced the firm to pay out cheques for larger quantities of metal than had been really applied. It is believed that the man Brito is a myth, for, so far as anybody knows, he was never known to or seen except by two office peons. Although the present charge recites Rs. 288 as the amount of the specific entry on which the charge is based, the alleged fraud dates back from June last when the fictitious entries began, and the firm has been relieved of over Rs. 4,000.—"T. C."

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. Includes a color calibration chart with 20 numbered squares and a ruler at the bottom.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

It is stated that Professor and Mde. Curie are going to the United States to look for deposits of radium. They expect to find more of it there than is available in Bohemia.

Some time ago we mentioned that a foreigner had invented an apparatus for taking the shape or contour of the whole body. Mr. John Gray, of the Anthropological Institute, London, has also brought out a sphenograph to do the like for the skull. It is based on the principle already familiar to us in the appliances hatters use to take the shape of the head.

It would perhaps, be worth while to try if the new N or N-1 rays of Blondlot are of any use as a test for death. These rays are emitted by the living brain, spinal cord, muscles, heart, and other organs, and they are revealed by their effect on the phosphorescence of sulphide of calcium. We have not seen it stated that the body after death still emits the rays, and experiment might be made to ascertain.

A floral map of the United States will be exhibited by the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry at the St. Louis Exhibition. It will cover six acres of a sloping hill, and every State will be outlined by a cedar path. Plants grown in the different States will be represented in the map either out of doors or under glass. A school of gardening will be held beside it, and there will also be a model school garden provided by the Government School gardens are becoming popular in the States.

This new periscope, or else more than one ordinary periscope and their observers, may suffice in clear, calm weather, but, as the journal remarks, "the troubles of blindness begin to overtake all submarines when the wind freshens and the sea rises. Then, with the pitching of the boat, the periscope rocks, and the view swings from sea to sky, and sky to sea, while the salt spray is blown against the glass of the tube. Some inventor should devise a means of automatically keeping the line of sight of the periscope in a level position."

The "Scientific American" discusses the recent loss of the British submarine off the Nab, and refers it to the limited range of her periscope, which, being directed towards the approaching battleship, failed to show the fatal steamer. An improved periscope recently described in a supplement to the "Scientific American" has five separate lenses, four looking to the four quarters of the compass, and conveying a reduced image sufficient for enabling the navigator to see around the horizon, and a fifth looking ahead and giving an image of the true size without distortions.

Biologists admit that psychic centres are localised in the cortex of the brain. The function of language, for example, is pervaded or suppressed when a certain portion of the frontal lobes of the brain is altered or destroyed. Dr. Grasser, in a recent work on "Spiritism," holds that the centres of automatism and sub-consciousness form together a kind of polygonal area. In the "Reve de Philosophie" he also discusses the question of an immaterial soul and its relation to these psychic centres of the brain, and he concludes that the two conceptions are not incompatible. Intelligence, he argues, is a faculty of the soul. One cannot localise it in an organ. The psychic function, however, is more complex. It comprises the immaterial intelligence and the thought expressed, associated, as we observe it in human life. For this psychic function a material organ or instrument as well as the immaterial intelligence is required and this organ is the cortex of the brain. Whether the psychic centre of the cortex only serves to clothe the idea, to express the thought, or in turns otherwise, what does it matter to the biologist so long as he can localise the centre? These centres of the brain are as indispensable for the expression of the highest intelligence as for the lowest automatisms. Consequently the biologist may endeavour to localise the centres of higher as well as of lower intelligence. This quest, however, is distinct from the study of the principle of intelligence. Hence physiology should not become a department of biology. Psychology is the science of will and conscience. Biology is the science of the cerebral instrument whose intervention is necessary for the regular working of that will and conscience. Each of these two sciences has its own domain, and there is no contradiction between them. It is curious to find that after going from one extreme to the other, from the notion of a purely immaterial to a purely material mind, to a brain "secreting thought" as an electric battery secretes electricity, scientific thinkers are coming round to the union or conciliation of the two conceptions—namely, a brain which is the material organ of an immaterial soul.

Suvarna-tula or weighing against gold is a very costly religious ceremony which only the very rich can afford to perform. Such a function was held the other day at Miraj, when many of the scions of the Deccan Sardar families of Poona were present on the occasion. In this ceremony Lady Girgibai, the Dowager Rani of the house of Marajmahal, had herself weighed against gold with the rites prescribed by the shastras or Hindu scriptures. The gold placed in the scales against her ladyship was afterwards distributed among Brahmin priests and the poor. Such a ceremony was performed by the late Rao Sahib V. N. Mandlik of Bombay in the seventies at his native village in the Ratnagiri District.

The Mutval fishers have made a curious find. Some few days ago they cast their nets off the northern arm of the break-water, and finding that they were making a heavy haul they put back and drew their nets ashore. When the nets were ultimately drawn up they discovered that they had netted a number of old breech-loading rifles. The fishers divided their spoils between them, and one ran off with his share to Mr. John Perera, the Muddaliyar of the fishery. That share consisted of eight rifles. Mr. Perera handed them to the Principal Collector of Customs, who is trying to get the others. There are said to be some 25 to 30 others still to be found. When these have been secured, they will be submitted for report, etc. It is supposed that the rifles were originally dropped into the sea by accident while being transhipped.

INTERESTING ITEMS.

A "SUICIDE" LION.

A lion in a Zoological exhibition at St. Louis is credited with having made a determined attempt at suicide from romantic motives. His mate was recently taken away, and for a week after the lion refused all food, and all day and night walked around the cage in a ceaseless vigil, occasionally giving vent to a low growl. The carcass of an ox, killed only a few minutes before, was refused by the lion four days after his bereavement, the beast walking over the body and through the blood, apparently without notice. The lioness was taken to a Canadian zoological garden.

SHARK ATTACKS A BOAT.

A court of inquiry has reported to the United States Navy Department its verdict on a remarkable accident at Guantanamo, in Onba, on the night of March 19. A boatswain and two sailors of the fleet were taking the boatswain's wife out in a small boat to enable her to board a steamer in the offing, when a shark made a furious attack on the boat and scuttled it. The occupants hung on the gunwale for over an hour, until a searchlight from a neighbouring cruiser discovered them. A boat was then sent out, and rescued three of the party, one sailor being drowned owing to the cowardice of one of his companions, who refused to assist him. The verdict was to the effect that the shark inflicted the damage, and the ooward was censured. The man has since deserted.

THE "APRIL MOON".

The director of the municipal observatory of Paris gives an interesting scientific explanation of the hoar frosts of spring, and one that again vindicates the soundness of observation embodied in proverbial sayings. In all countries of the world the "red" or April moon has been considered from time immemorial dangerous for vegetation, and the fact, though crudely expressed, is fully confirmed by modern science. During April radiation of heat from the earth at night is considerable, while absorption of heat from the sun during the day is still slight. At the same time, the low temperature clears the air of vapours, with the result that the moon shines more brilliantly, and the combined result is to produce those sharp falls in temperature that cause the hoar frosts dreaded by farmer and agriculturist.

FISH WHICH CHANGE COLOUR.

The chameleon-like property of changing colour in response to surroundings has been found to be possessed by some fishes. Experiments made in the Woods Hall Biological Laboratory have shown that the common salt-water minnows, which ordinarily have a light grey colour, will change almost to black if the fish are placed in dark-lined dishes. In a white porcelain bowl the colour became lighter than is ordinarily the case, though the illumination of the bowl was not otherwise varied. Other experiments appeared to show that the change of colour was under control of the fish and was regulated by the light reaching its eyes. In connection with this subject we may mention a curious theory, for which we do not accept responsibility, that has been put forward by M. Bohn before the French Societe de Biologie to explain why many salt-water creatures and organisms avoid fresh water. According to this naturalist the N-rays derived from sunlight penetrate salt water and are stored therein, but they are stopped absolutely by fresh water. These rays, it is believed, are very stimulating to the visual powers, and it is possible that they play a part in enabling the marine creatures of shallow water to search for shelter. M. Bohn points out that the nereid—a small marine worm—loses its sight almost completely when it goes into fresh water, but recovers it in salt water.

SAVED BY A MIRACLE.

GRAND DUKE DESCRIBES THE RUSSIAN DISASTER.

Mr. Hands sends from Harbin the Grand Duke Cyril's personal story of his escape from the Petropavlovsk disaster. The only news from the front to-day is of a Russian advance along the eastern coast of Korea. They occupied Puk-chon, eighty miles north of Wonsan, on Monday. Their intention is presumably to divert the Japanese from the Yalu.

Harbin, Wednesday, April 20.

The Grand Duke Cyril has just arrived here on his way to St. Petersburg.

His injuries are not severe. He is suffering from burns on the neck and ears, due to the explosion, and bruises on the back and loins caused subsequently by the action of the turbulent waves.

He is able to-day to walk a little, and gives the following story of his escape, which was miraculous:—

At the moment of the explosion on board the Petropavlovsk he was on the bridge, at the other end of which was Admiral Makaroff. It seemed as though the world, with the skies and the waters, was suddenly rent asunder, and from the gull arose a devouring cloud of blinding flame, which burst with a deafening roar into acid, suffocating fumes. Scorching, blinded, choked, and stunned he recovered consciousness sufficiently to recognise that in the interval the Petropavlovsk had settled down by the head.

Dead bodies were floating off from the forecastle deck, which was awash.

Around lay the wreckage of the fallen top hamper, and scalding steam cut off escape by the companionway. He faintly remembered realising the necessity to get aft, as he was more likely, with some way still on the ship, to get clear of the suction when she sank.

He recalls swarming hand over hand down from the bridge and making his way through the smoke, the flame, and the steam, and the still suffocating fumes among the heap of human debris, along the deck, and ascending the incline, with the rising water, as it seemed, pursuing him into the barbettes, into which the water was already pouring with such force that he required all the strength that he could muster to battle his way through.

He reached the port, however, and dived, and now recalls how that, while diving the thought flashed across his mind that he must dive deep and swim as far as possible before rising, as that was his only chance of clearing the imminently sinking ship. So he dived down, down and outwards with all the force of an athletic, practised swimmer, until his temples were bursting with the effort of retaining his breath. Then he struck upwards.

He had, however, dived so deep that it seemed as though he would never reach the surface, but at last light came and he reached the air

and supported himself while he filled his lungs.

He seized a piece of floating wreckage, to which he assisted another struggling swimmer, and he then looked round for the Petropavlovsk.

She was not to be seen. The sea was quite calm, and, except for a gentle rise and fall, the woodwork to which he was clinging with his companion was quite motionless. But with each upward swing he swept his eyes around the smooth bosom of the placid sea for the great ship. There was no sign, no trace, except floating bodies, very few buoyant articles, and still fewer battling swimmers.

The Petropavlovsk, while he was holding his breath in his dive, had sunk, and the gently heaving bosom of the imperturbable sea hid her tragedy.

He did not know how much time had elapsed but, heard afterwards that exactly one minute and forty seconds passed between the explosion and the disappearance of the ship.

CHAS. E. HANDS.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS IN BOMBAY.

THE MADRAS BOTANIST'S REPORT.

SOME REMARKS ON COTTON-CROSSING.

Mr. C. A. Barber, M.A., F.L.S., Government Botanist, Madras, has forwarded the following notes to the Madras Board of Revenue:—

In reply to Board's Proceedings, No. 464, dated 17th December, 1902, I have the honour to forward the following note upon my visit to Bombay Agricultural Farms. The places visited have already been alluded to in the above Proceedings. The primary object of the visit to the Bombay farms, was the study of the cotton-crossing experiments, in which the Inspector-General of Agriculture wished me to interest myself, and which the Board of Revenue has placed in my hands. Subsidiary and not less important were the advantages to be reaped from personal intercourse with the officers engaged in agriculture in other parts of India and from the inspection of the Farms, whose recorded results had been noted with interest during previous years.

As regards the cotton-crossing experiments, the careful demonstrations of Professor Gammie were followed in the fields of Kirkee and Manjri Farms. Special attention was given to his modes of differentiation of the varieties, but these latter were of themselves of less interest, because many of them were so little likely to be of service in our Presidency. A full set of the varieties was collected and pressed from Kirkee Farm through the kindness of Professor Gammie. These were collected, in anticipation of the classification, which, I understand, he has worked out, but which is being delayed because of the plague. Until this is published it is of little avail for much to be attempted on Madras in classification, as it is highly undesirable that there should be rival systems, and Professor Gammie's known carefulness in Botanical work and unique opportunities renders it certain that his scheme will be a substantial advance in our knowledge.

The experiments in crossing varieties appear to be on too large a scale for any useful purpose that we may obtain, and I doubt whether it will be found possible to thoroughly follow out the details in the more difficult years of selecting and fixing the varieties which are still to come. That, however, is not our matter excepting that I have been led from a study of these experiments to map out a much more modest scale of experiments for our own Presidency. The varieties of cotton are all growing on excellent soil, and it may be difficult to gauge the relative value of the different varieties to the great areas of second class soil, which are under cotton in Madras. There is also a marked preference displayed for early flowering varieties, which is, perhaps, of less importance to us than to the more northern colder climates. For these reasons, we are unable to use the results of the Bombay Farms excepting to a very limited extent, and we shall have to do the work from the beginning ourselves. Experiments have been set on foot in Bellary and at Saidapet, but as we have been confronted at the outset with the absence of a proper set of named varieties, we shall do very little crossing until this defect has been remedied.

I had the opportunity of discussing various matters with Dr. Butler and Mr. Letroy, with whose work I am in such close connection. I also made the acquaintance of Mr. Sly, the Director of Agriculture in the Central Provinces, and with Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Renouf, holding similar appointments in Bombay and the Punjab, respectively. I also met for the first time the Bombay Agricultural Officers: Messrs. Mehta, Fletcher, Gammie and Knight.

As to the farms in general, they are all provided with soil of the most excellent quality. With the exception of Nadad and the stock farm at Chharodi, the land was rich and heavy and generally superior to the Madras soils in various respects. If these are typical of the Bombay soils in general, I have a high opinion of the agricultural possibilities of that province. But, if this is not so, I think it might be as well for us to aim at a more typical selection. The results from such farms would be exceptionally good.

I was disappointed with regard to the sugarcane experiments which I wished to study at Poona. Most of these experiments appear to have been concluded, and little is now being done there. What I saw, however, of the fertile soil and the perfect natural drainage, explains the excellent results of former years. I know nothing like the Poona soil in the Madras Presidency, and the difficulties encountered in the heavy, deltaic soils of Madras are magnified by such a companion. Even the habit of the same variety of cane differs in the Godavery and at Poona just in that very direction which I am aiming at in the Godavery. The perfect condition of the volcanic soil and its thorough and easy drainage are notably lacking in the Godavery. The whole aim of the experiments in the Godavery Districts is to remedy these two defects, and little can be learnt at Poona in this direction excepting that I am justified in making this the main object at Somalkota.

The sugarcane cultivation, which we read about in the neighbourhood of Surat, has been largely discontinued, and we were merely able to see one or two gardens, where the canes were being cut before maturity for chewing purposes.

The ground nut seems to be a favourite cultivation in the Bombay farms, although,

according to all the canons of Madras cultivation, the soil is so eminently unsuitable. There was a very serious fungus disease in the crops, which I had not previously noted, and the main object of the experiments appeared to be to find the more resistant variety. Whatever may be the reason for this disease and wherever the original home of the fungus is, it has caused very serious concern. On my return, as was to be expected, I found the same disease in the experimental plots at Saidapet. My assistant is in South Arcot, where I have directed him to be on the look out for it and if it is there, no time should be lost in tackling it. From its general appearance, its effect on the plants and the immense contiguous areas in South Arcot under this crop, I regard it as by no means impossible that within a few years it may assume serious and disastrous proportions.

The experiments with tobacco in highly-valued light soils at Nadad were of interest, although not much had yet been done. The land in the immediate neighbourhood appeared to fetch extremely high prices on account of the value of the tobacco crop. With our larger tobacco interest and the acknowledged room for improvement on this staple there is quite a good case for a tobacco station. And perhaps it might be taken in conjunction with that of ground-nuts, since the soils in the two cases have a certain similarity.

It is to be noted that the whole staff of the Bombay Agricultural Department is confining its attention to comparatively few staples. Cotton, tobacco, cholam seem to be the chief crops on which experiments are being conducted, and in two of these, on a very large scale. I leave out of consideration the interesting sewage farms which were examined, as their object was not agriculture so much as the disposal of sewage and in one case the employment of leper labour. Experiments in the treatment of the soil were not prominent, probably because the farms were situated on land, where such experiments were of less importance. Nevertheless, I think that this is an important part of the studies of an agricultural department. The farms were notably clean and free of weeds and the uncultivated land was kept in this condition. This seems to be due to the belief in bare fallow and the fear of weeds once getting in. While full land is, of course, very bad practice, my whole endeavour in the Godavery District is to keep the ground covered. It is an interesting question whether the constant presence of some mulch, whether of living plants or trash, is not better practice from its conservation of moisture and formation of humus than the exposure of the land to the full glare of the sun. Thus far, the former method has my support and the results from its adoption in the Godavery District have been eminently satisfactory.

Among interesting plants noted were a new variety of cumbu. This is unattacked by birds, but unfortunately, when introduced into the fields, quickly loses its character by inter-crossing with surrounding plants. A double grained cholam also attracted my attention, but the heads were too close and firm, and formed an excellent nest for insect pests inside, where they could not be disturbed by insectivorous birds. The noted garden cultivation near Surat was inspected, but did not strike me as better than a great deal in the Madras Presidency. Diseases were noted and specimens collected of cholam, tomatoes, currierie, ground-nut, sugarcane, ginger. Purely agricultural matters connected with stock, which formed a large part of the inspection, are left unnoticed as outside my province, although the situation and maintenance of the compost pits received careful attention.

The visit to Bassein in order to inspect betel pepper gardens was not possible, because of an outbreak of locusts which monopolised Mr. Letroy's attention, and a projected visit to an olive fibre plantation near Bombay had also to be abandoned.

THE GOVERNMENT ORDER.

This Report was submitted for the information of Government which issued the following order:—

Mr. Barber's interesting report contains valuable suggestions which the Government would commend to the careful consideration of the Board. The Government consider that Mr. Barber is justified in his conclusion that, while the Bombay experiments in the cross fertilisation of cotton can in themselves be of little value to this Presidency, the results of Professor Gammie's classification of varieties should be utilised and the series of experiments already set on foot reorganised on a definite basis and, if necessary, on a more modest scale. With regard to Mr. Barber's remarks about ground-nut cultivation, the Government would be glad to know what should be done to meet the threatened invasion of disease. Presumably the only remedy is the introduction of new and selected seed; and it should be considered whether a man should not be deputed to South Arcot to give the rayats the necessary advice and assistance.

The Government agree with Mr. Barber that there is a most interesting and extensive field for enquiry and experiment in the matter of tobacco manufacturers, and ascertain from them the Board that the Director of Agriculture should be instructed without delay to put himself in communication with the leading tobacco manufacturers, and ascertain from them in what directions the varieties now grown are most capable of improvement. Much help might also be given to the grower by a scientific study of the processes of fermenting and curing tobacco, and as soon as an Agricultural Chemist has been appointed, his attention should be especially directed to the subject.

Mr. C. L. Dundas, District Judge of Simla, after several days' hearing of a case of a mischievous attempt to injure the Kaika-Simla Railway and to derail the train, committed five of the accused, mostly coolies of the Railway, to the Sessions, under section 126 of Act X of 1890. Two of the accused are still at large, and the Police are making further investigations. The Judge, in his order of commitment, says that, in the course of the inquiry, offers of pardon were made to two of the coolies with the object of either getting corroboration or contradiction in the course of the cross-examination, but in both cases the reply given appeared to be so manifestly false that the offer was immediately withdrawn. The Judge thought it expedient, however, not to deride the accused, and therefore committed them to the Sessions, leaving any question of bail to that Court.

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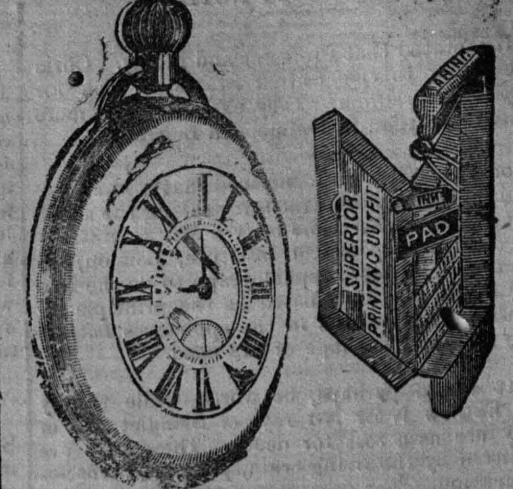
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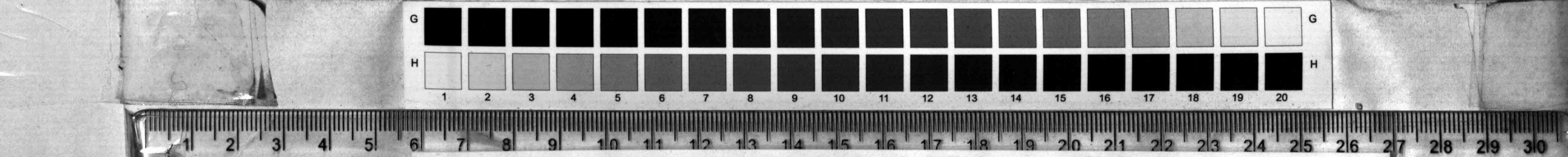
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DISTURBING A MARRIAGE PROCESSION.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Sambalpur, May 9.

Some time ago a marriage party, with music and followers, was proceeding from Raigarh to Sambalpur. The first three days passed off smoothly, but on the 4th day their way lay in front of a Masjid. When the party neared this place, the Mahomedans asked them to stop music. There was some altercation which resulted in a fight. Although they were well guarded by policemen, the processionists fared badly at the hands of the Mussalmans. It is said that two constables and one Inspector were also roughly handled. On being informed the Deputy Commissioner and the District Superintendent of Police promptly arrived on the scene and accompanied the party to their destination. It is a pity that though the Masjid is situated near the house of a Mahomedan official of Sambalpur, who has great local influence, no attempt was made by any body to avert this unpleasant disturbance. There were several arrests and the case will be heard by the Assistant Commissioner of Sambalpur on the 16th instant.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

RECOMMENDATION OF A MEMBER BY THE DISTRICT BOARDS OF THE DACCA DIVISION.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION.

The "Calcutta Gazette" of last Wednesday publishes the following Government Resolution relating to the recommendation to be made by the District Boards of the Dacca Division for the nomination of a member to the Bengal Legislative Council:

The seat in the Bengal Legislative Council of the Hon'ble Maulvi Seraj-ul-Islam Khan Bahadur, who was nominated as the representative of the District Boards of the Chittagong Division, will be vacant on the 28th July, 1904. On the occurrence of the vacancy caused by the expiry on the 19th August 1903 of the term of office of the Hon'ble Babu Chatterbhoy Sahay, who represented the District Boards of the Patna Division, it became the turn of the District Boards of the Dacca Division in the rotation sketched in paragraph 5 of Resolution of this Government No. 1553 J, dated the 25th March, 1893 to exercise the privilege of recommending a candidate to fill the seat to be so vacated. For special reasons, however, which were set forth in the Resolution of this Government No. 1194A-D, dated the 1st June, 1903, the Lieutenant-Governor decided to invite the District Board of Chota Nagpur instead of those of the Dacca Division to submit a recommendation for filling the vacancy on that occasion. For the purposes of filling the vacancy which will occur on the expiry on the 28th July next of the Hon'ble Maulvi Seraj-ul-Islam Khan Bahadur's term of office, return will be made to the rotation laid down in the Resolution of 1893, and the District Boards of the Dacca Division will accordingly be invited to exercise the privilege of recommendation on this occasion. The necessary notification will be published in the "Calcutta Gazette," specifying the District Boards of the Dacca Division as the group of Boards on whose recommendation the Lieutenant-Governor will make a nomination to the seat. Each District Board will elect one representative only and he will be entitled to exercise all the votes of the body which he represents.

2. The following statement shows the vote District Boards which will send delegates to vote for a person to be recommended for the vacant seat, and the number of votes assigned to them according to the scale shown in para. 5 of the Resolution of this Government No. 2307A, dated the 31st March, 1897.

The ordinary income taken, is that for 1902-1903:—

District Board.	Ordinary income.	Number of votes to be recorded by the representatives.
Dacca	Rs. 1,55,207	3
Mymensing	2,95,889	6
Faridpur	95,729	2
Backergunge	2,66,667	5

3. Under Rule IV of the Regulations framed by the Governor-General in Council with the approval of the Secretary of State under section 1 (4) of the Indian Councils Act, 1892, for Bengal, the Lieutenant-Governor now desires that the Commissioner of the Dacca Division will at once address the Chairman of the District Boards enumerated in the above list, requesting them to convene a special meeting of their Board at which one member of the Board should be selected to represent them for the purpose of making the recommendation for the seat in Council. The name of the representative so selected must be reported at once by the Chairman to the Commissioner of the Division.

4. The period of three months laid down in Rule VII of the Regulations as that within which a recommendation shall be made to the Lieutenant-Governor will run from the date on which the Commissioner of the Division issues his request to the Chairmen of the District Boards.

As soon as the representatives have been selected they will be called upon by the Commissioner of the Division to meet together on an early and convenient date, with special reference to the limit of time imposed by Rule IV.

of the first ballot an absolute majority is not obtained, the name of the candidate who obtains the least number of votes shall be withdrawn from the election, and another ballot shall then be held for the remaining candidates, and so on until an absolute majority is obtained. In the event of a tie occurring at any stage, lots shall be drawn.

6. The electoral representatives present at this meeting shall elect one of themselves to be Chairman, and he shall preside and be responsible for the fair and proper exercise of the ballot vote.

7. The Chairman of the meeting shall without delay report to the Commissioner of the Division the name of the person elected with the number of votes obtained and any other information which may appear desirable to communicate and on behalf of the meeting shall recommend to the Lieutenant-Governor the nomination to the Council of the person so elected. The Commissioner shall submit the report from the Chairman of the meeting with any observation he may wish to add to the Chief Secretary to Government by whom the recommendation will be submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor.

8. Attention is drawn to the following Rule VI of the Regulations which have been framed by the Governor-General in Council with the approval of the Secretary of State.

VI.—It shall be a condition in the case of any person to be recommended by the Municipal Corporation, or group of Municipal Corporations, that he shall be a person resident within the Municipality or the district in which it is situated, or in some one of the municipalities constituting the group or of the districts in which they are situated. A similar condition shall also apply to persons to be recommended by District Boards.

"Explanation."—A person is not "resident" within the meaning of this rule unless he has a place of residence in the locality concerned, and such practical connection with that locality as qualifies him to represent the inhabitants thereof.

If at any time the question is raised whether a person proposed for election is "resident" within the meaning of this rule the question shall be referred to, and decided by, the Local Government, whose decision shall be final.

Under this rule it is not necessary that the person recommended should be a member of any District Board concerned, but he must be resident within the Division from which the recommendation is made. Subject to this condition, the rules declare no limit of qualification, and it is left to the representatives to recommend a person under Rule V (c) according to the majority of their votes.

9. It is desirable that the subsidiary arrangements now sanctioned shall, as far as possible, be given effect to by the District Boards concerned with the minimum of official interference. The Divisional Commissioner and the District Magistrate will, of course, afford any assistance which may be required, and will do their utmost to facilitate the smooth working of the elections; but Government officers are forbidden to take part directly or indirectly, in the election by canvassing, influencing votes, or otherwise interfering with the free choice of the District Boards. No indication should be given by any official member of any of the District Boards concerned as to the manner in which he himself intends to vote.

BENGAL JAILS.

A YEAR'S ADMINISTRATION.

The following Resolution of the Bengal Government, on the Report on the Administration of the Jail Department for the year 1903, appears in Wednesday's "Calcutta Gazette."

Major W. J. Buchanan, I. M. S., was in charge of the Jail Department from the 1st of January till the 17th of April, 1903, from which latter date Major R. J. Macnamara, I. M. S., held charge until the end of the year under review. Major Macnamara has submitted the Report for the year.

2. The total population of the jails of Bengal, which amounted to 22,030 on the 1st of January, 1903, was decreased by the release of 3,334 prisoners on the occasion of the Coronation of the King-Emperor, but it rose steadily during the year, although admissions were fewer by over two thousand than those of the preceding year, and stood at 19,907 at the end of the year.

3. The health of the prisoners during the year 1903 was in general good; and the death-rate, which stood for all the jails at 23.5 per mille against a death-rate of 33.33 per mille for the whole population of Bengal, was lower than any rate recorded during the last ten years, except those for the years 1898 and 1899. To the generally satisfactory statistics of health of the jail population the returns of the Barisal Jail furnish a marked exception. As noticed in the Resolution on the report for the year 1902 this jail has for some years had a very bad record of mortality, and for the year 1903 it shows a ratio of 90.6 deaths per mille, which is in excess even of previous records and which, even after allowing for the bad health of many of the prisoners on admission, is an alarming rate. The Lieutenant-Governor has required the Inspector-General to submit a special report as to the steps which have been taken during the past year and which are proposed to improve the health of the prisoners in this jail; and the Inspector-General has reported that the two main defects which have been factors in the excessive mortality have been, first, overcrowding, and, secondly, bad water-supply. Not only has this jail been frequently overcrowded so far as regards accommodation in wards, but the jail is also "site crowded," i.e., the area within the walls is insufficient.

4. The water supply for the jail has sometimes been from a reserved tank some miles from the river. The river is considered the better, and should be used. Sanction has recently been granted to enlarge the enclosed area of the jail; a hospital has been built and it is hoped municipal water-supply for the town and jail will be arranged. It is quite clear, however, that the state of this jail requires the attention of the Inspector-General and the local officers. The Inspector-General is evidently in doubt whether all the causes of the present high mortality in this jail have been ascertained, and whether they are removable. The Lieutenant-Governor has requested the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, in consultation with Major Buchanan, and if necessary with the Sanitary Commissioner and Sanitary Engineer, to conduct a careful inquiry into the causes of mortality in this jail.

5. In general it is to be noticed, as was noticed in last year's Resolution that the accommodation available in Bengal jails and subsidiary jails is insufficient, and specially in the case of under-trial prisoners. The expenditure incurred during the year on jail buildings amounted to Rs. 3,03,306, namely, Rs. 2,52,116 on original works and Rs. 51,190 on repairs, and it is hoped that a larger sum will be spent under this head during the current year. The want of accommodation has led to the mixing up of convicts and under-trial prisoners in some jails, to overcrowding and to the absence of suitable quarantine arrangements where plague is prevalent. The Lieutenant-Governor concurs with the Inspector-General in his view of the importance of this matter. The Inspector-General has furnished lists grouping the required works in order of urgency, and His Honor hopes that it may be possible to give effect to a programme of extension and improvement in the course of the next two or three years.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor has recently consulted the Inspector-General as to the feasibility of abolishing a large number of the subsidiary jails so far as regards the accommodation in them even for short periods of convicts. It is specially in the subsidiary jails that overcrowding is too common in the case of under-trial prisoners, and it is hoped that a change of system, so far as may be found possible, under which convicts will be sent immediately on sentence to the district or central jail, will give substantial relief in the accommodation of under-trial prisoners. Such a reform will also, it is hoped, result in more effective discipline and providing suitable labour for convicts. Difficulties will no doubt be found in giving full effect to this measure in the case of some of the subsidiary jails on account of their distance from headquarters and because police escorts will not always be promptly forthcoming; but in the main it is believed that the reform contemplated is practicable and desirable, even when it may involve additional expenditure.

7. Major Macnamara has offered some interesting remarks on the subject of the rice diet which is in general use in Bengal jails, but the Lieutenant-Governor is not convinced of the soundness of his conclusion that prisoners are "largely overfed with rice." It is to be remembered that in the districts of Bengal Proper rice is the staple food of the people; and the substitution of "makai" or any other cereal in the jails of these districts might not be expedient. The instance given by the Officiating Inspector-General of a change in the health of the prisoners of the Dalton-ganj Jail, which was coincident with the partial substitution of "makai" for rice in the diet scale, is not conclusive, because in fact the inhabitants of the Palaman district largely eat "makai." At the same time it undoubtedly illustrates the necessity for, or advantages of, careful attention to the matter of diet. On the whole, the figures relating to increase and decrease of weight of convicts which are given in an Appendix to the Report are not unsatisfactory. From this statement it appears that out of 42,329 convicts discharged during the year, 10,191 neither lost nor gained weight, 26,219 gained weight, and only 5,919 lost weight. The Lieutenant-Governor leaves it to Major Buchanan, who has returned to duty, to make such recommendations to Government as he may think proper on this important subject of diet of prisoners after consideration of the suggestions made by his "locum tenens."

8. Under the head of Labour and Cash Earnings the Lieutenant-Governor notices that there was a satisfactory increase of average profit per head of those sentenced to labour from Rs. 30-12 in 1902 to Rs. 31-9 in 1903.

The net earnings in central jails per head of average strength of convicts ranged from Rs. 116-1 in the Presidency Jail—only Rs. 10-1 in Rampur Boalia. The differences require the careful attention of Superintendents. The Inspector-General has been invited to place before Government, if he thinks proper, the purport of his correspondence with the Military authorities on the subject of the full use by them of the jail factories; and the Public Works Department will inquire into the complaint that convict labour was not employed fully on the construction and repairs of jail buildings in Hazaribagh.

9. There was a decrease in the total numbers of offences and punishments of convicts during the year, but a slight increase in the percentage of punishments to average number of convicts, which was apparently due to the number of releases of short-term prisoners in connection with the Coronation rejoicings. As suggested in last year's Resolution, a scheme of remission of sentences by days to take the place of the record of marks was submitted during the year by Major Macnamara, but its consideration was postponed till the return from leave of Major Buchanan, who originally proposed this change. The Lieutenant-Governor awaits Major Buchanan's opinion on the subject.

10. The Lieutenant-Governor again notices the unsatisfactory state of the jail work force. It was suggested in last year's Resolution that the leave rules for these officers should be made more liberal with special reference to the fact that most of the warders come from up-country districts. It is understood, however, that the leave difficulties are principally due to the want of a reserve of warders, and the Lieutenant-Governor will be prepared to consider proposals for the necessary increase of strength to enable leave to be more freely given. The average period of detention of under-trial prisoners, the Lieu-

tenant-Governor regrets to observe, was in excess of the figures for the preceding year in spite of the smaller number of admissions. Inquiries must be made by Commissioners in the case of those jails and subsidiary jails which show the most unsatisfactory results; but this matter is one which demands constant attention from Commissioners and District Magistrates throughout the year. Inspections of subsidiary jails by the Sub-Divisional Officers were more regularly made than in the preceding year, but explanations will be required from the Sub-Divisional Officers of Cox's Bazaar and Samastipur as to the insufficient number of visits paid by them to the subsidiary jails under their charge.

11. The Lieutenant-Governor notices commendations bestowed by the Officiating Inspector-General upon officers of the Department, and thanks Major Macnamara for the zeal with which he discharged his duties and for an interesting report.

CHLOROFORMING CARROTS.

STRANGE METHODS EMPLOYED BY GARDENERS.

Plants of all kinds need nitrogen to enable them to grow. It is the most vital element of plant food, and so far as the soil is concerned, one of the scarcest. And yet the atmosphere over each acre of land contains the enormous store of 38,000 tons of nit.ogen gas.

For years past scientists have been experimenting, trying to find an economical and practical method of drawing on this store of nitrogen for the benefit of the crops.

It has been found that there exist certain species of bacteria which are able to gather this nitrogen. Ten million of these tiny organisms can be contained in a lady's thumb, yet fifteen million are enough to fertilise an acre.

Experts have lately succeeded in producing cultures of these bacteria, and they are already being put on the market for the benefit of farmers. They come by post thoroughly dried and packed in absorbent cotton wool.

They are revived by immersion in tepid water, and then, after being placed in a suitable preparation, they multiply enormously, and are ready for the farmer to scatter over his fields.

Up-to-date farmers all the world over have given up their old rule of thumb methods, and are employing all the resources of modern science.

In a recent number of a well-known horticultural journal particulars were given of a number of experiments made to ascertain the effects of various anaesthetics on plants. Both ether and chloroform were used, and the plants were pushed forward and blossomed earlier than under ordinary conditions.

At the beginning of winter the plants were confined in closed spaces and submitted to the vapours of ether or chloroform. They were found to shed their leaves within forty-eight hours. They were then exposed to the open air for two days, after which they received a second anaesthetic vapour bath, which lasted for a third period of two days.

After this they were placed in a forcing-house, and the blossoms which would ordinarily not have appeared until May were fully out in February.

A French experimenter, Mons. Leblanc, chloroformed some azaleas for forty-eight hours. Seventeen days later they were in full bloom. Other azaleas, which had been grown under similar conditions, but not exposed to the chloroform vapour, did not bloom until a fortnight later. Carrots treated by the same process gave equally good results.

Mr. Rittue, of the Washington Agricultural Department, has been trying the experiment of putting certain plants on rigid diet. His subjects have been chiefly leguminous plants, peas, beans and the like as well as clovers and vetches.

After carefully sterilising the earth in which the seeds were sown he fed the young plants on distilled water, magnesium, calcium, and nitrogen. The effects were remarkably good, the yield being in some cases treble the usual.

That electricity exercises a great effect upon the growth of all plants is now quite certain. If wire nets are spread over beds of growing plants, so as to cut off atmospheric electricity, it is found that the crops are stunted and the yield decreased. Similar plants uncovered were fifty to seventy per cent. larger, and bore fifty per cent. more fruit.

It has been found that with most crops it pays to increase artificially the natural supplies of electricity. By sinking alternate plates of copper and zinc in the ground and connecting them with charged wires many plants are greatly benefited.

Bean crops, for instance, are increased by seventy-five per cent, and raspberries and

strawberries not only bear more heavily but ripen more rapidly. Tobacco, too, was found to be greatly benefited, but root crops, such as turnips and carrots, were, on the other hand, injuriously affected.

All crops electrically treated need a very large amount of water, and the electricity should be supplied at night.

Electric light, when unshaded, almost invariably does harm to growing plants or trees, but when a powerful arc lamp was used and shaded by an orange coloured globe, flowers were found to bloom more quickly and profusely under its influence.

Seeds electrically treated before sowing almost invariably gave more and stronger plants than those planted without such treatment.

Seeds of foreign plants, such as dates, will very rarely germinate in temperate climates like our own. But if they are treated with electricity for twelve hours daily for eight days, and then planted at once while still damp they are found to sprout readily. Electricity also will drive insect life from the ground.

Electricity is not within the scope of every amateur gardener; but all can improve their flowers in hot, dry summer weather by underground watering.

Mr. John Grant, its great advocate, rightly declares that it is foolish to pour water on the surface of sunbaked soil. He advocates sharpened lengths of hollow bamboo. The points are pushed into the ground and the water poured through them. Thus the hard surface, is penetrated and the moisture beneath reinforced.

THE "SCUTTLE" FROM TIBET.

It is undoubtedly a triumph over the Opposition and a blow to Lord Curzon stanning enough to prevent his return to India. As Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman said, his lordship is a man of many gifts, but discretion, political wisdom of the higher order, forethought and far-seeing political sanity are not amongst his talents. His temper is autocratic of the martinet type, and while he has done good in India he has also perpetrated no small number of blunders and given offence in many directions, not least in the attempted dismemberment of Bengal, in the belittling of educational tests for the natives, in the substitution therefore of favouritism for merit as the guiding principle of appointments. In this Tibetan quest he has proved himself to be a sort of pupil of the indiscreet Lord Milner using the same arguments to stir up bad blood, advancing the same hollow pretences for an act of aggression perfect in its wantonness. Happily, it would seem, even the present Government has seen the mistake made and, now that the force under Colonel Younghusband or whoever it may be has shown its prowess by slaughtering hundreds upon hundreds of unarmed people like sheep in a fold, it feels able to retire. The might of the Indian Empire has been vindicated and also the folly of those who govern it. We are therefore going to abandon the country, to withdraw our forces or what is left of them by disease, and to leave the Tibetans to themselves. From first to last this expedition has been a shameful incident in the history of our Eastern Empire. There was no justification whatever for this armed mission, this blood-stained horde of disciplined raiders. The pretences recited by Mr. Brodrick in his belaboured speech are contemptible whether in detail or in mass. It was a "put up job" in the interests of the military faction, and that dread of Russia whose root seems to be cowardice was really the most decent looking pretext among them all, just because it is worn threadbare. But we are to withdraw, there is to be no resident at Lhasa, no interference of any kind, beyond a little more butchery perhaps; and Lord Curzon will come home to be feted and honoured as one of the greatest of our Indian officers. Can an empire thus governed hope to endure? No one of the sort has hitherto, but—"The Investors' Review."

At a sale of pigeons in Manchester, attended by buyers from all over the kingdom, one bird realized £60 and two others £50 each, while the net result of the sale of seventy-one birds was £88-12s. 6d.

In Uganda a man can buy a wife for four bulls, a box of cartridges and six needles. A Kafir girl is worth, according to the rank of her family, from four to ten cows; and in Tartary no father will surrender his daughter unless he gets a good quantity of butter in return. In certain parts of India no girl can marry unless her father has been pacified present of rice and a few rupees.

INDIGESTION POISONS THE BLOOD.

The vigour of health depends on good digestion. Undigested food poisons the blood, which clogs up the skin, the liver and the kidneys. Food properly digested makes new strength, new blood, new flesh, new life. Relish for food and power to digest it comes with Mother Seigel's Syrup. Compounded of fruits, roots and herbs, it tones and cleanses the liver and kidneys, and clears the stomach of the decayed products of indigestion—the fruitful cause of headaches, languor, brain fag, constipation and anemia.

MOTHER SEIGEL'S SYRUP

Mr. Charles Zoti, writing from Buffalo Café, Oxford Street, East London, Cape Colony, on Dec. 4th, 1903, says: "Two years ago, whilst in England, I suffered agonies from indigestion. After other medicines had failed, I was persuaded to try Mother Seigel's Syrup. One bottle effected a decided improvement, and to-day my digestion is all I could wish."

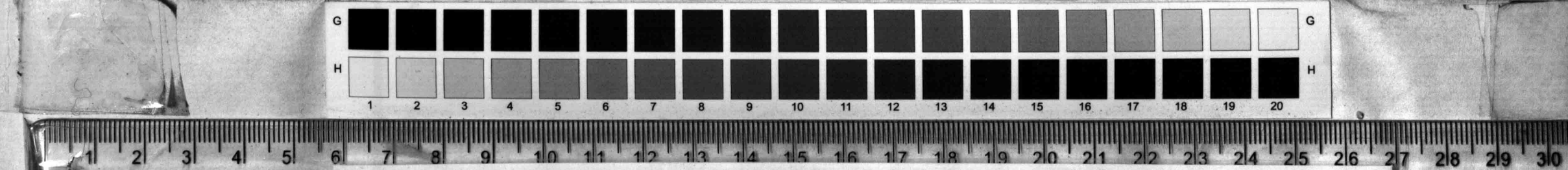
BUILDS HEALTH ON Good Digestion.

SLIGHT INJURIES often disable a man and cause several days' loss of time and when blood-poison develops, sometimes result in the loss of a hand or limb. Chamberlain's Pain Balm is an antiseptic liniment. When applied to cuts, bruises and burns it causes them to heal quickly and without maturation and prevents any danger of blood-poison. For sale by

Smith Stanistreet & Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul & Co., Abdool Rahman and Abdool Karim, Calcutta.

WORKS LIKE MAGIC.—The relief obtained by Chamberlain's Pain Balm when burn or scald is so nearly instantaneous that it seems almost magical in its efficacy. This kind of relief without any delay of this remedy is applied and the relief is so nearly instantaneous that it seems almost magical in its efficacy.

Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul & Co., Abdool Rahman and Abdool Karim, Calcutta.



THE TRIUMPH OF THE TORPEDO.

(BY SIR WILLIAM LAIRD CLOWES.)

The Whitehead automobile torpedo may be regarded as the parent of almost all the automobile torpedoes which are now in use in the navies of the world.

Our own service torpedoes, which are made at Woolwich, at Portland, and at Leeds; the French service torpedoes, many of which are made at Toulon; the Russian service torpedoes, which are made in Russia; the German service torpedoes, which are made in Germany—all owe their existence to the original invention of Mr. Whitehead, an invention now more than a generation old; and although each national type differs somewhat from every other, each still bears a strong cousinly resemblance to the service torpedo which the firm of Whitehead makes to-day at Fiume, on the Adriatic, for such Powers as have no torpedo-manufacturing plant of their own. Among these Powers is Japan.

BEGINNINGS.

It is true that the original Whitehead was a weapon that travelled on the surface of the water only, while the modern automobile torpedo is essentially a submarine engine. Many years, nevertheless, have now elapsed since the marvellous weapon, by steady evolution, became extraordinarily perfect and formidable, although it is but right to add that its improvement has been continuous from first to last, and is not yet at a standstill. Strange to say, however, the significance of the automobile torpedo as a factor in naval warfare is only now beginning to receive adequate recognition. The weapon has always had its enthusiastic champions, of course, although until quite recently they have been the few while its detractors have been in the majority. According to some, the torpedo was little better than a bogey; according to others, it was suitable for use only against vessels at anchor, or vessels with incompetent, if not criminally careless, crews on board; according to yet others, it could never be employed with advantage against ships of the civilized and well-disciplined races, especially if such ships chanced to be under way.

It was admitted that the automobile torpedo had won successes during the civil war in Chili, during the revolutionary fighting in Brazil, and during the conflict between Japan and China; "but," said the wisecracks, "wait until one of the leading naval Powers is concerned, and then you will see that although the torpedo may be all very well against South Americans or Yellow Men, it won't work against civilized Europeans."

THIRTY MILES AN HOUR.

In spite of this sort of discouragement, which reached them from within the various services as well as from without, torpedo officers have never ceased to study and develop their favourite weapon. They increased its speed from ten or twelve to upwards of thirty miles an hour; they increased its range from three or four hundred to a couple of thousand yards or more; they increased its explosive-carrying capacity from thirty to nearly two hundred pounds; and they increased the accuracy of its submarine flight, both lateral and vertical, until, even in a cross-running tide-way, its precision could be depended upon. By means of a device which is now being perfected in America the speed of the weapon can be increased to some forty miles an hour up to 2,000 yards. The process employed is a mere superheating of the compressed air as it is fed from the "flask," or reservoir, to the driving machinery; and it involves little additional expense. We know now what the Japanese, acting not against careless and ignorant Celestials, but against the finest officers and best ships of a leading European navy, have been able to do with this perfected engine of destruction. No one will ever again deny the power of the torpedo.

And this terrible engine, in its most highly-developed form, costs only about £400. A big battleship costs anything from a million to a million and a half sterling; yet, as events have shown, it may easily fall victim to its small and absurdly cheap foe. Of course, I do not mean that the mere outlay of, say, £400 is likely to be the sole expenditure involved in the crippling of a 13,000-ton Tsarvitch. The torpedo, if used at sea, must be discharged from a vessel of some sort, by men who must inevitably run some risk. But the craft which are usually employed on torpedo work are small, costing, it may be, no more than from £15,000 to £60,000 apiece, and having but small crews. Thus, there may be on one side but £25,000 worth of material and fifteen or twenty lives, and on the other a ship worth £1,200,000, with 750 people on board; and, as we have seen the cheap little boat may spoil the career of the splendid mastodon.

Even if the big ship do her worst in such a case, she can do nothing adequate. Let even sink half a dozen of her two penny-halfpenny opponents and down all their crews, she must still have run awful risks—risks which are quite out of proportion to the objects to be gained.

WAYS OF ESCAPE.

Is there, then, it will be asked, no way of safety for the big ship? Undoubtedly there is. The nose of the modern torpedo is furnished with a "cutting" which will shear a way through any ordinary steel net that may be hung round a ship for her protection; but there are nets—and our Navy possesses them—which are cutter-proof; and, moreover, these nets, although at much inconvenience, can be kept hanging round the threatened vessel, even while she is moving at low speed through the water. Such devices, combined with the keeping of a good look-out by means of fast scouts, the cultivation of coolness and accuracy at gun practice by night as well as by day, a proper knowledge of the uses and limitations of the searchlights with which every modern vessel is provided, and the maintenance of perfect discipline in all circumstances, should deprive the torpedo and the torpedo-boat of some of their terrors. Nevertheless, the menace must always be a very serious one indeed.

It may be worth while to add that the Japanese are understood to be in possession of a few automobile torpedoes of altogether exceptional size—having a diameter, that is, of as much as twenty-four inches, or six inches more than the biggest service torpedo of other nations. Whether any of these were with the fleet off Port Arthur is, however, doubtful.

It will also be useful to all that at the opening of hostilities Russia may have had about twenty destroyers and twelve or fifteen

serviceable sea-going torpedo-boats at or near the scene of action. At the same period Japan had at her disposal not fewer than twenty destroyers and sixty torpedo-boats of various classes, all fit for work. Some of these can scarcely fail to play an important part later in the campaign.

SPRING SEA TROUT FISHING.

Though there are few waters frequented by the sea trout which do not yield an occasional clean fish of the true type in March and April, it is equally certain that there are not many waters in which such fish are numerous. In two at least of the Outer Islands waters yielding spring sea trout are numerous, though even in these favoured spots has to exercise great care in deciding upon what fish should be retained. The two islands which are thus favoured are North and South Uist, the last mentioned being the better of the two for sure sport in spring amongst clean spring trout. For this happy state of affairs the peculiar topographical character of the lochs is directly responsible. So true is this that wherever similar, if not identical, conditions occur, there is always some measure of sport to be enjoyed amongst sea trout in spring. For example, one can kill clean sea trout on the Dhuloch, Inverary, a lake into which the sea comes with just as unfailing regularity every tide as into any of the South Uist lochs, salt water rivers, or tidal pools. The Dhuloch, it is true, does not carry such a proportional head of clean fish as most of the island lochs; but they are, nevertheless, to be taken, not only on lake, but in the tidal river that connects it with Loch Fyne—a sea loch, in which the writer has seen many true spring sea trout of large size in April miles away from any fresh water, and in which he has killed sea trout with the fly in the same month by "fishing in the shore" in the way known to the few anglers who have taken sea trout in Loch Elive with the fly in June.

In the Uists, however, sport amongst spring sea trout of an exceptionally fine class is so assured, given decent angling weather, that by exercising a little discrimination, and rejecting an occasional bright, but deceptive, fish, one can produce baskets of sea trout that always equal, and sometimes beat, in beauty and gastronomic excellence, the captures of late summer and autumn days. Time was when the man ventured across the Minch to the Lorn, Kildonan, and Na-Sgairbh, the three chief spring lochs of South Uist, and then returned, that perfect type of the salt water river, never yielded a sea trout until June had more than half run its course. Now all has changed, and though comparatively few anglers brave the Minch for the spring fishing, those who do, reap an ample reward. In South Uist the sea trout is a tidal trout. The topographical character of the waters of the island favour faring to and fro from lake to sea, from sea tidal way, from tidal way to lake. The journey is ever short, and no sea trout is under any necessity to linger in the fresh water longer than is necessary for the discharge of the reproduction function. Many of the fish do not spawn at all, and hence there is always a large number of the migrants in that condition which we describe as "clean," and associate with recent residence either in the salt sea itself or in the brackish estuaries. A certain proportion of the fish, it is true, penetrate so far inland during the winter floods, that they are not able to return at will. These and late spawners from the kelts. Even though not to be retained, by reason of their unfitness for table, they are nevertheless worth hooking and playing. They are invariably lank, but as invariably are as bright as new sixpences, and as active as athletes. They have none of that sluggishness which one associates with kelts, and certainly give far better sport than many of the female fish, heavy with spawn which are landed, and far too often kept, in late autumn.

A curious and rather mysterious feature of spring sea trout fishing in South Uist is that the very best conditioned and most handsome fish are those running from 2lb., while the worst conditioned are generally those between 3lb. and 5lb. The smaller sea trout are all in excellent condition, though a good many of the fish between 1 1/2 lb. and 2 lb. cannot be so described. Large fish, on the other hand, are often in the prime condition, so much that when one gets a really good specimen, it generally exhausts one's ideal of beauty and symmetry in the sea trout. In one at least of the lochs (A-Bharp) there is another spur to exertion in spring. At no other season of the year is the chance of taking a true tidal trout—a "Salmo estuarius" of the ordinary classification—so good as in spring. The tidal trout of South Uist, unlike those of certain singular lakes in North Uist, that are neither of the spring nor of the sea, are invariably young fish for their size. How quickly the common trout of the lochs grow when they take to haunting the estuary and the sea, the writer does not pretend to know or even guess. All that is certain is that they grow very fast and soon become big, strong, heavy and most delicious eating. But they are a rustidious generation, and though numerous in A-Bharp, and also in Stromedearg, they rarely rise to the fly. When they do rise the reward is greater than when one hooks a "ferox" after many long hours of patient trolling. These tidal trout are invariably beautiful fish. In A-Bharp they are not perhaps, ideal in colouring, owing to the dark peat-stained water; but they are, nevertheless, beautifully marked, carrying large spots above a deep lustrous belly of yellow. In the Strome they have the purple look of Stone trout, and in both waters light desperately hard. In Bharp one generally lands the few another tale to be told. The strong, deep rush down the tumultuous waters of the Strome cannot be checked, even if one escapes the dangers of trailing tangle and the perils of waving weed that make the Strome the sporting water it is. The fish generally escape, and all that remains to the angler is the glorious memory, the thrill of a few crowded seconds.

In South Uist one uses the same flies in spring as in autumn. All ordinary loch patterns kill, and size is of more real importance than anything else. From 9 to 12 on the Limeric scale, with 8 as a standard size for the average conditions form a sufficient range. A 12ft. rod for the lochs when using a boat, and a 14-footer for shore fishing the tidal pools, and the salt water river complete the outfit, though it should be added that a very big landing net adds to the sense of security one feels when fast in a good spring fish.—"H. S." in the Field.

MAHARAJ OF PALANPUR'S SHIKAR PARTY.

General Sir A. Hunter, commanding the Bombay Forces, on being invited by his Highness the Dewan Sahab of Palanpur for "shikar," arrived at Palanpur by the mail train on the 1st instant, and was received at the station by his Highness and both the Sahibzadah Sahabs. The "shikar" camp was kept at Zalotra, a village seven miles distant from Palanpur, where the General and party went on camels. Sir Archibald Hunter and Sahabzadah Saleymulmadkhan rode on the same camel. His Secretary and Aide-De-Camp rode on another camel. They passed through the town and were heartily cheered by the populace. Last Thursday, the distinguished visitor shot a panther. More "shikar" is expected in a day or two.—"A. I."

THE MAYBURY CASE.

This case was to have come on on the 9th inst., at the Poona Sessions Court. The prisoner, when brought to Court, was in a semi-unconscious state, and had several epileptic fits in Court before the Judge's arrival. It took great force to hold him down. On His Honour's arrival the Judge ordered a medical man to be sent for at once. Dr. G. S. Bharucha arrived from the Sassoon Hospital. Accused was then unconscious. The doctor said he was in a serious condition. The Judge then ordered his removal to the Sassoon Hospital. It transpired that prisoner had similar fits in the Yerrowda Jail recently. The case had been adjourned till next month. The second case against the accused, which was to have been heard to-day, for stealing and forging a cheque belonging to Mr. Dubois, District Superintendent of Police, was also adjourned "sine die." The prisoner's sister was present in Court, and a most affecting and painful scene was witnessed while the paroxysms of fits last.

A LADY ATTACKED IN LAHORE.

An incident which might easily have ended in the murder of a young lady, says the "Civil and Military Gazette," befell one of a party of cyclists on Saturday night. The party, consisting of four, set out at a little after 9 o'clock for a ride through the Lawrence Gardens, and when in Temple Road the young lady turned into a compound to see a friend, the others going on. No sooner had she entered the gate than a native, who was hiding behind the pillar, sprang upon her. Knocking her from the bicycle, he seized her wrist with one hand and with the other was endeavouring to strangle her, when, fortunately, at that moment, Mr. J. P. Wood of Messrs. Levy and Co. was riding past, and hearing cries for help at once dismounted and closed with the assailant. The man, a Hindu priest, when taken to the Anarjali police station, was found to be under the influence of a drug, but next morning there being little or no improvement in his manner the police believing him to be mad, took him to the Civil Surgeon to be examined. The young lady was picked up in a semi-unconscious state, but beyond a severe shock and slight bruises is doing well.

A DEFAMATION CASE.

Recently, a case which caused considerable local excitement was decided by the Cantonment Magistrate of S. Thomas' Mount. In this case Mr. A. G. Ponceca, the Civil Apothecary in charge of the Dispensary at Sapat, charged Mr. Sam Manickam, who described himself as Agent of the South Indian Railway Mission, with having given false information to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras in order to cause him to use his lawful power to the injury and annoyance of the complainant, and also with having defamed him by circulating copies of a Memorial containing defamatory matter. One of the allegations made against the complainant was unpunctuality in his attendance at the Dispensary. In the course of an elaborate judgment, the Cantonment Magistrate, Major Waller, found that this was not a false allegation. Another allegation against the complainant was that the latter pronounced a boil on the foot of the accused's son as elephantiasis and prescribed medicine for it as such. The Magistrate found that if the complainant had committed an error of that description, it was due to "want of proper care and attention in the diagnosis." Yet another allegation against the complainant was that "there was a cry in the town that his charges for private visits were exorbitant." The Magistrate found it to be well-founded in some instances. In acquitting the accused on all the charges, the Magistrate said that the accused had acted with reasonable care and attention, i. e., that he had acted "bona fide" in making the allegations against the complainant.—"M. Mail."

ELEPHANT CATCHING OPERATIONS IN COORG.

During the year ending March 31, 1903 elephant capturing operations were started in the South Coorg forests with the view to obtaining a sufficiency of animals for timber dragging and for lantana extraction. Forty-six pits were excavated and covered over and a small staff of pit-watchers to report "falls" were entertained at the commencement of the capturing season, viz., the month February to May. Unfortunately there were no trained elephants available locally for the securing and entraining of captured animals. Arrangements were therefore made with the kind help of the Malabar District Forest Officer for the services of his own "kunkies" from Malabar. But it generally took three or four days before these animals could arrive upon the scene when wanted. The operations resulted in trapping eleven animals, but unfortunately two of these succumbed to injuries received in the fall and one to natural disease. The remaining eight animals were secured and entrained. Four of these are small calves from 3 to 5 feet in height, which are about to be sold and may realise from five to eight hundred rupees each. Of the balance one is a young female of seven feet and the rest young tuskless just of an age to commence their training. On the whole the operations have been singularly fortunate in the class of animals secured, and the whole cost including Rs. 808 for Mr. Tireman's deputations has only run to Rs. 2,173. It is probable that this sum will be recouped by the sale of the four calves aforesaid.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

Now that legislation providing for the establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies has been passed, the Government of India are endeavouring to make it effective. They have addressed the Local Governments upon the subject and have invited them to select a few districts in each province in which the experiment of starting institutions of the kind may be most hopefully tried. The districts chosen are, where possible, to be such as will present some variety of conditions so as to give the maximum of experience. An important factor in the choice is to be the personal character and influence of the District Officer and the prohibition of his remaining in charge of the district for a time. In a Resolution upon the subject, published over the signature of Mr. Wilson, Secretary in the Revenue and Agriculture Department, the Government of India lay down that immediate charge of the infant societies when once started should devolve upon the Registrar appointed under the Act, rather than upon the District Officer, who is to be entrusted with giving the first impulse. He is to select the places in which the experiment is most likely to succeed, and to suggest to the people that action is to be taken, not by the Government, but by themselves, and explain how far, and in what way, Government is ready, to help them. Even after the Society is launched, however, Government will look to the District Officer to give his active sympathy and support, the Registrar being instructed to consult him constantly.

RAVAGES OF WILD ANIMALS IN THE C. P.

The experience of the Central Provinces would seem to suggest that big game-shooting is less popular than it used to be, or that sportsmen have less time than they once had to devote to shikar. Despite the fact that rewards of Rs. 500 each were offered last year for the destruction of four man-eating tigers, not one of the tigers was killed. A claim was made for the reward offered for the Salekassa tigress in Bhandara, but it was not proved. However, this tigress has ceased killing in Bhandara, but is said to have moved to another district. The Central Provinces authorities require, as is natural, very clear proof that a tiger killed is a man-eater before paying over the reward, but such proof is almost impossible to obtain, and refusal to pay leads sportsmen to say unkind things about the officials. However, a new system has been introduced in the Jabalpur Division which should prove more satisfactory. A reward of Rs. 150 will be paid at once for the shooting of any man-eater, to be followed by a further reward of Rs. 350 at the end of six months if human kills in that district cease entirely. It appears that in 1903 persons in the Central Provinces and that 199 tigers were killed. Forty-eight persons were killed in the Sambalpur district alone and the whole of these deaths are attributed to one tigress, which has infested the Ambabhona jungles for some years. Out of a total of 180 deaths due to panthers and leopards no fewer than 110 took place in the Raipur district, and this district also suffered severely from wolves. 42 deaths out of 50 for the whole of the Provinces being credited to it. The mortality among cattle from wild animals is reported to have been much greater than in the previous year, being put down at 16,810, while snakes are reported to have killed 684 more cattle. Tigers, panthers, and wolves account for an increased mortality amounting to some 2,600 animals. In Chanda district it is believed that the increase in the figures is due to better reporting, but elsewhere it is thought the increased mortality is due to the disappearance from the jungles of the game which forms the natural food of carnivora, and to the growth of scrub round the villages during recent famine years, which has given increased cover to beasts of prey.—"Pioneer."

Port Arthur, shut in by land and sea, and finally abandoned by Admiral Alexeief and Prince Boris, is confronted by the grim alternative of a more or less rapid and ignominious surrender, or a long and exhausting siege with no hope of relief or reinforcement. There is something heroic in the manner in which the small remaining garrison is preparing to face its doom. The retreating figures of Alexeief and the Grand Duke Boris—who only managed to clear away in time—are somewhat less heroic, although, to do Alexeief justice, he could not help himself, having gone north in obedience to an imperial decree. The Japanese having landed at Pitsewo and Kinchau, and being masters of the railway from Port Adams to the sea, Port Arthur is unquestionably isolated from the land side. But the mere fact that the Japanese have at last put into execution their carefully matured plan for the invasion of Liaotung shows that they have nothing more to fear from the Russian fleet. That means that Port Arthur is as securely sealed by sea as by land. It is said that the Japanese will establish themselves at Talienswan, within cannon shot of Port Arthur, and it is probable that the garrison will henceforward never know an easy day or night until the stronghold is taken.

As regards the Russian land campaign, it now appears that the strongly held position at Fengwangcheng is as illusory as the position on the Yelu. The Russians are in full retreat from it, and the Japs have occupied it without striking a blow. The question now is, to what point are the retreating Russians directing their steps? We were told six weeks ago that they held a strong position extending from Hancheng along the railway to Liaoyang. These positions are no stronger than Fengwangcheng, it is probable that they will be abandoned at the first Japanese advance, and the point at which they are expected to make their next stand, is indicated by the telegram stating that Admiral Alexeief has arrived at Mukden. Mukden is a great capital of Manchuria, and is in a position that it will be difficult to occupy. The Japanese must advance against it, the railway line. That the next move will follow the line of railway is renderable by the avowed intention of the force, now pursuing the Russians from Hancheng, to join hands with the force now landing at Newchwang. So merciful has General Kuroki been to the retreating Russians, so far that the Russians themselves if they are not rescued by Alexeief has blown them to pieces, it is possible that the force will be

detached by rail to occupy those places in anticipation of Kushtalinsky's broken columns. The tide of war seems as far as ever from turning in favour of the Russians.

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