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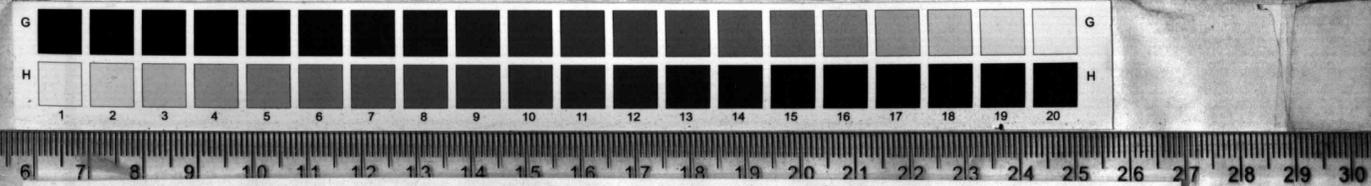
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MAKING THE DUMB TO SPEAK.

ANECDOTES OF EFFICIENCY.

DR. SYMES THOMPSON INTERVIEWED.

Time was when the dumb were silent and the deaf could not understand what other people said. That has been altered. Science has wrought the seeming miracle. And this is one of the most beautiful happenings in human history.

Holding the fingers in different distinct positions, and calling each position a letter of the alphabet—that was something. Arranging a code of signs of signals out of movements of the head, body, and limbs—that was something more. By those means a certain amount of communion with or between deaf mutes became possible. You would sometimes see them on a railway platform at their silent and laborious inter-communications, and though the rapidity of the movements compelled admiration, the sight was pathetic. The deaf mute was so obviously a prisoner within himself, remote from his fellows, helpless, cut off from intellectual and social joys.

Then came emancipation. It was discovered that, by the aid of touch, the "dumb" person could be taught to articulate sounds and control them through all the delicate varieties necessary to speech. It was also discovered that the deaf person could be trained to listen with his eyes—to interpret another speech by watching the mouth's movements that produced it.

To-day you may meet a deaf mate in the work-a-day world, carry on a long conversation with him, and go away without a suspicion that his equipment of senses is other than your own. That is remarkable circumstance. But a still more remarkable circumstance has to be recorded. The organization which exists to thus transform suffering and helpless persons into happy and useful citizens is crippled for want of funds. Weigh the two things together in your minds: the boon to afflicted humanity, and money—the metal discs we carry in our trousers pockets. Yet "the committee are seriously hampered by want of funds."

Dr. E. Symes Thompson (Chairman) and the Committee of the Society for Training Teachers of the Deaf, and of the Diffusion of the "German" (pure oral) System, request the Company of and friends at the annual general meeting of the Society, to be held on Wednesday, June 8th, 1904, at 3-30 o'clock, at 22, Portman-square, W. Having read that invitation, I, a "Daily News" representative, called upon Dr. Symes Thompson—who has been zealously engaged in this work for over thirty years—to learn how his Society and its system are progressing.

THE ORAL SYSTEM AND ITS RESULTS.

"The oral system has now no rival," he remarked. "It used to be said—I said it myself thirty years ago—'Let the two systems be used together—keep open all available avenues to the possession of knowledge.' But only by giving the most concentrated attention to the movements of the mouth can a person attain proficiency. Where attention is divided between the mouth and hands results are apt to be unsatisfactory."

"Is it now agreed that all can learn to speak?"

"I think it is a fact, though I am not quite sure there is complete agreement on the point. As recently as 1900 Earl Egerton, speaking at the Society's festival dinner, said there were perhaps some who could not be taught to speak. I ventured to express my disagreement with his lordship, and in support of my view I was able to quote the Abbe Tarra, the distinguished Italian, who is certainly a high authority. For seven years he taught the deaf on the sign system, for seven years on the system of signs associated with speech, and for seven years he taught the deaf by speech alone. And this is the conclusion to which he came: 'It is perfectly true that signs are easy for the children to see and for the children to understand. It is perfectly true that very quickly they may be led to follow them, but if the children have intelligence enough to understand by signs, they have intelligence enough, when they are properly taught, to understand by speech.' My own experience entirely confirms that view. I have had to do with many deaf children, who were so stupid and thick-headed, so unable to appreciate anything, that they might have been classed as imbeciles. Well, we have taken them into our school, we have put them under the influence of sympathetic loving, and tender teachers, and we have been amazed to find them among our most successful pupils."

"You make a great point of clearness of articulation?"

"Yes, in teaching and learning, it is desirable to say 'How-do-you-do?'—not 'How d'you do?'"

"Does a thorough course of training result in absolute facility in lip reading?"

"Yes, there is one of our pupils taking an ordinary University course at the present time. He attends the lectures with the other students, and experiences no difficulty in following what is said."

"If the speaker wears a moustache, is not lip reading rendered impossible?"

"Oh, dear, no."

"One has noticed on the part of children who have attended your school, or the School Board Centre, a tendency to speak harshly and to put emphasis in wrong places. Is that tendency ultimately corrected?"

"Yes, it passes away. It is quite possible to speak to a deaf person orally trained without knowing he or she is deaf. Sometimes there is the strong suggestion of an American twang—nothing more."

CHAMBERLAIN'S Colic Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy is everywhere acknowledged to be the most successful medicine in use for bowel complaints. It always cures and cures quickly. It can be depended upon even in the most severe and dangerous cases of cholera morbus, dysentery and diarrhoea. It should be taken at the first unusual looseness of the bowels. Sold by Smith Stanistreet and Co. Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co.; Abdool Rahman; Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.

DEAFNESS DISGUISED.

The daughter of Mr. Ackers, the founder of our Society—you would certainly think in her case that you were talking to an American. I ought to be ready enough to detect a case of deafness, but once I was completely deceived. I had been talking to Mrs. Graham Bell, and I merely carried away the impression that she had the most pronounced American accent that I had ever come across. The other day I was in a picture gallery with a friend of mine, who was being shown over by the daughter of the house, who had been trained by the oral system. We knew she was deaf, but so fully did she share in the conversation that it was very easy to forget the circumstance. Twice my friend did forget it. Going up close to a canvas, I heard him exclaim, 'How beautiful! When was this painted?' But of course the young lady could not see what he said when his face was turned to the wall."

"Do your pupils become capable of following a profession and earning a living?"

"Oh, yes. We have several young architects. Then there is a stockbroker, though he doesn't go into the house. Then there is one I know, who is a great traveller and has been all round the world. He prides himself on always getting his luggage through before anybody else."

"Is any class specially adapted to deafness?"

"No; but is rather common among the Jews by reason of inter-marriage."

"And how," I asked in consequence, "does the Society stand financially?"

"We are very much in need of money," said Dr. Symes Thompson.

Wednesday's meeting we shall make a great effort to raise £1,500. We have already received £401, and £100 is promised on condition that the balance is forthcoming. There is very much more public sympathy for the blind than for the deaf. I perceived that early in life, when my mother founded the school in the Avenue Road for teaching the blind to read. Our Society has very great difficulty in getting money. The fact is this work ought to be done by Government, as is the case in other countries, but English charity has been so splendid in the past that such work as ours remains entirely dependent upon voluntary subscriptions."

A CHAPTER OF JAPANESE HEROISM.

The Tokio correspondent of the "Times" writes under date May 3rd:—

The disaster which befell a Japanese transport, the "Kinshiu Maru," in the Sea of Japan, on April 25th, was a striking illustration of the strange chances that may occur in modern maritime warfare. The Sea of Japan, which is the only arena where the Russian Vladivostok squadron can operate, is the cruising ground of a strong Japanese squadron under Vice-Admiral Kamimura, whose absorbing purpose, night and day, is to fall in with the Russians and sink or disable them. It is, on the other hand, the aim of the Russians to elude an encounter, for only by continuing to menace Japanese commerce can they act an immediately useful part in war. One can easily appreciate the great perils attending any attempt to maintain a service of merchant steamers between Japan and Korea's eastern port so long as four 20-knot cruisers and a dozen torpedo-boats are waiting in Vladivostok to slip out and destroy everything Japanese that has the semblance of a ship. At first, indeed, the Japanese showed keen appreciation of these perils, but apprehension ultimately gave way to a desire that the Russians might be tempted to put in an appearance.

On April 23rd the Japanese admiral was at Gen-san. A week previously a little steamer (250 tons), the "Haginouru Maru," had arrived with the Japanese residents of Song-chin as passengers. They were fugitives, a squadron of Cossacks having ridden into the settlement just as the steamer carried the inhabitants out of port. Within the next few days vague rumours reached Gen-san to the effect that the Cossacks were pushing down the coast, and, finally, the officer commanding the garrison resolved to send a company of his men northward for purposes of reconnaissance. A fine steamer, the "Kinshiu Maru," was available. In her embarked a body of 124 officers and soldiers—the 9th Company of the 37th Regiment of Infantry—together with 20 naval men, including two officers, 17 boatmen, 80 labourers, and a crew of 71. The programme was that she should visit Ihwon, a place 90 miles north of Gen-san and 33 miles south of Song-chin, where the Cossacks had been last heard of. Admiral Kamimura was privy to this arrangement, but as he himself had planned to take his squadron to Vladivostok in search of the Russian cruisers, and for some other purpose which remains unexplained, he detailed only a small detachment of torpedo-boats to escort the "Kinshiu Maru." Nothing could possibly have seemed more unlikely than that "en route" for Vladivostok, he should meet and pass the Russian cruisers without observing them, and that while he was looking for them in the neighbourhood of Vladivostok they should be sinking his country's vessels in the very waters he had just left. Shortly after steaming out of Gen-san a bank of fog began to settle down on the Japanese ships, and the further north they proceeded the thicker became this veil. During nearly three days no bearings could be taken, and for a great part of the time the vessels could not sight each other. That they kept together at all and avoided accidents was sufficiently remarkable, and had they known that at any moment the Russian cruisers might blunder into their midst, the interest of the situation would have been increased for

them. At last the Admiral, abandoning his purpose, put back to Gen-san. He arrived there on the 26th, and the first news he received was that on the preceding day the Vladivostok squadron had appeared in Broughton Bay and had sent in two torpedo-boats which sank a small merchant steamer called the "Goyo Maru." There was another little steamer lying in the port, but the fog did her the good service of concealing her and the Russians departed unconscious of her presence. They evinced no precipitation whatever, but remained quietly in the bay until 5 o'clock in the evening, when they set out on their return voyage. Such was the intelligence conveyed to Kamimura when he returned to Gen-san on the following day. He learned also something still more disquieting—namely, that the "Kinshiu Maru" with her torpedo-boat escort had not yet come back from her reconnaissance, though she should have made the port on the morning of the 26th. It was altogether possible, of course, that the fog, though not nearly so dense near the Korean coast as it had been out at sea, might be responsible for the delay, but it was also possible that the transport and her escort had fallen in with the Russians. Kamimura gave orders for the immediate departure of his squadron on a search expedition. But as he was on the point of leaving port, the torpedo-boats steamed in without the transport. They reported that at half-past six on the preceding evening they had left Ihwon in company with the "Kinshiu," but the state of the barometer being alarming, their commander had intimated his intention of taking shelter for the night. The master of the "Kinshiu," however, preferred to continue his voyage, and the torpedo-boats, after lying in a bay "en route" during the night, had come on in the morning expecting to find the "Kinshiu" in harbour. The probability that the transport had been captured by the Russians now became a strong, but a vigorous search was organized along the coast lest she should be washed ashore by the fog. Admiral Kamimura himself determined to set out on the 27th. But again the fog proved too baffling, and on the 28th he returned. Alike on his outward and on his homeward voyage he found evidences of the "Kinshiu Maru's" fate; a barge containing a rifle, a sword, and a boot in the former case, and two of the steamer's boats in the latter. On the evening of the 29th the particulars of her catastrophe were learned from her survivors, who were carried to Gen-san by one of the search vessels. At 11-15 p.m. on the 25th, two hours after parting from her escort, she fell in with three Russian cruisers and two torpedo-boats. They were on their way back to Vladivostok after sinking the "Goyo Maru" in Gen-san, and it is evident that they must have been steaming very slowly, for they had left Gen-san at 5 p.m., and were now, at 11-15 p.m., only 50 miles distant from that place. They fired a blank cartridge to bring the "Kinshiu Maru" to. She obeyed at once, and then, after some conversation between the naval officer whom she carried and those on board the Russian flag-ship, the steamer lowered a boat by which her master, the two naval officers and another person proceeded to the flag-ship "Rosia." For what purpose they went there has been no explanation, but it is plausibly suggested that knowing the hopelessness of inducing the soldiers to surrender, they sought to effect some composition with the Russians. These, however, detained them, and ran up a curt signal to the effect that all failing to surrender within an hour would be sunk with the ship. To this summons the whole of the crew, the labourers and the boatmen responded, but in the confusion and darkness one of the boats containing six labourers and three mariners effected its escape. As for the five military officers, the 119 men under their command and the 18 blue-jackets, they remained on board the transport. The officers had ordered the men to stay below, and the order received quiet and implicit obedience. The dotted hour wore steadily to its close bringing to each side probably an equal access of suspense. Presently the blue-jackets lowered two boats. Not, however, for the purpose of going over to the Russians. They stood by the "Kinshiu," looking to render some assistance at the moment of catastrophe. Immediately on the expiration of the hour the Russian fired a fish torpedo which struck the transport nearly amidships. At this the officers passed word for the men to fall in on deck, which was done calmly and in good order. The captain in command of the company then told the men that they must consider themselves as no longer under his orders. He and his four brother officers had formed their resolve and they left the men to act independently. It was perfectly well understood what this signified. No Japanese could be in any doubt about the officers' intention. As they went below all knew that they went to die. No one seems to have spoken of surrender. The division to which this company belonged had a record to amend. Thirty years previously a battalion of the division had fallen into a panic when fighting against the Formosan savages, and ever since that time a tradition had existed in the Japanese army that the men of Osaka did not know how to fight. A time had now come when they could at least show that they knew how to die. Every man had his rifle in hand, and, standing on the deck of the sinking ship, they opened fire on the Russians. It was a fierce fusillade, every soldier loading and discharging, as quickly as consisted with deadly purpose. The Russians replied with machine guns, and

CHRONIC DIARRHOEA.—For several years during the summer months I have been subject to looseness of the bowels, which quickly ran into a very bad diarrhoea and this trouble was frequently accompanied with severe pain and cramps. I used to call on doctors for my trouble, but it became so regular a summer affliction that in my search for relief, I became acquainted with Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, which proved so effective and so prompt that I came to rely exclusively upon it, and what also happily surprised me was that while it almost instantly relieved the cramps and stopped the diarrhoea, it never caused constipation. I always take a bottle of it with me when travelling.—H. C. Hartman, Anamosa, Iowa, U. S. A. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co. Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co.; Abdool Rahman; Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.

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at a distance of 200 meters the 3-pounders and 1-pounders tore lanes through the ranks of the Japanese. Then followed another torpedo. Its explosion cut the steamer in two, and as the water washed knee-deep over her decks, a ringing cheer of "Banzai!" went up from the soldiers. The sergeant-major killed himself after the traditional Samurai fashion, and several of the men followed his example, some using their rifles, some their bayonets. Seventy-four of the rank-and-file perished with the five officers who had committed suicide below. But forty-five of the men escaped. Just before the vessel sank they leaped overboard and subsequently found two boats in which, after 16 hours' rowing they managed to make the shore. The blue-jackets perished. They were mowed down by the Russian guns.

It has been interesting to observe the attitude of the Japanese nation towards this calamity. No complaints were heard. People seemed to accept the inevitable necessity that some disasters must occur. Some blunders were committed. The naval men frankly acknowledged their fault. The transport should never have been allowed to travel without an escort, and they accepted all the responsibility of allowing her to do so. But the nation at large appeared to derive absolute comfort from the manner of these men's death. They had fallen as Japanese ought to fall, preferring to perish rather than to surrender, and in failing they had addressed to their countrymen a silent but perfectly audible assurance that Japan may trust her honour to the keeping of her soldiers. No economical reflection crosses the mind of the Japanese in such matters. He does not cast up any reckoning of the value of life, but if he be pressed to do so, he says that these men of the Ninth Company accomplished more for their country by the spirit they showed in dying, than they could possibly have achieved by living to work for her. It may well be doubted whether the world is poorer for the survival of this sentiment somewhere.

NOTES FROM TANGAIL.

Tangail, June 23. SAVED FROM A WATERY GRAVE.

A few days ago, one evening, while both the up and down steamers of the Kaligunji service entered the Porabari station it was blowing very hard, and, at a considerable distance in the river, something black was seen floating. Hurriedly the black thing came nearer, and it was seen that three men were clinging to a pile of straw. Fortunately there were on board the steamer, Babu Ishan Chandra Gupta, Satish Chandra Sen, of the Bhagulpur Police Training School and Mr. Unas of Karatya. They impromptly asked the Serang, and the crew to exert their might and main for the safety of the unfortunate drowned. But they did take very little care of what the gentlemen said. In the meantime Babu Satish Chandra being police officer, suddenly assumed a threatening attitude, which had a wholesome effect on the crew, who lowered down the life boat and rowed up to the unfortunate fellows, who were apparently dead. All the three were rescued in an unconscious state and amongst them was an infant of four years. After they were for some time carefully tended, they regained their senses and related that the child had twice slipped away from their grasp, and could not say how the child still was in their company.

NOTES FROM SOUTH ARCOT.

Teruvananthilly, June 26. SUGAR FACTORY.

The East Indian Distilleries and Sugar Factories Ltd. have a factory here under the management of Messrs. Oarry and Co. But it is a matter for regret that this factory does not work regularly through the whole year. It works from 2 to 8 months a year. In the working season it provides more than 300 coolies, but in the non-working season the condition of these poor people is pitiable. They could not find any work and had to starve during the period. The factory authorities would have long ago closed their concern here but for the peculiar whiteness and big crystals of the sugar manufactured here. The Company have several other factories in many other places, and they are doing profitable business in those places owing to their proximity to rivers and railways. Unfortunately here there are no such facilities.

RAILWAY.

We now hear that the South-Indian Railway Company intend opening a line from Trichinopoly to Kakurichi and thence to Trukochir, the head-quarter station of this district. It is only 14 miles from here. The Deputy Collector or the Tasildar visits this town while in circuit once or twice in every month. If the South Indian Railway Company open a line between Irukoiler and this town, it will be very convenient to the factory. Messrs. Oarry and Co., may apply to the S. I. R. to this effect and co-operate with them in constructing a line between Irukoiler and this town.

THE TIBETAN AFFAIR.

The number of troops actually in Tibet is now between four and five thousand, which should admit of a column of 1,500 men being sent to Lhasa. This was the strength which we recently indicated as likely to be employed, but we have not yet heard what the final arrangements of General Macdonald will be. He will have to make everything safe in his rear before he starts, and this means the employment of every available man who can be spared from the Chumbi Valley. Gyantse must of necessity be held in some strength as the valley leading from Shigatse has to be watched. Kang-ma must also be garrisoned by at least four companies, as the road from Khamba Jong cannot be disregarded. Further, there will be an enormous amount of convoy work to be done, and small movable columns must always be ready to march out at short notice in case of any hostile gathering being reported. We do not yet know the full fighting strength of the Tibetans or what levies have been called in from a distance. As the situation develops, these points will become clear, and the conduct of the campaign can be regulated accordingly. There is no need for precipitate action in any case, for the more thorough the preparations for an advance now are the less risk will there be of any check on the Lhasa road.—"Pioneer."

THE PALAT FORGERY CASE.

At the present Malabar Sessions, the above case, which has created a good deal of sensation will be heard. The accused in this case are a Barrister and a High Court Vakil, sons of the late K. R. Krishna Menon, Subordinate Judge, and brothers-in-law of the Hon'ble Mr. C. Sankaran Nair.

A MANGALORE SENSATION.

The Mangalore Correspondent of the "West Coast Spectator" gives particulars of a quarrel which the nearer relation of a Tyra Girl by the name of Yesoda had with the Roman Catholic priests of Mangalore. The young lady after passing her Matriculation went up to Mangalore for training as a teacher while there she embraced the Roman Catholic faith. On receiving information of this the young lady's relatives in Tellicherry went up to Mangalore and tried by persuasion to bring back Yesoda. She would not yield. Then force was resorted to with the necessary concomitant of a belted knight on the scene.

MILK FROM COCONUTS.

Mr. D. Pillai writes to the "Madras Mail":—With reference to the query as to whether there is any small machine or other contrivance for the purpose of extracting milk from coconuts, I beg to say that although, so far as I am aware, there is no machine specially designed for that purpose, I think what is known as Tincture Press may with advantage be employed in this case as well, as this simple apparatus, which is a compact screw press, is used by the chemists for squeezing out and recovering the last portion of fluid remaining in a succulent substance. I have tried it myself for taking out the milk of coconuts, and I have found it very useful, having the advantages of being both speedy and effective in its operation.

THE ELEPHANT TUSKS AFFAIR.

The dispute between Travancore and Cochin over a pair of tusks, particulars of which have already been reported, has reached a very interesting stage. The two States have very sensibly agreed to produce the two skulls, one in the possession of Cochin and the other in that of Travancore and fit in the tusks. The two skulls having been produced, the process of fitting the tusks was gone through at Cochin the other day, and the tusks were found to fit well into the skull produced by Travancore. The upper portion of the skull in the possession of Cochin is completely gone, and the opinion is that it is of an elephant 10 years old, and consequently the tusks in dispute could not have belonged to it. The result of this final experiment has not yet been communicated to the Travancore Durbar.

EARNINGS OF INDIAN RAILWAYS.

The returns showing the gross earnings of Indian railways from the 1st April to the 11th June indicate how well most of the big lines are doing, though there is a falling off in some important systems compared with last year. The net result is an increase of over 16 lakhs compared with the similar period of 1903, when the takings were very large. The greatest increase is on the North-Western State line, nearly six lakhs, due to the enormous wheat traffic to Karachi. Then comes the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, also nearly 6 lakhs, which is a most gratifying improvement; the East Indian, nearly 4 lakhs; the Southern Maharratta, 2½ lakhs; the Oudh and Rohilkhand, about 2½ lakhs; Burma lines nearly 1½ lakhs; and the Indian Midland a few thousands under 1½ lakhs. As a set off against these we have a very serious decrease on the Rajputana-Malwa line of over 5½ lakhs, and another of over 3½ lakhs on the Great Indian Peninsula; while the Bombay-Baroda system is worse by nearly 2½ lakhs and the Nizam's Guaranteed State line by over 1 lakh. It may be noted that the Kalka-Simla Railway earned Rs. 1,40,000 in this period of eleven weeks, a sum which shows how serious is the competition of the tonga.

Cholera is said to have broken out in the road from Shiguri up the Teesta Valley, so the passage of troops along it may become difficult.

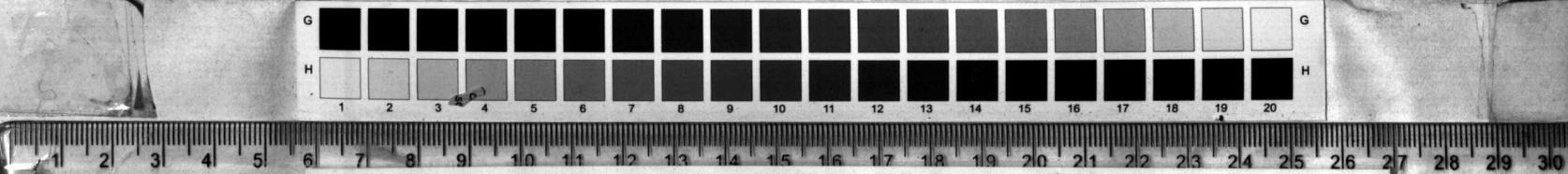
We hear that 4 elephants in the Kakankote Jungle were attacked by plague. A number of parrots and other birds are also said to be dying in numbers.—"Mysore Herald."

The village of Kiripane in Caylon has been again submerged to a depth of three feet, but it is hoped that the flood will not be so serious as last month. The flooding of the river is due to heavy rains up-country, which help to swell the Mahavelliganga.

The Mysore Government has sanctioned a sum of over Rs. 5,000 a year towards the establishment of an agricultural farm. This sum we hear, will be devoted to the scholarship of about 53 students, to the purchase of improved ploughs, oxen &c. A large portion of this amount will be returned in the shape of the yield.

The next meeting of the Ceylon Legislative Council has been fixed for the 13th July. This would be the ninth meeting of the present Session, which was opened by Sir West Ridgeway on 26th October last. The last meeting was held on 16th March, when eight Ordinances were introduced, the second reading of which were fixed for the next meeting. The Ordinances that will come on in the discussion stage, will be as follows:—Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund Amending Ordinance, the Railway Amendment Ordinance, Tolls and Arrack Rents Amending Ordinance, Inventors' Ordinance, Registration of Trade Marks Ordinance, Registration of Designs Ordinance, Amending Flogging Ordinance and an Ordinance for the Prevention of Cocoa Thefts.

ANYONE who has ever given Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, a trial will tell you it is unequalled for all stomach and bowel troubles. It never fails and is pleasant to take. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co. Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co.; Abdool Rahman; Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.



THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JULY 3, 1904.

ARE WE GOING BACKWARDS?—II.

In our last, we discussed the question as regards the Indians and Anglo-Indians. Today we mean to notice what some English people have to say of their own condition. Indeed, the question "are we going backwards" was first raised by certain English publicists, and we took our hint from them. From the manner the English writers have discussed the question, it would appear that the condition of England is far worse than that of India. Let us see what "Nomad" says. He asks in the Leicester "Pioneer": "Has the sun of Britain's glory turned his face towards west? Has the top of the tree been reached and the return journey begun?" "Northumbrian" asks the same question in "Reynold's Newspaper." He shows by figures that the birth-rate in England is falling off, and is most marked in centres of industries. Here is a table:—

Table with 3 columns: Town, Birth-rate, per 1,000, 1876, 1901. Rows include Bolton, Blackburn, Oldham, Bradford, Halifax.

In some of the London districts, too, the rate is very remarkable. In Chelsea it has fallen from 28.1 to 20.6; in Hampstead 26.1 to 18.3, and in Camberwell 29.0 to 22.3.

Not only is the birth-rate falling off, but infant mortality, according to the same authority, is increasing. This is burning candles at both ends. Says "Northumbrian":—

"In 1866, for example, the birth-rate in England was 35.2 per thousand. By 1900 it had fallen to 29.2, and by 1901, 28.5. At the same time infant mortality was very large. In England and Wales during the year 1900 no fewer than 1,774 infants were overlain. In the ten years up to the end of 1902, 15,009 children met their deaths in this way. In 1900 there were 615 cases in London alone, and a year later 511. In these two years in London one inquest out of every fourteen was upon a case of overlying, and in each year the London inquests aggregated about 8,000. In the "good old days" it used to be said that it required a long war or a plague to keep down the population. With the two forces now at work—I mean the falling birth-rate and the increased slaughter of the innocents—it looks as though we should not require either war or plague."

To the above add the state of circumstances disclosed by the following statement, namely, the number of petitions filed for the dissolution of marriage during 1902 was by far the largest yet recorded, amounting to no less than 889, as against 750 in 1901 and the yearly averages of 601 for 1893-1897 and 707 for 1898-1902.

"Nomad" has an alarming account of "British degeneracy." He says:—"Temperance men point to the terrible ravages of the drinking habit, and warn us that unless steps are taken to overcome this indulgence, national ruin is inevitable. Other reformers draw our attention to the increase in gambling; they show us how the love of betting is spreading among all classes of society, among women and children, as well as men. "The sport" mania claims a large share of attention. We are told of the thousands upon thousands who concentrate all their lives upon games of one kind or another, to the neglect of more important matters. "The social reformer tells us of the evils of slum life, and of industrial life generally. He shows us, with unassailable logic, that under these evil conditions the human being must deteriorate, mentally and physically. "Medical specialists draw our attention to the increase in pulmonary diseases, to the increase in insanity. "Committees, educational and otherwise, are much concerned with the growing number of mentally deficient children, and also with the physical shortcomings of those who attend the elementary schools. The number of evils in our midst—want of employment, mendicancy, prostitution, and crime all receive their share of attention, and we wonder how it is with this terrible load of misery that the nation is not in a state of utter collapse."

The other day the Rev. John Wilson, declared at a public meeting held at the Farlington Memorial Hall that there were 800,000 drunks in England, that is to say, there are two among every hundred! His other statement which seems incredible, but which is based upon official returns, is that one in every 293 members of the English population is insane, and that in London alone, over seventy insane persons are produced per week. In little over thirty years the number of persons in England mentally afflicted has nearly doubled!

Such matters are beyond our jurisdiction. We must, however, say that if there is a good God,—if Jesus Christ is not fraud—a nation must suffer whose highest object of existence is the extension of Empire by war. We are told by God that we must try to love our enemies. That is the law before us. Instead of loving enemies if a nation conquers weaker neighbours and subjugate them, they are bound to suffer in the end in this God's creation, where moral laws can never be overridden by puny worms like men. In England then we see:

- (1) Reduction of birth-rate and increase of infant mortality. (2) Increase of gambling and drunkenness. (3) Increase of slum life, of hooliganism, mendicancy and prostitution. (4) The decadence of the intellectual faculties and increase of insanity, etc., etc.

WHERE WE WERE AND WHERE WE ARE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

The English people from the very commencement of their rule in India were generously inclined to sink a difference as regards race, colour, and religion in the matter of eligibility to public offices, but their noble objects have always been frustrated by the rulers of India, and the Public Service Commission tried to give the finishing stroke to the prospects of the Indians. The revenues of India were protected by the Government of India Act 1858, which lays down that for any expedition beyond the frontiers of India, the British Government in England must find the money. But this rule has never been obeyed. Similarly

the Public Service of this country was kept open to all her Majesty's subjects, Indian and English. The special departments were specially reserved for the natives of the soil. But though England ungrudgingly made this arrangement, the Europeans have monopolized all the leaves and fishes of the State. So early as 1833, the English Government had the magnanimity of passing section 87 of the Statute 3 and 4 Will, cap 85, which runs as follows:—

"That no native of the said territories (India), nor any natural-born subject of His Majesty resident therein, shall, by reason only of his religion, place of birth, descent, color, or any of them, be disabled from holding any place, office, or employment under the said Government (Act 3 and 4 Will. IV. c. 85, 8. 87, 1833)."

It was in the same spirit that the Court of Directors, referring to the above enactment, issued their Despatch No. 44, dated December 10, 1834, in which among others, the following noble sentiments find place:—

"But the meaning of the enactment we take to be that, there shall be no governing caste in British India; that, whatever other tests of qualification may be adopted, distinctions of race or religion shall not be of the number; that no subject of the King, whether of Indian, or British, or mixed descent, shall be excluded either from the posts usually conferred on our Unconquered Servants in India, or from the Governed Service itself, provided he be otherwise eligible, consistently with the rules and agreeably to the conditions observed and enacted in the one case and in the other."

"Certain offices are appropriated to them (the Natives), from certain others they are debarred; not because these latter belong to the Governed Service, and the former do not belong to it, but professedly on the ground that the average amount of Native qualifications can be presumed only to arise to a certain limit. It is this line of demarcation which the present enactment obliterated, or rather, for which it substitutes another, wholly irrespective of the distinction of races. Fitness is, henceforth, to be the criterion of eligibility."

Next we come to the ever-memorable Proclamation issued on November 1, 1858, by Her Majesty the Queen, after her assumption of the direct Government of British India, wherein occur the following passages, breathing most noble sentiments of justice, equality and humanity:—

"We hold ourselves bound to the Natives or our Indian territories by the same obligations of duty which bind us to all our other subjects; and these obligations, by the blessing of Almighty God, we shall faithfully and conscientiously fulfil."

"And it is our further will that, so far as may be, our subjects, of whatever race or creed, be freely and impartially admitted to offices in our Service, the duties of which they may be qualified by their education, ability, and integrity, duly to discharge."

But Her Majesty's Government in their solicitude to do justice to the natives of India, went still further. At the time that the above Proclamation was made, there existed section 67 of Statute 33 Geo. III, cap. 52, which laid down that "all vacancies happening in any of the offices, places, or employments in the Civil line of the Company's service in India (being under the decree of the Council) shall be from time to time filled up and supplied from amongst the Civil Servants of the said Company belonging to the Presidency wherein such vacancies shall happen." As this enactment stood in the way of giving effect to the wishes expressed in Her Majesty's Proclamation, quoted above, in 1861 the Statute 24 and 25 Vic. cap. 54 was passed, which not only defined, in the Schedule attached thereto, the appointments reserved for the Civil Service, but also empowered the authorities in India, under special circumstances, to appoint also to these offices persons other than Governed Civil Servants, subject to certain restrictions. It empowers the authorities to confer almost all high appointments upon the natives of the land.

But the authorities in India did not care to exercise the powers given to them in 1861 in favour of the "natives" for long nine years, with the exception of two cases and Her Majesty's Government passed in 1870 the Statute 33. Vic. cap. 3 providing in section 6 "additional facilities" for the employment of natives of India of proved merit and ability in the Civil Service of Her Majesty in India." But it took the Government of India nine years to finally frame rules for giving effect to the above enactment. These rules were not as good as they should have been, but yet they made it compulsory upon the Government to give one-sixth of the appointments in the Civil Service to the natives of the soil. They also reserved posts of Rs. 200 and upwards for the Indians exclusively. The rules, in spite of their unsatisfactory character, were something like a Magna Charta to meet the just and legitimate claims of the Indians to superior appointments in all Civil Departments of Service.

The Public Service Commission was appointed to give effect to the generous intentions of England as embodied in various Acts and Despatches, enumerated above, but, in the performance of this duty, they completely failed. In 1861 a Statute was passed by the Home Government, acknowledging the eligibility of the natives of the soil to almost all high appointments under the Government. But the Public Service Commission came to the conclusion that, as a rule, the Indians must not aspire to higher offices than District Magistrateships and Judgeships. In a future issue we hope to show how this Commission proved a big disappointment, though its object was "to do justice to the claims of the natives of India to higher and more extensive employment in the public service."

WHAT MR. RISLEY'S STATISTICS PROVE.

We have already seen how it was the intention, of early British statesmen that both the minor and the higher public services should be filled up by Europeans and Indians alike, and how these noble intentions were frustrated, step by step, by Anglo-Indian rulers. The spectacle that India now presents is unique in the world. Is there a country, civilized or uncivilized whose public services are monopolized almost wholly by foreigners? India is the only exception. Here the people

are nowhere in their own public services; it is aliens who hold all civil and military appointments worth having; sinecures have been created for their benefit; princely salaries are paid to them to enable them to remain honest; works which could be done infinitely better and economically by Indians are entrusted to incompetent and highly-paid European hands; and the resources of the country are in this way wantonly wasted.

People have very little idea of the wrong done to India by this monstrous monopoly of public service. In the beginning of British rule in this country the only European officials employed by the Government were the Collectors, who having extorted money from the people, sent one portion to the Company, and another portion to their immediate masters in Calcutta, and the rest they kept to themselves.

But the governing bodies found the scope of their duties gradually increasing and they felt the necessity of creating new departments. At the outset, it was realized that a native of the soil was essentially necessary to carry on these new duties. A Mussalman Darga was thus the District Police Superintendent in olden times. A Mussalman Kazi then practically performed the functions of a Sessions Judge. All ministerial works were performed by Hindus. But, gradually, the Indian element was eliminated; and now, as we said, the country presents a sight to those who have eyes to see which has no parallel in the world. It is a spectacle of horrible selfishness.

Go to any office you like, and you see it presided over by a European, all the natives of the soil working under him in the most subordinate capacity. But it is not only the head of the office who is an alien, his immediate assistant is also of the same nation. So also is his second assistant till you come to the lowest ladder, where alone you have the pleasure of seeing the faces of your countrymen engaged in pulling the punks, mending the men, or at the most, copying drafts, keeping accounts, and doing other clerical work. Some of the petty appointments reserved for the possession of the "Poor Whites" will appear from the following instances. The post of a toll-gatherer is certainly a very insignificant one. But what do you see if you go to the Krishnagur ferry ghat? A European there is collecting tolls! The Hooghly Bridge is also in charge of a white toll-gatherer.

Even the Elephantia Caves are in the possession of a European, who will tax you four annas before you are allowed to set your foot on the island. What business has he to be there and demand the fee? The fact is, a European in this country must be maintained, and his post has been created for him.

They began as Collectors of revenue; but now all posts above, and a good many below, the Collectors, are in the entire possession of the Europeans and Eurasians. Thanks to the policy of the present Government, the latter are even more vigorously active than before, and, octopus-like, stretching out their tentacles to reach and hold in their iron grip even the most minor appointments. The distance between England and India being practically annihilated, European place-hunters are ever spreading themselves in every part of the country. On the other hand, the Eurasian and the domiciled European community has grown into a pretty big one and is growing by rapid strides. Need anybody now wonder why educated Indians are being expelled from the public services of their mother country to starve, and the higher classes disappearing so fast?

But, if the superior appointments were made over to the Europeans, the subordinate posts, at least for decency's sake, should not have been allowed to be meddled with by foreigners. It was not only a solemn promise but by a Rule, which had practically the force of a law, that these minor berths were exclusively reserved for the people of this country. This Rule, which was passed in 1879, laid down that "no persons other than natives of India shall be appointed to an office carrying a salary of Rs. 200 a month or upwards, without the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council." It was to neutralize the wrong done to the Indians for their expulsion from the higher services and meet their just and legitimate claims in special departments, that the Rule in question was enforced after a deliberation of many years. It was considered the Magna Charta of the people with regard to a large number of higher berths in almost all the branches of the administration except the Public Service Commission; and how the Rule has been violated in a most wanton manner will be evident to every one if he will only glance over the statistics prepared by Mr. Risley to prove "the unexampled liberality" of British rule in India.

Let us now see with what rigour have the Hindus and Mussalman been ostracised from almost all grades of appointments carrying salaries of Rs. 200 and over per month in every special department. We shall confine our remarks to the state of things in 1903. Look to the Telegraph Department. Here there are only 18 Indians in the grade of Rs. 200-600, but 180, or ten times, Europeans and Eurasians. In the grade of Rs. 600 to 3,500, there are 37 Whites, but not a single Indian!

In the Survey Department, there are only 9 Indians and 43 Europeans in the grade of Rs. 200 to 400; while there is not a single Indian in the grade of Rs. 400 to 3,500, though there are 56 Europeans!

In the Stationary and Printing Department, in the grade of Rs. 200 to 500, there are 7 Indians and 24 Europeans, and in the grade of Rs. 500 to 1,200, there are 8 Europeans, but not a single Indian.

In the State Railways the proportion is as follows: In the grade of Rs. 200 to 300, 287 Europeans and only 63 Indians; Rs. 300 to 400, 140 Europeans and only 23 Indians; Rs. 400 to 500, 89 Europeans and only 11 Indians; Rs. 500 to 900, 126 Europeans, and only 9 Indians; and lastly, in the grade of Rs. 900 to 3,000, the Indian is nowhere, and there are 119 Europeans!

In the Salt Department, there are 26 Indians and 40 Europeans in the grade of Rs. 200 to 300; 19 Indians and 31 Europeans in the grade of Rs. 300 to 400; 2 Indians and 41 Europeans in the Rs. 400 to 800 grade; and no Indian and 16 Europeans in the Rs. 800 to 4,000 grade!

In the Royal Indian Marine, there are only 5 Indians and 21 Europeans in the Rs. 200 to 400 grade; while, in the grade of Rs. 400 to 3,000, there are 18 Europeans, the Indian element being absolutely absent.

In the Public Works, the matter stands thus:

Table with 3 columns: Grade, Indians, Europeans. Rows show salary ranges from Rs. 200 to 300 up to Rs. 1,200 to 3,000.

It will be seen that the higher the grade, the lesser is the Indian element till it disappears altogether in the highest grade.

The same is the case with the Police and Postal Departments. The situation is as follows in the Police:

Table with 3 columns: Grade, Indians, Europeans. Rows show salary ranges from Rs. 200 to 300 up to Rs. 900 to 3,000.

And the proportion is as follows in the Post Office:

Table with 3 columns: Grade, Indians, Europeans. Rows show salary ranges from Rs. 200 to 300 up to Rs. 1,000 to 3,000.

Be it remembered the Post Office in consequence of its non-political character, was made over entirely to the natives of the soil.

Another thoroughly non-political department is the Opium Department. But just see how it is almost entirely white from the top to the basement:

Table with 3 columns: Grade, Indians, Europeans. Rows show salary ranges from Rs. 200 to 300 up to Rs. 600 to 700.

In the Government Resolution, Mr. Risley justifies this almost wholesale ostracism of the Indians from a large number of appointments carrying Rs. 200 and upwards on the principle that they do not possess the qualifications necessary to hold them with fitness. But may we enquire what special training is required to enable one to occupy a higher post in the Opium or the Police Department or the Post Office and the departments named above which is beyond the capacity of an educated Indian? Even in the Stationary and Printing Departments, all the fat berths are in the possession of Europeans and Eurasians. In the scientific departments the Indians are excluded on the ground of their possessing no scientific knowledge. By a concrete example, we shall show in a future issue, how the Indians are in no way inferior to the members of the ruling race in this respect. In short, no nation in the annals of the world has suffered so gigantic a wrong in the matter of employment of the natives of the soil in their public services as the Indians have suffered under British rule. And this is not a mere opinion, but a stubborn fact based upon official statistics collected by no less an authority than Mr. Risley who is a minister himself.

We are glad to learn that the Provincial Conference this year has been eminently successful. Delegates assembled from almost all the Districts of Bengal and everywhere present evinced an amount of enthusiasm which was not witnessed since a long time. The number of delegates, some of whom came at great personal risks and inconveniences as we are informed, far exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the Burdwan people. The success can be partially attributed to the reactionary policy adopted by Lord Curzon. We should not forget to mention the most cordial welcome that was accorded to the delegates by the Burdwan people and the sumptuous dishes provided to the delegates and the excellent arrangements made for the comforts of the guests.

This public, or for the matter of that the Government itself, is perhaps not aware how the Tibet expedition has to put a stop to cart traffic in the districts adjoining Darjeeling, especially Dinajpur, to the consternation and loss of the tradespeople, and the agriculturists of those districts. Two or three months ago, thousands of hackeries were needed for the use of the little army to the front; and the District Magistrates of Rungpur and Dinajpur were asked to supply a good number of them. The District Magistrate of Rungpur, being a Bengali gentleman, managed the business with tact, judgment, and sympathy, and there was no complaint from the public in his district on this score. It was, however, a quite different thing in Dinajpur, which is under the charge of a European District Officer. He issued the usual orders to the police. And what was the result? A reliable correspondent thus describes the state of things obtaining there. Villages were ransacked and carts with bullocks and cartmen were sought to be impressed. But the process was found to be slow and unsatisfactory, the villages lying scattered at a considerable distance from one another, and each of them having a very few hackeries. A clever plan was therefore formed to seize hundreds of carts at one swoop. On a certain market day, a large number of cartmen had collected at the town of Dinajpur with carts laden with goods of various sorts. After having unloaded the goods, they were resting themselves, letting their bullocks loose, when a number of policemen captured the carts. An alarm was raised, and many of the cartmen fled in all directions, leaving their carts and bullocks to their fate. The carts having been thus secured, were despatched to the front, with or without the bullocks we are not informed.

The news of this police raid spread like wild-fire throughout the length and breadth of the district, and created great panic. The corrupt section of the police, among those who were deputed to secure carts in the interior, not only added new terrors to the alarm by threatening to deport people to the scene of the war with their carts and bullocks, but utilized their opportunities by extorting money from them. To escape from the threatened imprisonment and police exactions, the panic-stricken cartmen adopted an extraordinary method. They hid their carts or rather their wheels, axles, etc., underneath the ground, and sent away

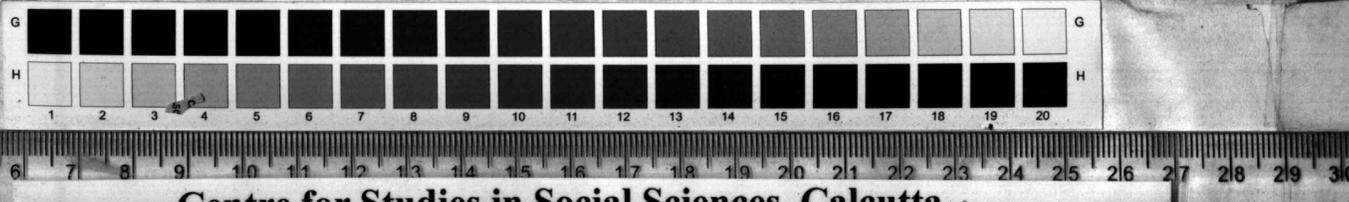
their bullocks elsewhere. Now, Dinajpur is a district where traffic is carried by hackeries mainly. One can thus easily imagine the situation when not a single cart was to be had, either for love or for money. The railway station was filled with bags and tin-cases containing various articles of daily use, such as salt, kerosine oil, etc.; but they could not be removed to their destination for want of conveyance. Prices of ordinary things necessarily rose enormously. Many local tradesmen were obliged to use horse carriages, at heavy costs, to carry goods from the railway station to their place of business. This state of things has been continuing for the last two or three months, and the hackery-men are still hiding themselves with their carts and bullocks.

The sequel has a grim humour about it. The District Magistrate, having realized the grave nature of the mischief, proclaimed, by the beat of drum, that no cartmen would again be interfered with. The people were however as suspicious as ever. They attached no value to the assurance of their District lord; on the other hand, they regarded it as a trap to seize and deport them to the front when they would come out with their carts and bullocks! So the Magistrate's proclamation had no effect upon them. On the other hand, they were the more determined to keep their carts and bullocks concealed and unemployed. This means ruin to themselves and the traffic of the district. The jute season is come and a jute merchant, who has considerable business in Dinajpur, writes us to say that he will be a ruined man if the present situation remains unchanged. By the way, the Dinajpur carts, sent to the front, were found to be worthless and returned to the Magistrate of Dinajpur. Hundreds of them are now lying huddled in the local Kotwali thana. The owners are however not coming forward to claim them, lest they are deported to the front.

This is the way the money of poor India is wasted. The Punjab Budget Statement shows that the late plague inoculation campaign in the Province has cost Rs. 380,000. This figure, it may be noted, does not include the charges incurred in England in engaging and sending special doctors for inoculating work. They will also come to a large amount, considering that fifty such doctors were imported at princely salaries. And the tangible result of all this heavy expenditure is, as is well-known, the Malkowal disaster. Surely the rational and proper course for the authorities to adopt was to be first satisfied as to the efficacy of the system of treatment and then spend money for its introduction in the country. But they followed the reverse course. Who can after this deny that India is looked upon by some of our rulers as the land of experiment? The plague, if a curse to the Indian people, has proved a mighty blessing to a good many outsiders.

When the Councils Act was passed, there were half-a-dozen non-official seats in the Bengal Council which could be filled up by our representatives. But, as we pointed out the other day, one has clean slipped out of our hands; and the public, it seems, is not aware that one or two others are likely to share the same fate. Before 1900 the Muffasil Municipalities used to return two members; but, since then, they are permitted to elect one only. It is quite true that this seat has been made over to the Zemindars; but, a special seat was reserved for the latter, which has been appropriated by the Government. So one of the seats is lost to us. This seat had its special value, as, of all the constituencies empowered to return representatives, the most independent is the Muffasil Municipalities, two-thirds of the members of which are elected. The Calcutta Corporation is another constituency which has the privilege of sending a member to the Council. But the Corporation is now in the hands of those, the vast majority of whom are either Europeans or "ap-ke-wastes." Whoever occupies the Corporation seat cannot thus be regarded as a genuine representative of the people. There is then the University seat. The constitution of the Calcutta University has been radically changed on the model of the Calcutta Corporation, and, consequently, this seat too is bound to be filled up in future either by a European or a creature of the officials. Thus, of the six non-official seats one has been snatched away from us, and the other two are practically lost to us. The District Board seats are more official than popular in their character. So not only are three out of the six seats gone, but, except the Muffasil Municipalities, there is not another constituency which can be called purely unofficial. With regard to the lost Muffasil Municipalities seat, we hope, a systematic and sustained agitation will be made to recover it. The plan to be adopted in this connection is simple. Originally the Government was appointing a Zemindar nominee of its own to the seat set part for the Zemindars. So the Government should be approached with the prayer that, it should ask the Zemindars to select a member from amongst themselves to fill up this seat, and restore the lost seat to the Municipalities.

The sympathetic utterances of Sir Andrew Fraser at Rungpore and Julpaiguri are calculated to infuse hope into the minds of the people of Bengal. It is quite evident His Honour will try his best to do at least some good to the millions entrusted to his care. From his Rungpore speech it is clear that Sir Andrew is an ardent advocate of the agricultural development of the Province. On this subject we have said much as we have much to say in future. At Julpaiguri he gave further evidence of his sympathy with local self-government by conferring the privilege of elective system upon the Municipality of that town. Our warm thanks are also due to the Lieutenant-Governor for his having transferred Mr. Carey from Murshidabad. Of course it means some punishment to Mr. Carey for refusing him permission to return to the district of Murshidabad, the land of his pranks, where he was determined to stay; but, considering the grave matters of his vagaries he should have been relegated to some such department where he would have no opportunities of committing mischief. Dressed in Magisterial authority, nothing will prevent him from playing the same role in Hooghly that he did in Murshidabad and



create unrest there. Let us hope for the best. The conduct of the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh, Mr. Foster, also requires His Honour's serious attention.

CRIMINAL cases can be sown like paddy. And they have to be sown for the purpose of maintaining the large police and magistrat force in the country. Paddy is sown and the grain, the sowing yields maintains the family. So a criminal case may be, by slight efforts, made to yield a good harvest. Nistarini accused Mrinalini of a crime, and the case was tried by the Deputy Magistrate of Baraset. In the course of her deposition Nistarini stated that the accused was a maid-servant when the latter raised her hand making a gesture of assault. Thus Nistarini had an opportunity of bringing a second case against Mrinalini. Mrinalini was convicted and sentenced to one day's imprisonment. But the Deputy Magistrate found that Nistarini had made a false statement, namely that she said she had been assaulted, though there was only a gesture of assault on the part of the accused. And thus Nistarini was called upon to shew cause why she should not be prosecuted under section 193 I.P.C. The High Court was moved and Nistarini got a rule. We see here the process of sowing of criminal cases. There was one case in the beginning, which has yielded four and it may yet yield more. And thus the Police and the Magistracy are maintained. It is these criminal cases which are taking away the vitality of the nation.

With regard to the Barh whipping case, the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court made the following strong observations on Mr. Foster's conduct:

"We are ready to believe that Mr. Foster was led astray by mistaken zeal and that his judgment was somewhat affected by his bad state of health at the time. The result was deplorable. A summary trial was forthwith held upon inadequate materials before a Judge who was himself a principal witness and without allowing the accused time to consider the defence non-appealable sentences were passed including a sentence of stripes which were inflicted and can not be revoked. Making every allowance for the conditions and circumstances indicated, still we must condemn Mr. Foster for his precipitate and illegal action."

In reference to Mr. Foster's proceedings at Hazaribagh, their Lordships made the following remarks:

"Mr. Foster in his explanation, which plainly shows that he is impatient of control, and resents what he terms the intervention of the High Court, has ventured to assert that this Court has acted without any consideration for a District Magistrate's prestige" and in a manner "likely to open an avenue to future lawlessness." Mr. Foster who is an officer of only 8 1/2 years' service, should, instead of chafing under the salutary control of the High Court and using improper language, welcome the interposition of higher authority, which is calculated to check the errors of impulse and inexperience and to correct illegal actions, which might otherwise lead to serious consequences. He no doubt occupies a high and respectable position, as he is careful to remind us, but that does not give him license to send men to jail without justification in law, nor to adopt the arrogant tone of one who considers his action beyond criticism and correction. This is a typical case indicating the necessity of a controlling authority to rectify the mistakes and illegalities committed by Magistrates."

His Honour will thus see how Mr. Foster has rendered himself totally unfit to hold the important post of a District Officer. On the former occasion he was sought to be excused for his having been "honestly mistaken." In the Hazaribagh case his youth was brought into requisition to extenuate his conduct. But if he is young, the office he occupies is a most responsible one. Indeed, he is practically the supreme lord of nearly a million of souls. Is it fair, is it just, nay, is it not repugnant to common sense to place the honour and liberty of so many human beings in his keeping?

In the United States, the mortality, not only among children but also adults, has been considerably reduced by several means, one of them being the introduction of various healthy foods, for the sick and the dyspeptic. Indeed, one of the causes which swell the number of deaths is the indiscriminate use of indigestible food by the invalid. Mellin's Food, Nestle's Swiss Milk, and the like have done an amount of good which cannot be described in adequate language. Even in this country there is scarcely a respectable home where they have not penetrated and saved many a child. But is there none in this country to discover such a food; and, in this way, not only to take out a source of living for himself, but also to prove a benefactor to the sick, like the discoverers of Mellin's Food and the Swiss Milk? It affords us much pleasure to announce that Dr. Nundy's "Dextrinised Food" is calculated to prove a great boon to the people of this country. Those who have tried it can testify to its suitability to those who suffer from dyspepsia. From the numerous doctors' certificates placed at our disposal, it appears, that it can be also safely used with immense benefit even by patients—children or adults—who are suffering from bad type of dysentery or diarrhoea. Dr. Nundy submitted his food for analysis to Dr. C. Schulten, the well-known Chemical Analyst of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and he gives an excellent certificate in which he states that, "the food is dextrinised and all the granules are opened by bursting, so making the food easily digestible." From a comparative analysis of other foods as published in the London "Lancet," July 6th, 1902, and the "Medical Review," August 1902, it appears that Dr. Nundy's is fully equal in quality to all the invalid foods hitherto discovered in Europe and America; on the other hand, it is superior to some, as it contains a higher percentage of protein and carbohydrate, and as all the granules of starch it contains being completely burst open, is very easily digestible. It can be had of Dr. Nundy, Hygienic Sanitarium, 9, 10, 11, Upper Circular Road, Calcutta.

The United Provinces are divided into nine Commissionerships. All the nine Commissioners are Europeans. No one need wonder at this. But, would it be believed that the Head Assistants in all the nine offices are also

Europeans or Eurasians. The talk of Lord Curzon's and Mr. Risley's "unexampled liberality" before these stern facts can surely have no meaning.

We are told that Mr. F. C. Harrison, the Accountant-General of the United Provinces, has been accorded special permission this year by the Local Government to summer on the hills. May we enquire why this innovation? Was it because Mr. Harrison made this request and Sir James LaTouche could not disoblige him? Or was it because Mr. Harrison was not keeping good health? If it was this why was he not allowed leave? A precedent has now been created, and in a few short years the Accountant-General like other heads of departments will also enjoy the hills at the expense of the public.

The Secretary of State, we are told, has formally sanctioned the formation of a Commercial Department with the Government of India. We are yet to see how India is to be benefited by the creation of this new Department. But one thing is certain. It will benefit a number of English men, for the Department will have its usual Secretary, Under Secretary and office staff, reserved of course for the "whites."

We publish elsewhere the judgment of the Sessions Judge of Barisal in the case now well known as the Gharrywalla case because of the sensation it has created. The case is now pending in the High Court, and we make no comments upon it. This case naturally brings to one's mind sicular case in which a driver was, the other day, hauled up before the Chief Magistrate of Bombay on a charge of rash and negligent act. It appeared that while driving his carriage on a certain road, it collided with another, carrying a European. It collided with some force for the occupant of the other carriage was thrown off which caused some injury to him. The Magistrate convicted the man and sentenced him to a fine of Rs. 15. The Magistrate considered the punishment heavy and also remarked that such a severe sentence was needed considering the gravity of the offence. In the Barisal case the Gharrywalla has got three months' rigorous imprisonment. So either the Bombay Magistrate was too lenient or the Barisal Hakim too severe. Judging the case by the Bombay standard, the Barisal man ought to have been let off with a fine only.

As already announced, a special meeting of the District Board of Barisal was held on the 28th ultimo to elect a delegate in the place of Mr. Beatson-Bell to recommend a member to the Bengal Legislative Council for the Dacca Division. There were fifteen members present and the contest lay between Mr. Weatherall and Babu Rajani Kant Dass. Out of 15 members present, 10 voted for Mr. Weatherall. So Mr. Weatherall was elected.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

His Excellency Lord Kitchener may possibly make a trip into the interior from Simla when the rains are fully established.

Mr. Morris, I. C. S. Under-Secretary in the Home Department of the Government of India, will proceed to England on leave at the end of the year.

Heavy floods are reported to have occurred on the Kabul River below Jellalabad in June and the wooden bridges at Lalpura (Dakka) when badly damaged.

Mr. E. A. Kenyon, Superintendent of Telegraphs, Bombay Office, proceeds on combined leave next week, and will be succeeded by Mr. N. U. K. Leslie.

Mr. Justice Robertson has been confirmed as Judge of the Lahore Chief Court, vice Mr. Anderson deceased. Mr. Justice Rattigan gets Mr. Robertson's place as an Officiating Judge.

The total value of the seaborne trade of Burma during May amounted to 381 lakhs as against 290 lakhs during May, 1903. The increase is mainly due to the improvement in miscellaneous trade. The total value of exports cleared from the various parts of Burma during the same month amounted to 223 lakhs as against 168 lakhs during the same period in 1903. The total value of the imports were 157 lakhs as against 121 lakhs. The figures for non-British Indian ports, showing one lakh in value, have also slightly increased.

A Sialkot correspondent writes to the "Tribune"—Thefts and burglaries are the order of the day. Within a few days two daring cases have occurred in this town. One was committed near the Railway Station and the other at Hamza Ghoums. The circumstances of both the cases are nearly the same. The women were sleeping on the roof of their respective houses. At dead of night they were attacked by the ruffians who snatched away gold ear-rings from their ears and ran away. The poor women fell down bleeding and raised an alarm. The husband of one was too ill to chase the thief and that of the other being terror-struck could not chase the man. A few similar cases have also been heard of from Gujranwala. It appears that there is a gang of thieves of whom some are committing burglaries at Gujranwala and some at Sialkot. Great uneasiness prevails in the town. Let us hope that the local police will leave no stone unturned to detect and bring the culprits to account. The attention of the Deputy Commissioner is invited to this matter.

An incident which has created a sensation in official circles in Travancore is the degradation of a Magistrate under the following circumstances. It appears that when Mr. G. T. Mackenzie, the British Resident, was on circuit some months ago in Kottarakara and other places, some of his peons who were alleged to be implicated in a criminal case on the file of the Kottarakara Magistrate were arrested under orders from the Magistrate and placed before him for trial. Though the peons told the Magistrate that they were engaged in taking some things for the use of the Resident they were tried on the spot and sentenced to imprisonment. The Resident thereupon wrote to the Dewan stating that the procedure of the Magistrate was irregular and that what he should have done was to issue summons and arrest them through the Resident's office, and asked that due notice should be taken of the conduct of the Magistrate. The Dewan, on enquiry, found that the Magistrate, who was granted the powers of a Second Class Magistrate, was clearly wrong and unnecessarily peremptory in procedure, and has degraded him.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

London, June 10.

INDEPENDENCE FOR THE PHILIPPINES.

Thanks to the courtesy of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, I am able to anticipate some information for which I had written to the United States, and which should reach me a fortnight hence. A friend of Mr. Naoroji's in New York, animated by a good wish for India, voluntarily sent to him a mass of information concerning American opinion as to the Philippines supplementing that which I have already commented upon. It would appear that the

PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE is not, as I was at first led to suppose, preparing a memorial to President Roosevelt on behalf of Philippine independence. They are aiming at higher game than the President. As, at odd times in English history, there were powerful personages known as King-makers—men who were more powerful than the occupants of the Throne—so in these democratic days, there are President-makers. It is to these Makers of Presidents that the Committee make appeal. Acting in consonance with the national importance of such a proposal as that put forward, the Committee lifts itself above political party and appeal to Republic and Democratic Conventions alike. This is the prayer of the Memorialists:

"We, the undersigned, Members to all political parties, join with the above-named Committee in urging upon the approval of National Conventions the adoption of a Resolution pledging to the people of the United States their ultimate national independence upon terms similar to those of the Philippines."

Before I go on to ask how Lord Curzon's subsequent advances in Calcutta as to the generosity in India being greater than was even known in ancient or modern history, look by the side of this noble declaration? If it be true, as has been publicly stated this week, that Lord Curzon will return to India only for the cold season which will be spent in a tour through India, it is devoutly to be hoped that at every place where he makes a speech he will correct the false impression conveyed in his Council address and apologise for the inaccurate statements he has made on a most important matter.

The Independence Committee consists of forty members and is representative of the whole Union—East, South, and West. Some of the best men in America are among the forty. University Presidents, Bishops, leading manufacturers like Andre Carnegie, authors such as W. D. Howells, and Judges of high repute. Among the signatures are a Cardinal and two Archbishops, thirty-nine Bishops, and fifty-seven College Presidents. Some such list as that on behalf of India, is not impossible in England. But, it would take two years of time and the most unremitting effort, to secure it. Once secured however, it would be beyond value and beyond price. One argument employed by an Independence Committee man as against the "practical self-government" of which I have written so much during the last few weeks and have praised so highly, and win favour of complete independence, employes educated Indians as an example. Professor William James, of Harvard University, in a letter which appeared in the "Boston Transcript" so recently as May 2 last, says:

"The trouble is that every step in the success of the Taft programme will breed new kinds of trouble. Suppose the Filipinos take all the education we can give them—that will only make them the more frantic for independence—it is the 'educated' natives of India who are really troublesome enemies of British rule there, and if independence is out of reach, there will be endless agitation for statehood, as even now in Porto Rico it is beginning."

In view of the excellent sentiments penned by Professor James I cease to-day to write any more of my own poor words, and ask space for the luminous and wise observations that occupy the last fifth of a most admirable communication. Professor James says:

"The real obstacle to a promise of independence by our Congress is the old human aversion to abdicating any power once held. When love of power and the desire to do good, run in double harness, the team is indeed a difficult one to stop. Cant and sophistry then celebrate their golden wedding. It is then that we have to kill thousands in order to avert the killing of tens or hundreds by one another. It is then that the boss-ridden Yankee finds the sacred duty laid upon him of preserving alien races from being exploited by their own politicians."

"If after twenty years or so we let the Filipinos part in peace, it is likely that some American commandments will be broken. But the situation will have this much of good about it, it will then have become endogenous and spontaneous. It will express native ideals, and natives will be able to understand it. Continuity is essential to healthy growth. Let the Filipino lead us try their own system—no people learn to live except by trying. We can easily protect them against foreign interference; and if they fail to be good exactly according to our notions, it is not the world full even now of other people of whom the same can be said, and for whose bad conduct towards one another we agree that it would be folly to make ourselves responsible?"

"Any national life, however turbulent, should be respected, which exhibits ferment of progress, but in individualities even small ones, struggling in the direction of enlightenment. We know to our cost how strong these forces have been in the islands. Let them work out their own issues. We Americans surely do not monopolise all the possible forms of goodness."

"It is for such reasons as these that, with all respect for Secretary Taft, I am not in the least degree converted by his pronouncements against promising the Filipinos independence."

SOME WAR NOTES.

WHAT ABOUT WEI-HAI-WEI?

Sir Frank Swettenham, whose name bulks largely in the Straits Settlements, has made a curious discovery which is likely to have strange consequences further east than Singapore. He declares that with the fall of Port Arthur to the armies of the Japanese, the British title to the port of Wei-hai-wei becomes extremely precarious. After Russia had tricked Japan out of Port Arthur at the end of the Chino-Japanese war, Lord Salisbury, the English premier at that time, tried to keep level with Russia by seizing Tallienwan. In this he failed; but in 1898 Wei-hai-wei was obtained instead. The agreement entered into by the Chinese authorities was not one of complete cession, but of continual lease. The British Government was to hold the harbour and adjacent territory "for so long a period as Port Arthur shall remain in the occupation of Russia." Even so recently as six years ago, this occupation was held to be permanent and irrevocable. Now it is doubtful whether the Russians will retain their hold as many days as there have been years since 1898. If they should fail to retain it, there will come the question as to our status at Wei-hai-wei. Probably, the British Minister at Peking will endeavour to obtain a redrafting of the treaty; but this may prove a somewhat difficult matter to arrange.

GERMAN TRIBUTE TO JAPANESE SOLDIERS.

The Japanese are level-headed people, so they will be able to resist any bad effect which might arise from the chorus of enthusiastic praise with which their exploits have been greeted in Europe. The Germans are the latest people to give voice to their admiration. General Meckel, of the German army, who was once military instructor in Japan, declares that he has no doubt that the Japanese will succeed in storming Port Arthur and take the fortress as they took Kinchau. Their heroism, he says, is unequalled, and the soldiers are splendid marksmen. The army organisation is admirable, while the officers are good leaders and exceedingly intelligent. Last year the General instructed six Japanese officers and their knowledge astonished him. His pupils, he declares, ultimately became his teachers. It was General Meckel who instructed General Kuroki and the majority of the Japanese General Staff.

HOW JAPANESE WOMEN PLAY THEIR PART.

The sacrifices and sufferings of war do not fall alone upon the men. The woman of Japan are foremost in all work that will help the success of their nation in the field. At times this keen national ardour takes grotesquely terrible forms. A Tokio Correspondent tells the following tale:

A woman who lived on the shores of Missipa Bay, below Yokohama, was ill when the call to arms came to her son who was her only support. The son did not answer. His mother questioned him closely, but he replied to her evasively. Three days she protested with him because the call had been neglected by him. On the fourth day she committed suicide. In the note she left behind she explained that she had suddenly realised the cause of her son remaining at home when he should have been in the field. She knew, she wrote, that he had only remained with her because he was afraid that she would starve if he left. The next day her son was in uniform.

SOME SILLY RUSSIAN WAR GOSSIP.

In the disappointed and aggravating position which the Russian journalist finds is his one can forgive almost anything he may say by way of relieving his feelings. But, the scribe of the "Novoe Vremya" (New Times) must have been very hard up indeed for something with which to divert his readers mind from the distressing war news, who invented the report that the Japanese were ready to accept the Philippine Islands which the United States were anxious to give them! To those of us who know the high and honourable ambitions which the Americans are turning into realised results towards the Filipinos, such talk is foolish in the extreme. More than that, it ought to be known to the "Novoe Vremya" that Japan regrets she was persuaded to take possession of the islands of Formosa after her late war with China. The ruling of that island has been a heavy burden to the Japanese, and has constantly taken away from them any desire to acquire the Philippine Islands and to rule the Filipinos. Some American people, who ought to have better known what their own country was doing actually cabled to Washington to know if the report was true! The answer came back very promptly and was to the effect that the officials of the State Department declare that there is no basis of any kind for the report mentioned in the St. Petersburg telegram, and that no cession of the kind is contemplated. The officials add that no action with regard to the Philippines has ever been under consideration which could be construed in such a manner in Russia. This is so obviously the case that it was ridiculous of the "New York Herald" (Paris edition) people to make an enquiry concerning so obviously foolish a suggestion.

AN EXPLORER OF TIBET BLAMES THE "PEACEFUL" MISSION.

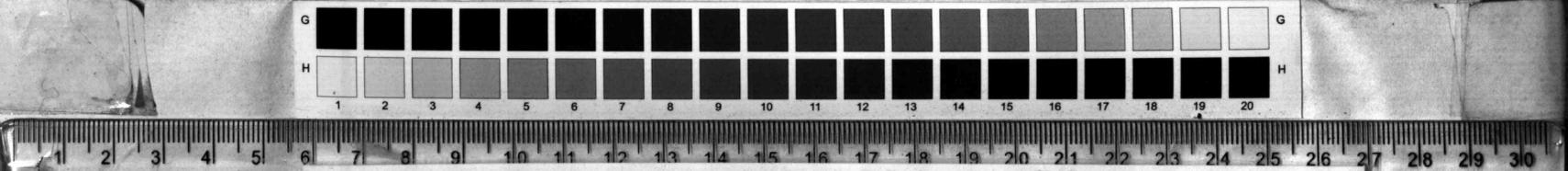
If an explorer in wild and unknown lands is ridden on a rail over rough country, he is hardly likely to judge fairly of the nature of its inhabitants. If a so, he is nearly blinded by a red-hot iron held within a few inches of his eyes, he cannot be blamed if he rejoices in the downfall of that particular land. He may not show the highest virtue in thus allowing private feelings to overcome public judgment, but he is certainly giving rein to his human nature. When Mr. Savage Landor, the traveller, expresses any opinion on Tibet, one naturally expects it to be particularly biting, with an underlying pleasure at the present troubles of the unfortunate Tibetans. For Mr. Landor once attempted to reach Lhasa, and because he refused to turn back he was so tortured that he almost failed to reach Lhasa alive. Parenthetically, one may remark that his experience was different from that of other travellers who have been treated with courtesy and kindness. But, however that may be, one would expect Mr. Landor to praise the Youngusband mission and to look forward vindictively to the downfall of the Lamas. An interview with him appeared in a daily journal this week, and it is possible, therefore, to compare expectations with expressed opinions. Strange to say, expectations turn out to be altogether wrong. Mr. Landor does not praise the Curzon glory-hunt: he declares roundly that "this war with Tibet was to have been expected as a

result of the more than abnormal British blundering which has taken place." He could not follow very closely the early history of the "peaceful mission" since he was exploring in the Sulu archipelago, but "whenever he heard anything about it, he was particularly struck by the unpractical, quite absurd, manner in which the expedition had been planned and carried on." No one in their senses would have pushed forward into those mountainous regions in the middle of winter. But the principal thing with which he finds fault is "the tactless and brutal manner in which the authorities dealt with the natives." Mr. Savage Landor declares that with three hundred men, even at the present juncture, he could reach Lhasa safely. "All the bloody battles we have heard about," he says, "could have been avoided by using a little more judgment and keeping a cool head." But in this and subsequent remarks, Mr. Landor seems to underestimate the determined courage which the ill-armed Tibetan soldiers are showing in the face of continual defeat. He is on surer ground when the puts into words the deeper feelings of more Englishmen than those who openly support Sir Henry Cotton. Rightly, he says: "Much as I should like to see Tibet opened up, I do not consider that we are justified in massacring the natives wholesale while carrying out a 'peaceful mission.' After all, Tibet belongs to the Tibetans, and both myself and the people of the present Mission were and are, intruders in the Forbidden Land." Just so. Nevertheless, there will be much more bloodshed and futile massacre before this project of Lord Curzon's restless and ill-directed ambition reaches Lhasa—the goal of its wanderings and diplomacy.

SIR HENRY COTTON: FRONTIER EXPERT.

Sir Henry Cotton's bold and long-continued attack upon the Tibetan mission has won for him the confidence of the newspaper press of London. The man who periodically pulverises "The Times" has come to be regarded, and rightly so, as an authority on frontier matters. Whenever fresh developments are announced along the road to Lhasa, it is to Sir Henry's house in North-West London that the interviewer at once goes in order to learn its true significance and possible consequences. No wild rumour reaches England with regard to any portion of the land frontier between Baluchistan and Siam, but Sir Henry is asked to discuss it for the benefit of English readers. When, therefore, it was rumoured a day or so ago, that a "mission" was to proceed to Cabul because the Amir of Afghanistan had refused the annual subsidy paid to him by the Indian Government, it was only natural for the "Daily News" to seek Sir Henry upon the question, and from him the Liberal organ received cheering news. For Sir Henry did not see that there was any ground for apprehension that a "mission" would be sent across the North-West frontier upon such a question. It was not unusual, he said, for the Amir to neglect to apply for the subsidy. Sometimes even, it was not paid for two or three years together, and the fact that no application was made in a particular year for the eighteen lakhs, or £10,000 to which the Amir is entitled, has no significance at all. This information will be a relief to Englishmen for we are getting a little suspicious of any "peaceful Mission" engineered by the Simla ring of K. C. B. hunters. It will be more than a relief to the Indian taxpayers, for, after all, it is they, and not the people of England, who have to find money for military extravagance beyond the frontiers. Miss Hamilton, a lady doctor, who was for some years attached to the household of the late Amir, has also declared that the refusal of the subsidy, did not show any ill-feeling on the part of the Amir; she would give no opinion, however, to the truth or falsity of the mission rumours. She told the "Daily News" the word "subsidy" is not correct, since the money was advanced as compensation for expenses incurred in helping the British and for the surrender of land which formerly yielded revenue to his predecessor. Habibullah, it would seem, is far more favourably disposed towards Great Britain than was the late Amir. Western methods and inventions are regarded by him with intelligent and scientific appreciation—an advance, certainly, upon the childish curiosity which his father showed concerning them. Miss Hamilton says that he does all in his power to introduce sensible innovations but will not force them upon his people. If distaste is shown, a decree is issued against them, and the Amir waits for a more favourable opportunity. Habibullah has none of the high-handedness, the "Zabberdasti," of Abdur Rahman; but he is diplomatic, politic, and tactful. The lady doctor does not think that anything has occurred to alter his feelings towards England, but at the same time she admits that Afghanistan is always nervous when the Indian Government is engaged in "expeditions." This last remark indicates a far-off, yet terrible risk which Lord Curzon ran by sending his troops first into the Chumbi Valley and then on to Gyantse. We may expect another letter from Sir Henry Cotton soon, for "The Times" published on Thursday one more of its unpleasant essays in fiction explaining in delusive detail an imaginary history of Dorgieff and his pro-Russian, anti-English propaganda in Tibet. Since the Pigott scandal "The Times" has been cautious in discovering mares' nests; but it probably feels safe in allowing full rein to the imagination of its special correspondent in Tibet. For Dorgieff and the Lamas—unlike Mr. Parnell—are helpless: they cannot hit back.

The annual birthday durbar of the Sardars of the Deccan was held on Wednesday evening at the Poona Council, some three hundred persons being present, Mr. A. Lucas, Sessions Judge, agent to the Sardars of the Deccan, presided and made a short speech in which he alluded to the death of the Maharaja of Satara and the presence of his son this day, to whom all expressed their sympathy. He also thanked a number of the Sardars and Chiefs who had come long distances to be present and said he repeated the muttered prayer of them all when he repeated God save the King. He had pleasure to present dresses of honour to Sardar Anna Sahib Bhonsle and Sardar Navroji Padamji. The playing of the National Anthem, and the distribution of flowers and atar and pan brought the proceedings to a close.



The Tibet Expedition.

PRELIMINARY FIGHTING.

Yesterday General Macdonald drew a rope tightly round the neck of the enemy in the fort. We now command both the Lhasa and Shigatse roads and have cut off the water supply of the Jong. At three in the morning, in pouring rain, Colonel Brander led out a small force which captured two villages on the river bank, with the loss of one man wounded. Colonel Brander spent the whole day fortifying the villages where we have left detachments. In the meanwhile General Macdonald's larger force worked round 15 villages on the left. Seven were found deserted. The remainder were cleared without casualties by the Royal Fusiliers assisted by shell fire. The enemy bolted into a large monastery on the ridge, which we then attacked. The Gurkhas worked along the crest of the ridge, the Mounted Infantry stole round to the rear, while the 40th Pathans advanced with great dash to the direct assault after some preparations from the mountain guns. The Tibetans held both ridges and the monastery with the greatest obstinacy. Warriors were observed tearing great stones from the tower on the top ridge to roll down on our advancing troops. The monastery walls had to be blown down before the enemy vacated the position. Some fled over the ridge but had their retreat cut off by the Mounted Infantry. The fighting was not over till darkness descended. The operations were made more tiresome by the fact that the troops, some of whom were out eighteen hours, had to work over a perfect morass. Gyantse plan is a network of irrigation channels which the recent heavy rain has flooded over. During the operations a persistent fire was kept up by heavy jingals from the Jong. It now appears that many cannon are mounted both on the Jong and the monastery behind it. Captain Craster, 40th Pathans, was killed; Captains Bliss and Humphreys, 8th Gurkhas, were slightly wounded, and about five men wounded.

FIGHTING AT GYANTSE.

To-day General Macdonald's Column was occupied clearing the villages north-west of Gyantse. All excepting Gampa were found to be unoccupied. The guns shelled the villages, also the big Monastery of Tsechen, silencing the fire of two jingals. The Mission Force under Colonel Brander made a counter-demonstration against Gyantse Jong, occupying two villages. The enemy repaid vigorously with jingals, but the fire was totally ineffectual. General Macdonald's Camp moved across the river northwards nearer the enemy's water-supply. All the guns of the big Monastery are now harmless owing to the excellent practice of our Artillery. Later on the Gurkhas were sent to crown the heights behind the position, the guns clearing with sharpnel several big sangars. The infantry advance on the village and the Monastery developed at 5-15 with heavy firing of the guns, shelling the Monastery with common shell. Close on six o'clock the 8th Gurkhas carried the big tower, and shortly after the 40th Pathans worked through the villages and gained the heights. On the right, the Artillery, meanwhile, were making excellent shooting against the masonry tower on the right of the Monastery, the Pathans following the enemy into their houses and accounting for large numbers. The Engineers then blew up a large portion of the main building of the Monastery with guncoot. The Gurkhas and the Pathans, as also the gunners, did excellent work, the General causing his approval to be signalled. When the Gurkhas stormed the big castle on the left of the position the enemy hurled stones, but were driven out, and they rushed down the cliffs, hurling themselves in a panic over the boulders to get to their houses for shelter. The Gurkhas and Pathans destroyed the defences in the towers, and the position has been thoroughly snuppered and the work done has been excellent, as now the whole of the villages and the main position north-west of Gyantse have been thoroughly cleared and the enemy have had a useful lesson. Many Lamas were directing the enemy's operations, one prominent figure treating our fire with contempt; but he was subsequently wounded. The Artillery made splendid shooting with the new ten-pounder, using common shell for the first time. It was specially sanctioned for this gun, and was most effective against the solid masonry. Our casualties include:—Captain Craster, killed; Captain Bliss, slightly wounded; Captain Humphreys, slightly wounded and about five men wounded. The enemy's losses are not known, but are to be believed to be considerable. This action is important as the position gained commanded the enemy's water-supply and practically cut off the enemy from the river. Subsequent news states that the Mounted Infantry pursuit was most successful and handled the enemy severely getting round at the back of hills, and prevented the enemy from rallying in the villages behind the position.—"I. D. News."

FURTHER DETAILS.

Gyantse (Tibet), June 30. Most of our casualties in yesterday's fight in taking the Tsechen Monastery, occurred at close quarters. Captain Craster was the only one shot, he being killed by a bullet through the heart when leading his men in a narrow street. All the others were wounded with sword cuts, Captain Bliss on the shoulder and head. When the Gurkhas rushed the stone castle on the ridge, none of the wounds were serious. Captain Craster was the only man hit among the Gurkhas which, considering this regiment fought its way up from the plain through the village, the negotiations can be completed here is an extraordinary circumstance, as the enemy maintained a very hot fire and were in superior numbers to those at Namgyi on the 26th. It is estimated that considerably over a thousand held the Monastery. Captain Sheppard, of the Engineers, did excellent work in blowing up the Monastery, narrowly escaping being killed by the same man who shot Captain Craster. The enemy's position was one of the great strength. Taking it by storm considerably disheartened the enemy, who thought it impregnable, and must shake the confidence and security of the big Jong Lamas, many of whom were killed in the assault. It is said that they are now preaching that, although

they cannot secure the immunity of the followers from British bullets, the slain will come to life in five days.

Captain Craster's funeral took place this evening, the General and all the Officers attending. The deceased had seen service on the North-West frontier. He was a gallant Officer whose loss is much regretted. A part of the terms of the armistice granted to the Tibetans, which extends until 12 o'clock midnight, is that no one, other than emissaries, leaves Gyantse Jong. Both the Lhasa and Shigatse Roads are being watched to see that this condition is enforced.

The Tsechen Monastery, which was blown up by the Engineers during the fight on the 28th, is still mouldering.

Talama is the Lhasa representative, who is supposed to be coming to-day to Shigatse. A representative layman, a Member of Council, four Tongsapenlop, and a Bhutan Chief are also coming. Whether, however, the negotiations can be completed here is uncertain. The original programme was an agreement to be signed at Lhasa.

This petition for an armistice is far more likely due to the severe hardling of the enemy in the two recent engagements. Small reliance is placed on the assertions of a desire to negotiate until the actual arrival of the Delegates.

After the engagement at the Tsechen Monastery the impregnability of the Gyantse Jong is by no means certain, and the "morale" of the enemy is considerably shaken.—"I. D. News."

THE TIBETAN DELEGATES.

The armistice extends till mid-night to-day after which General Macdonald holds himself free to resume operation against the jong if the peace delegates have not arrived in the meantime. One delegate is Ta Lama, next in importance to the Dalai Lama, senior member of the Council of four which has control over the Tibetan administration. The other delegate, now at Nagartse is the lay member of the Council of four. These men are important enough for Colonel Younghusband to treat with whenever they arrive, whether there is fighting in the interval or not, but they will have to show proper credentials from the Dalai Lama. If the delegates are reasonable possibly we will not advance to Lhasa. The negotiations will be assisted by the presence of Tongsa Penlop, the leading Bhutan Chief, who arrives here to-morrow.—"Englishman."

THE ARMISTICE EXTENDED.

Delegates arrived at Dongtse to-day and are expected here to-morrow early. This information was brought with a flag of truce from the Jong. The armistice has accordingly been extended till noon to-morrow. Tongsa Penlop is also expected to-morrow.—"I. D. News."

SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT EXPECTED.

At noon to-day a few rounds were fired from the maxim indicating that General Macdonald felt himself free to resume hostilities. The Jong did not reply. Shortly after Tongsa Penlop came in with a large retinue of Bhutnese in gorgeous attire. He had a long conference with Colonel Younghusband. He had a letter from the Dalai Lama asking him to use his good offices to bring about a settlement. In the letter the Dalai Lama named Ta Lama and the Lama's grand Secretary, and the representatives of three monasteries, as his representatives. It is believed that some of these men have already arrived in the Jong. Now the general impression here is that a satisfactory settlement will be arrived at without further military operations.

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA.

Simla, June 30. P. W. POSTINGS.

Mr. O. T. Barrow, who is now at Simla, proceeds early next month to Bombay, where he relieves Mr. Branson, the latter reverting to Bengal.

Mr. F. K. Harrison, from Allahabad, takes the Punjab, vice Mr. Gamble proceeding on short leave.

Mr. F. K. Harrison, from Allahabad, takes up the post of Accountant-General Bombay, next autumn, when Mr. Barrow goes on leave.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

The Secretary of State is understood to generally approve of the formation of a long-talked-of Department of Industry and Commerce, but no formal sanction has been given, nor can any appointments be made in connection with it at present. The scheme indeed cannot come into force until the Bill, now before the House of Commons for changing arrangements connected with the Viceroy's Council be passed, and this has still to get through the third reading, besides having to be accepted by the House of Lords. Should any change of Ministry therefore occur in the near future the scheme might be held up until next year. As at present formulated the Bill, when passed, will lead to the abolition of Public Works Member of Council and the creation in his stead of two new members, one for Revenue and Agriculture, and the other for Industries and Commerce. The first named will have as his portfolio charge of Irrigation, Surveys, Forests, Museums and the extensive organisation of land records and agriculture. The Member for Industries and Commerce on the other hand will be concerned with Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, and the Commerce Branch of President, Finance Department of the Government of India.

CHANGES IN THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

A number of changes will take place in the superior establishment of the Telegraph Department within a couple of months. Mr. A. B. Larkins, Deputy Director, retires at the end of August, and Mr. R. L. D. Gompertz, Director of the Construction Branch, by the middle of next month. Mr. F. E. Dempster succeeds Mr. Gompertz as Director of the Construction Branch. Mr. R. O. Lees joins the Office of Director-General on duty on relief by Mr. A. W. Ford, as Chief Superintendent in charge of the Check Office. Mr. Morgan, from Kashmir, succeeds Mr. Ford in the Central Provinces. Mr. E. A. Kenyon, Superintendent, Bombay Office, goes on combined leave during the course of next month. Mr. N. U. K. Leslie succeeding him.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Bank of Bengal.—The Directors of the Bank of Bengal has made no change in the rate of interest or discount.

Ondal Synthia Chord, E.I.R.—We understand sanction has been accorded to the use of locomotive engines and rolling stock to be drawn or propelled on this branch line.—"I. Engineering."

Renewal of Bridges, E.I.R.—A proposal has been placed before the Agent for sanction to the renewal of certain bridges in the Howrah Chord line, Dinajpur and Allahabad districts, the Tonse-bridge, and also on the Jubulpore line. The work will cost about Rs. 8,30,000.—"I. Engineering."

Joint Passenger Station, Howrah.—It has been arranged to obtain sanction to put in hand immediately the construction of a joint third class waiting hall and a temporary parcel office for the B.N.R., together with boundary walls, drainage, etc. The cost will amount to about Rs. 2,30,000 to be met from the Capital grant for 1904-05.—"I. Engineering."

Allegations Against an Editor.—On Friday, before Mr. D. Weston, the Chief Presidency Magistrate, the case in which a young man, named Babu Monoranjan Banerjee, Editor, "Novo Prativa," stood charged with having tried to outrage the modesty of a young woman, named Mary O'Sullivan, in Chitpore Road, was called on for hearing. For want of time, the case was adjourned to the 11th instant.

Adultery.—The case in which E. C. Shuker charged Alfred Haskins, a driver on the East Indian Railway, with committing adultery with his wife, has been concluded after a protracted hearing, before the District Magistrate at Howrah. The Magistrate ordered the accused and sentenced him to one month's imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100 on default, to another month's imprisonment.

A Young Man's "Durpan"—"Durpan" reports that on the 16th ultimo the wrestlers displayed their strength and skill in front of the local collectorate. Amongst them was one Chandhi Simr, a youth of but 19. The display of his strength and skill was exceptionally remarkable. The "Durpan" says that the youth can wrestle continually for four hours.

Depredations by Wild Elephants.—The people of Belgachi Tea Garden and its vicinity are now living in the constant throes of a dread plague as it were. Wild elephants in large numbers are destroying their houses and granaries. One of them is said, had been trampled to death under a beast's heavy foot. The authorities should look to this as the people can not kill them on pain of punishment under the law.

Crocodile Scare.—A correspondent writes from village Rohitpur (Dacca):—The river Dhaleshari, which runs on the southern side of this village, has been infested with huge man-eating crocodiles since the last 3 or 4 years. Many deaths, both among the villagers and cattle, have occurred owing to the presence of these unwelcome visitors on the river. The other day a woman of this village was carried away by a crocodile. The villagers are now panic-stricken, but as this river is the only source of water-supply to this and adjoining villages, there is no help in the matter.

Depredations of Wild Boars.—Says a vernacular contemporary of Rungpur:—Estate Sonamukhi is on the north side of Ghoramara. River Tista flows by the said estate and a chur land has been formed on the side of Sonamukhi. This chur was never cultivated and a jungle has been formed since the last 7 years which has become the abode of wild boars and other wild beasts. These beasts are doing a vast amount of injury to the crops. The people cannot face them unarmed, thanks to the Arms Act! The people earnestly hope that the district authorities would take to their help in their sore need.

Alleged Assault on Woman.—A Bench of Honorary Presidency Magistrate at a case of assault was heard in which two women, Kusum and Kali Dasi, mother and daughter, were complainants and Babu Jotindra, son of Deb of Sova Bazar was the defendant. The facts, as alleged, are these. The woman Kali Dasi was in the keeping of one Nagendra Nath Mitter and lived with him in the house. Some members of the family objected to her staying there and on the day in question the defendant assaulted and turned her out of the house. Mr. Moses with Babu Gopal Chunder Mukerji appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Manuel with Babu T. K. Bose for the defence. The court expressed its desire to inspect the premises. The case was adjourned.

Murderous Assault.—On Friday, Inspector B. B. Dutta of the Tallygung' Thana charged one Jungo Pasee and Moingo Pasee today sellers before Mouvi Serajul Huq, Police Magistrate of Alipore with having murderously assaulted a young Mohamedan gentleman of the locality. The accused who are tappers took the lease of some palm and date trees belonging to the complainant and on the day of occurrence when the latter demanded money the accused refused to pay anything to him. On this the complainant insisted that if no money was paid he won't allow them to tap his trees. This so much enraged the accused that they belaboured him with "lathies" causing serious injuries. The accused pleaded not guilty but the court found them guilty and sentenced them to three months' rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 10 each.

Murder at Jogeshnathpore.—On Friday, at the Alipore Criminal Sessions before Mr. Harward, the Additional District and Sessions Judge, one Chinibass Koyal and Nilmony Mondal of Jogeshnathpore were charged with murder. It was stated that there was a long-standing quarrel between the No. 1 accused and one Kader with Mondal of the same place, which some times resulted in law suits in most of which Kader was successful. Upon this Chinibass thought of getting rid of Kader by putting him to death. On the evening of the 7th June last while Kader accompanied by his son was returning from Kidderpore and was passing by the house of the accused No. 1, he accused No. 2 struck the Kader's son with a "lathie" and felled him down on which the father came to his assistance and was also attacked by both the accused and Chinibass severed the head from the body with a sacrificial knife. The trial is proceeding.

Wife vs. Husband.—On Thursday, before Mr. W. A. Bonnaud, the second Magistrate, the case in which one Mrs. Beck obtained a notice upon her husband to show cause why he should not be bound down to keep the peace towards her, was called on for hearing. She stated in Court that differences sprung up between herself and her husband and he up wanted to shoot her down. Two gentlemen interfered in time or all would have been over with her. She thought her life was in danger and prayed that the defendant should be bound down. The Court ordered the husband to furnish a surety in the sum of Rs. 100, for one year to keep the peace towards his wife.

Tangal News.—Our correspondent writes:—your readers will recollect that some time ago a kaibarto woman brought a case against her neighbour one Avisvas Kaibar'o on a nasty charge under section 352 I. P. code. Avisvas, it is said, made immoral proposals to her and on her refusal tried to forcibly have undue liberty with her. She raised an alarm. Some people gathered together there and Avisvas took to his heels. This is her case in a nut shell; it stands adjourned.—Bepari Sekh, a constable of the Sub-Division, who was placed on his trial under Sec. 392, and was convicted and sentenced to nine months' rigorous imprisonment by the S. D. O. has, on appeal, been acquitted of the charge and discharged.

Manufacturing King's Coins.—On Wednesday, at the Alipore Criminal Sessions, before Mr. Justice the Additional District and Sessions Judge, Inspector B. N. Sinha of the Bellaghata Thana charged one Pama Lownar with systematically manufactured counterfeit coins. It transpired in evidence that the accused along with two others started a black-smith shop at Tarda where they used to manufacture counterfeit coins during the night time. The present accused was arrested by the Bellaghata Police when he was paying his gharry hire with one of such spurious rupees. He also showed to the Police several bags of such coins in a house at Jorabagan Calcutta. He then was taken to Tarda where a regular mint with necessary implements were traced along with several bags of coin. The accused confessed his guilt in the lower court but retracted it before the Sessions Court and pleaded not guilty. The jury returned an unanimous verdict of "guilty" against the accused and the Judge accordingly sentenced the prisoner to seven years' transportation.

"The Law of Confession."—The appearance of the second edition of this admirable little book by Mr. Roy, so soon after the publication of the original edition, is sufficient proof of the excellence of the work. It, therefore, needs no special recommendation to bring it to the notice of the legal profession. Indeed Mr. Roy's book is a necessary adjunct to every practising lawyer and it would be well for the public if the Government of India placed it at the disposal of every Magistrate in the country. The Magistrate is constantly brought face to face with the difficulty of considering how to record a confession and the circumstances under which it is alone of any material value as evidence in a case. The subject is an extremely complicated one and the most experienced Magistrates when put in the predicament of a prisoner wishing to confess are apt to make mistakes and omissions. This would be safeguarded by the Magistrate having this little work of Mr. Roy's at his elbow and as its cost is small we would particularly invite the attention of the Government to the book.

REDISTRIBUTION OF THE NORTHERN CIRCARS.

Madras, June 30. The Government order relating to the redistribution of the Northern Circars was issued last night. The Secretary of State has sanctioned the transfer of the Nagar, Albaka and Cherla taluks of the Sironcha tahsil of the Chanda district in the Central Provinces to the Madras Presidency, and the redistribution of the Godavari, Kistna, and Nellore Collectorates in this Presidency, so as to form four districts to be called the Godavari, Masulipatam, Guntur and Nellore districts. The Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces has suggested that the transfer of the taluks in the Sironcha tahsil to the Godavari district be postponed until January next, and Government have accepted this suggestion. There will be a net increase of five divisional officers, two civilian and three non-civilian and four new Deputy Collectors. There will be a corresponding increase in all departments of the Police, Medical, Forest, etc. New District Boards will also have to be formed, the scheme to come into force on 1st September next. A special officer has been deputed to carry out the preliminary arrangements. The legal notifications, required for bringing into operation the proposed changes, will be prepared in the departments of the Secretariat concerned, and forwarded to the public department. For the present, no alteration is proposed in the jurisdiction of the District and the Sessions Judges.

BARISAL GHARRYWALLA'S CASE.

Barisal, June 29. The following is the full text of the judgment delivered by Mr. J. H. Temple, Sessions Judge, in the appeal case preferred by one Abdul Rahaman; a hackney carriage driver, who was convicted and sentenced to 3 months' rigorous imprisonment and fine by Mr. H. L. Weatherall, Honorary Magistrate, under section 337 I. P. C.—

Judgment. "As to the facts this case is very simple. There can be no doubt but that the gharry had no proper light. Mr. Buchan says distinctly 'the gharry had no light on the side which was facing us,' and again 'I am certain that the accident took place on account of the driver of the ticea gharry not having lighted the lamp on our side. We were driving carefully and did not see anything till we were almost on it.' All that can be said for the appellant is that the boy who fetched the gharry said that both lights were lit when they left the stable, but facts are facts and there can be no doubt that at the time of the accident the lamp on the right hand side of the gharry was not lit. This was the immediate and only cause of the accident. 'Nothing could be more careless and rash and certainly section 337 I. P. C. applies. It is scarcely possible to imagine anything more dangerous than an improperly lighted vehicle on the public road. 'It was gross negligence and it endangered human life. The appeal is accordingly dismissed. (Sd.) J. H. Temple.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, June 28. A despatch from General Kuropatkin says that the Japanese occupied on the 26th the Motienling, Taeling, and Fenshueling Passes and are now engaging the retreating Russians.

It is believed at St. Petersburg that a pitched battle is imminent in the vicinity of Tschichiao, where the Russian resistance is centred.

General Kuropatkin reports that nine divisions of Japanese infantry and several brigades of cavalry are now advancing along a front of a hundred and twenty miles, the right wing in the neighbourhood of the Taeling pass, the left in the neighbourhood of Fenshueling, and the centre at Motienling. The occupation of the passes is the result of frontal attacks, accompanied by flanking movements which threatened to cut off the Russian retreat and compelled the Russians to evacuate the passes.

London, June 30. The Tsar accompanied by the Grand Admiral of the Grand Duke Alexis and the Minister of Marine, yesterday inspected the warships for the Far East at Cronstadt. The Tsar addressed the workmen urging their patriotic duty to complete the vessels at the earliest possible date and granting the men an extra day's pay.

A Daily Telegraph despatch from Tokio says that severe fighting took place at Kaiping on the 25th instant resulting in the capture of the place on the morning of the 26th inst.

A Morning Post telegram from Tokio says that the Japanese second army is advancing on the railway and has effected a junction with the first army.

Reuter's correspondent at Tokio says that a telegram has been received from Gensan that the destroyers from the Vladivostok squadron, are attacking that town.

Reuter's correspondent at Seoul says that the Russian squadron at Gensan, consisting of three cruisers and ten destroyers and torpedoers, fired 180 shells on the Japanese settlement there.

Reuter's correspondent at Niuchwang says that the Russian destroyer Burukoff arrived from Port Arthur and berthed alongside the gunboat Sivoutch. The Commander denies the sinking and damaging of the Russian ships on 23rd instant.

The "Times" Paris correspondent states that it is reported that Russia has applied for permission for the Baltic fleet to coal at French Ports en route to the Far East. It is declared that this is possible without a breach of neutrality.

General Kuropatkin wires that the Japanese who captured Fenshueling consisted of twenty-seven battalions. He admits that the Russian losses were heavy.

Reuter's correspondent at Tokio says that the details of the occupation of Fenshueling show that the Russians occupied an extensive semi-permanent fortification with tiers of entrenchments and wire entanglements. Fierce fighting took place on 26th and 27th. The Russians left 90 dead and 88 prisoners. The Japanese casualties were 170.

Reuter's correspondent at Liaoyang says that the Japanese are marching from Motienling on Liaoyang with the object of cutting the communications, while General Kuropatkin with the bulk of his army is operating in the Haicheng region.

London, July 1. The Japanese are reported to be 33 miles eastward of Liaoyang.

The Russian report of the Japanese attack by land and sea on the 26th ult. on the outlying positions at Port Arthur say that the Russians were outflanked and retired, losing 207, and that the Japanese loss was heavier.

Reuter at Niuchwang says that the destroyer Barukoff was crowded with men when she arrived. Her bow gun was shot away, giving the appearance of having been in an engagement in which she rescued numbers of survivors from other vessels; but it is believed that she ran the blockade alone with aeropatches for the enemy.

Reuter at Tokio states that the Japanese fleet which left bound northwards in pursuit of the Vladivostok Squadron has returned without encountering it.

GENERAL

London, July 1. Mr. Arnold Forster in the Commons said that the twenty-one batteries mentioned on the 7th March would be completed in the present year and it was contemplated that fifty-four batteries would be completed for the British Army next year. Seventy-six batteries would then remain to be completed.

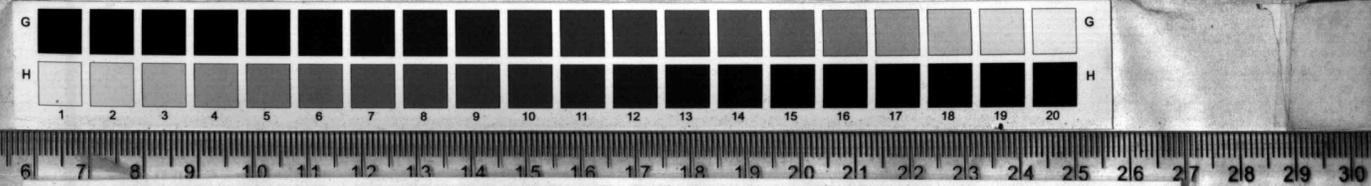
A telegram from Rome states that Signor Melegari, Italian Minister at Tokio, has been appointed Italian Ambassador at St. Petersburg, Court Vinci in charge of the Italian Embassy in Mexico succeeds Signor Melegari at Tokio.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

Bombay, July 1. The Commander of the Takushan army reports the details of the occupation of Fenshueling. Our army forming three columns commenced operation on the 26th June for occupying Fenshueling where the Russians constructed a semi-permanent fortification with forts, entrenchments and abatis. The Russians offered a stubborn resistance, but our detachments after fierce engagements succeeded in surrounding the enemy and finally took Fenshueling on the 27th June. The enemy's corpses found on the main road were over 90 while those left elsewhere were yet unestimable. Six Russian officers and 82 men were captured. Our total casualties are estimated at 170.

Our Consul at Gensan reports that early on the morning of the 30th June six Russian torpedo boats entered the port, fired about 200 shots upon the settlement, sunk one steamship and one sailing vessel. They were then rejoined by three ships outside the harbour and disappeared. Two Koreans and two soldiers were slightly wounded. The damage to the buildings were insignificant.



ABNORMAL DEATH-RATE IN BARISAL JAIL

Barisal, June 25. The report of the administration of jails in Bengal, published recently, reveals a very sad state of things in respect of the Barisal jail. The mortality among the jail population there, during the last year was abnormal. The jail authorities have sought to attribute it to the use of bad water, and disproportionate food and to insufficient labour. In short they throw all the blame upon the providence. However, let us examine the real causes of this sorrowful state of affairs. A perusal of the report led me to enquire into the matter, and I propose to lay before you to-day, facts as I have been able to gather from one thoroughly conversant with the management of jail affairs.

The first and foremost thing is the diet of the prisoners. There are so many defects in the diet allowed to the prisoners that it will tax upon your space a great deal, but as the matter is a very grave one, I think you will not grudge me that. The first point that strikes one is that Rs. 2-4 is the general allowance for every prisoner per month. Considering the high price of the foodstuffs, it is quite easy to imagine the impossibility of the task for the Jail Superintendent to meet the two ends. Yet the officer, who can show a saving from this pittance is sure to be recognised by his superiors. The prisoners get for their breakfast a small quantity of liquid diet prepared from the broken particles of rice. Their dinner consists chiefly of rice and pulse. The former of which is often half-boiled and consequently tells upon the digestive power of the prisoners. The next thing is the pulse which get very insufficient condiments. The low-class people here usually consume a great quantity of "lanka" but here they get much of turmeric and less of "lanka" and other condiments. They do seldom get fish, which is the main diet of the low-class people. When outside the prison walls they used to fish all day long and thus they were habituated to fish eating. It is the gentlemen in general who mostly use pulse with rice. So the want of fish and the supply of pulse is telling heavily on the health of the prisoners. Milk and meat are a luxury to them, but they do not at all get them. It is only the sick who get these two luxuries, though they are the barest necessity for maintaining health. Leaving all these things aside do these people get the diet prescribed for them by the men in power in sufficient quantity? Surely not. So they are to live upon half rations of unboiled rice and pulse. Even the vegetable productions, which are of their own growing, are not even allowed them in sufficient quantity.

Next comes the question of work. The jail department is worked on a commercial principle. The prisoners are made to maintain themselves by their own exertions. Of course, we do not at all grudge them, the works of art which teaches the prisoners independent profession but it is a painful sight to see these wretched creatures work without cessation throughout the whole day under burning sun and pouring rains. Here they are made to manufacture bricks. In the past they used to make bricks within the premises of the jail but now they are to walk about a mile to an open field and there to remain engaged for the whole day in their arduous work. They even take their dinner there also. And these men do not know what rest means.

After diet and work comes rest which means sleep at night. And the question of sleep brings with it the question of bed, the building and the light and air. Those who have the good luck to get room in the first and second floors get ample light and air, but those who are huddled together in the ground floor know not what those are. This ground floor is damp and dark and air tight. And the prisoners are put into it when the number which is always large gets too large to be accommodated into the first and second floors. Owing to the exertions of the executives here, the jail of Barisal, never suffers from a loss in the number of inmates. Those who are forced into the ground floor often get cold, and the result is a large number of deaths from pneumonia. Next comes the question of bedding. They are allowed blankets in winter and summer—three in winter and one in summer. These they seldom get time to wash, consequently they are dirty and dusty. The result of this is that these unfortunate creatures seldom know what rest is. Further though mosquitoes are declared by the scientist of the day to be the carrier of malarious poison, the jail authorities do not care to take any precaution against them. Over and above all these, they are forced to rise at about 4 a.m. which also renders them liable to catch cold. Why should these people be made to rise so early we cannot divine.

Next comes the question of water-supply. The jail authorities say that the high jail mortality is due to the bad water of Barisal. But pray why the death-rate among the free population is not so high, though they use the same water? Another cause which contributes to the complaints of the bowels of the prisoner is to our mind the prohibition of smoking tobacco. The generality of these people begins smoking at an early age. But when through irony of fate they enter the jail compound that long acquired habit is suddenly put a stop to per force. The effect of it is that their digestive organs get a rude shock. Let the prisoners be allowed to smoke in a moderate way.

Here ends the long list of causes which to our calculation aggravates the death-rate of the jail. We suggest that the Government should institute a searching enquiry into the state of affairs and come to a speedy conclusion as to the cause or causes regarding the high death-rate in the local jail.

In conclusion let me attract the attention of the authorities to a matter which has much to do with the present state of things. Here the local authorities have tried to thwart the good intentions of the rulers in appointing a few local men as visitors of the jail. The duties of the visitors are to report the defects in the management of the jail-affairs. This worked well for a few days, but the local authorities could not brook this interference and they selected such persons from whom they expected no interference. The result is that all the real well-wishers and active members have been removed. And in place of them a few old and effete, though respectable, men have been nominated as visitors of the jail. These men should not be kept for a mere show. The authorities should nominate a number of energetic able men of the town as visitors and they will

surely be able to probe the really rotten spot in the whole affair. And real good may accrue to the unfortunate creatures of the jail.

SCIENCE AND INVENTION.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ATOM.

In criticism suggested by Professor J. J. Thomson's recently-published work on "Electricity and Matter," Sir Oliver Lodge describes the research into the constitution of the atom, carried on at Cambridge since 1881, as "Steps towards a New Principia." Something like what Newton did for the visible universe Professor Thomson and his colleagues seem to be doing for the invisible universe of atoms and corpuscles. "It is difficult," says the Principal of Birmingham University, "to exaggerate the suggestiveness of the wealth of theory which is now being lavished upon us in the domain of atomic structure and the mathematics of chemistry; it appears likely to lead to a definite microscopic astronomy, based upon the known properties of electric lines of force, akin to the welding together of the observed facts of the heavens by a single comprehensive law, and forming the basis of a real chemical 'Principia'." All this comes from the recognition of the atom of electricity." Sir Oliver Lodge is inclined to believe that matter is electricity. He remarks that if Kaufmann's results stand the test of criticism they will have "the effect of reducing the whole matter in the universe to electricity, not as a speculation, but as an established truth." There exists much virtue in the "if." Physicists will hesitate to identify force with matter. Physical force and matter are never separated, but they have never been identified. We do not think matter is gravity, though the two are allied. The new theories have all the greater attractiveness just now as they help to explain radio-activity; but Sir Oliver Lodge observes philosophically: "It can hardly be expected that any theory, accessible to us here and now, can give anything approaching an ultimate explanation ever of the simplest thing."

THE HEAT OF RADIUM.

Lord Kelvin has been approached to see whether he is prepared to admit that radium, as a widely-diffused element of the earth's composition, could suffice to account for the long cons during which geologists assert that this planet has existed. His lordship hesitates. He doubts whether it is yet proved that radium gives out for any length of time the marvellous amount of heat which has been recorded during the short period the element has been under observation. If radium does emit this heat—which is by far its most astounding property so far—then the veteran physicist thinks, like Madame Curie, that it must receive, and be constantly receiving, energy from some cosmic store, transmitted somehow by ethereal waves. Sir Oliver Lodge thinks this hypothesis has been shown "to be in many respects feasible, though, taken all round, unlikely and rather artificial." The subjects is altogether one on which it is better to suspend judgment than to theorise at present.

"NATURAL PHYSICAL REMEDIES."

The high hopes that were formed, and formed legitimately, some time ago of the possibility of physical agents such as X-rays, electrical light, the radiations of radium and thorium, and the like, proving curative of internal diseases, including deep-seated cancer, have been to a certain extent disappointed, and have led in some cases to painful consequences. A volume on these agencies has lately appeared, in which utterly extravagant claims are made for "natural physical remedies," and in which occurs the following remarkable passage: "It is not difficult to picture Adam, after the Fall, suffering from his first experience of a 'chill,' and instinctively creeping forth so as to expose his back to the genial influence of a semitropical sun." It may be doubted whether the said Adam has left any memoir to support this view, and whether the late Professor Tyndall would have deemed this effort as an example of the "scientific use of the imagination."

CANCER RESEARCH.

In connection with cancer a valuable report has been issued by the research laboratories of Middlesex Hospital. Among other statements, one of great weight, though the outcome is negative, is to the effect that "all the alleged discoveries of a causative (or germ) of the malignant disease have been carefully considered and fully tested by experiment, and of the several claims put forward not one has appeared to present such an element of inherent probability as to demand detailed notice." So many reckless, and as positive, statements have been made on this subject that the public will do well to distrust similar reports in the future. The origin and the cure of cancer are yet to be discovered.

STRANGE EFFECTS OF DARKNESS.

Since 1896, the effects of light and darkness upon crustaceans, batrachians, and fishes, have been studied in a biological laboratory at the Catacombs of Paris. In the underground portion of the laboratory, animals accustomed to daylight are kept constantly in darkness, while in a section above ground, have animals are kept in ordinary light. Life in darkness brings a gradual fading of colour. The organs of smell, touch, and taste soon increase to three times their former size; the eyes remain normal for a time, but in fishes, double in size at the end of five years, though with loss of power and evident coming atrophy. The size of fishes becomes much reduced. The cave animals show that light is disagreeable to them, and in a few months they develop colour.

SCIENTIFIC MYSTERY.

A trial now in progress directs attention to the manipulation of gold. Everybody knows that a sovereign contains an alloy, but it is not common knowledge that that alloy forms but a five-hundredth part of the bulk of the coin, and yet is sufficient to exactly double the strength of the piece. Why or how this is exactly is not obvious. That the introduction of a fragment of zirconium effects a rearrangement of the molecules of the gold is manifest, but how? They say at the Bank of England that they have never seen a counterfeit sovereign. Alloys can be easily enough produced by pressure, without any melting, and the pressure applied to the fillings will produce the desired result, but apparently the man is not born who can substitute anything for gold to make a passable copy of a sovereign.

HUNTING THE SEA ELEPHANT.

GIANT SEALS.

As far as size goes this giant seal could probably give points to the walrus, but he is certainly not so ferocious looking. Except for the curious nose (whence his Greek name) he is just a big black seal, fairly agile in the sea and clumsy ashore, like all his kind. Again, but for his partly developed proboscis he should be called sea hippopotamus rather than sea elephant. He is about the bulk of a hippopotamus of the same age, although more hirsute, and with a less extensive opening of the jaws. His proboscis is just an extension of the skin of the nose, which usually hangs down limply before the mouth for about a foot and is inflated when the animal is enraged or excited. The young ones and females are destitute of this appendage—one cannot call it an ornament. This species holds among seals the unique position of being common to both hemispheres, although from the arctic with which it has been hunted very few specimens exist north of the equator. Like every other mammal which I have hitherto dealt with, it has now a respite, and is consequently increasing in numbers rapidly. It forms practically the only population of many an otherwise lonely series of barren rocks in the Southern seas, finding in the inclement waters washing their bases the humble food it desires (for, like the walrus, and for the same reason—lack of speed and agility—he cannot feed upon swift moving creatures). Once it abounded in immense herds upon all the islands in the Antarctic Ocean, notably Kerguelen's Land and the South Shetlands. To those barren spots vessels repaired with crews that were ready for a fate. These men were landed upon these awful solitudes, just bare rocks set in a desolate sea, without a green spot to gladden the eye, and with the most perpetual rage of the elements about them. They had only the scanty shelter of a tent, their food was scanty and unwholesome, and their condition during the months that followed a time without seeing other faces, hearing other voices than those of their own little company. In the chase of the sea elephant they ran terrible risks, endured incredible hardships, and their reward after a successful voyage came to something like ten shillings a week. Only the hide and tallow were sought the elephant seal having no fur.

A DANGEROUS OCCUPATION.

My own recollection of this miserable business is a brief one, but quite lengthy enough to make me thankful that I shall never repeat the experience. In an hour I engaged to proceed from New Zealand to the Auckland and Campbell Islands in search of sea elephants, being assured that it was not only exciting sport, but a very pleasant pastime. Alas for the depravity of humanity! Could anything be less worthy of the title pastime than that? And yet I am sure that as compared with similar work upon such terrific rock-bound islets as the South Shetlands or South Georgia it might even be called sport or pastime. For the Auckland and Campbell Islands in summer have a garment of vegetation, and there are many flowers. There are also trees, and, considering the high southern latitude, the place is almost habitable for an Anglo-Saxon in fair comfort. But the weather is vile when the storm fiend is abroad, which is about every other day. Such is the force with which the mighty Southern waves strike these lonely mountain peaks rising from the sea right in the track of their world-engirdling sweep, that the whole atmosphere is full of spray, and walking abroad one's hair and beard becomes encrusted with salt. Also much of the land surface is bog, exceedingly dangerous to traverse, and with the frequent dense fogs which prevail almost impossible to avoid.

These islands being a favorite haunt of the sea elephant, we went there in search of them and set up our try-works on a promising spot. Provisions and materials for building huts having been landed, the ship sailed away; it was no place for a vessel to linger at anchor. Better by far face the utmost fury of the open sea. We watched his departure with a pang, for now we felt desolate indeed, but our thoughts were rudely interrupted by the curt orders of our officers, who wanted to know if we thought we had come there for a picnic. So we plunged into work in order to get things a bit ship-shape, but before we had been at it an hour we were all suddenly startled by a most tremendous roaring, as if a troop of lions newly landed. Our hesitation was but momentary, for our two officers, recognizing the sound, bade us take our clubs, sheath our knives, and follow them. We did so, and presently coming across a ridge of rock into view of a little exposed bay, we saw at least a hundred of these huge seals emerging from the broken water, and lumbering shorewards.

LANDING OF THE SEALS.

We watched them with intense interest, feeling grateful for the rest and also (I speak for myself) most curious to know what sort of a reception these monsters would give us when we burst in upon them armed only with clubs. True, we had been told repeatedly that all we had to do was to smite them fiercely on the nose and they would fall an inert mass at our feet, when we were to cut their throats immediately. But, somehow, a sight of them did not seem to inspire us with much confidence in our ability to carry out these simple orders; they looked so awe-inspiring in that luminous haze. There was a gentle drip, drip of moisture from the rocks around, distinctly audible between the long, stifled, thunderous roll of the breakers and the occasional hideous roaring of the seals, and my excited fancy it seemed as if it were the ticking of the clock of my life almost run down. For natural skepticism asserted itself, and I did not, could not, believe that our enterprise was as free from danger as I had been so repeatedly assured.

At last, after what seemed an interminable time of waiting, during which my hand got quite glued to my club from the nervous energy of my grip upon it, the last of the mighty family slowly heaved his huge bulk out of the surf and waded after the rest inland. He had hardly got a dozen yards between himself and the water line when in a low voice our chief said:

"Now then, spread yourselves along the beach between 'em an' the sea. Remember, a good bang where the trunk joins the head

and then a clean swipe across the neck with the knife, as hard as you can cut. Don't do anything but that to as many as you can." Of we all rushed, he leading us, without a sound save the patter of our feet on the sand, until we were all between the elephants and the sea. Then he raised a yell, startling and vigorous enough to dominate the boom of the breakers. I saw the hindmost monster stop and look about inquiringly; I noted that the herd had also paused, their dim forms swaying to and fro as they endeavoured to find out by sight or scent the cause of their alarm. Presently, another yell completed their undoing, and they turned and made for the sea again. Now, I do not pretend to any daring whatever, but if I did, I think I should have been justified in wishing to be elsewhere then. The charge of that troop of monster down upon our little band entirely ignorant of this warfare, and armed only with clubs not much heavier than a policeman's truncheon, was a severe test of nerve and faith. But our chief saved the situation. (He faced the leader and smote him so truly upon the spot he had indicated to us, that the vast mass of the body collapsed like a burst bladder, and spread itself on the ground. That fired us, and immediately we were all doing likewise, yelling like demons at the same time—why, I do not know, but so it was. But we were not to come off scot-free. One man missed his blow and his club falling at the same time, and putting his arm out to save himself from falling, thrust it into the monster's gaping jaws. Now, the sea elephant can crack pebbles as large as goose eggs like nuts, and does so apparently for sport, so that when we drew Sandy from underneath his fallen foe, and, prising open the jaw, released his arm, it looked more like some shreds of red rag than anything else. Some rude "first aid" was applied, and the work of slaughter went on.

RESULT OF THE FIRST RAID.

The upshot of the raid was twenty-one elephants killed, of which I know our chief was responsible for ten. And we were a study in ruffianism. "Gauged" all over with the blood and grease stumbling over the smallest stone from very weariness after the reaction had come, yet compelled to toil on with only a few minutes' rest at long intervals, all through the night, at the unfamiliar work of skinning those great beasts, then securing the masses of fat-laden hide to a rope, dragging the greasy plunder over the intervening space, or a roughness hardly conceivable. Yes, it was a rude experience, and, remembering the triviality of the reward, I am filled with wonder at our folly in ever undertaking it.

But we did not know, nor did we take the trouble to inquire. I must not forget to mention, before I leave this uninviting part of my subject, that Sandy did not lose his arm. In spite of the bones being broken, nay, almost ground to pulp in several places, and the extensive lacerations of the flesh, also the exceedingly primitive surgery, he was able to use the arm again in six weeks, and long before that was assisting as best he could in the work with one arm. Strangely enough I could not help feeling all the while that I was in the position of the unprovoked aggressor, and that whatever happened to me I should deserve all I got. And that is no frame of mind to go a-whaling or a-sealing in.

But perhaps I had better not extend my personal recollections of the sea elephant any farther or I may convey quite a wrong impression of him. It is true, that by accident he, or she as the case may be, does inflict serious injury upon the aggressor. But this is quite accidental. I am persuaded that the sea elephant, except among his fellows at the mating season, and even then in far less proportion than the common seal, is harmless, as his will testify. He is no insatiable hunter after higher organisms. Cuttlefish, those slinky, uncanny things that seem to have been created in order to provide food for a full half of the sea-mammals and the lower mollusca, yes, even so small as mussels are the daily food of the sea elephant, and the walrus, very satisfying he seems to them. Secure in his impervious coating of blubber, and he loves to lie upon the cat and bare rocks, with the spindrift hissing over him, as cosy as a cat upon a hearth-rug before a blazing fire. He also loves to watch the gambols of the pups learning to swim in the boiling surf, and to nuzzle in the ooze at the bottom of the sea for the succulent morsels which cannot escape him. Altogether, it cannot be denied that the All-Wise One has given to the elephant seal a high and enviable place among the sea-mammals, and now that man's desire for his parti-

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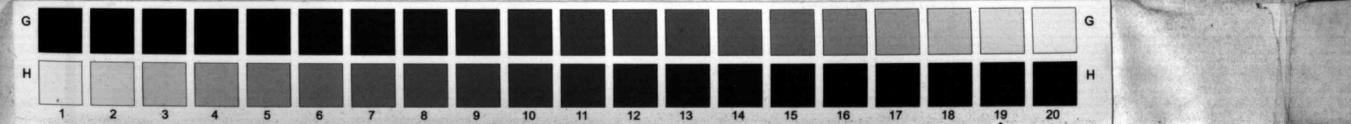
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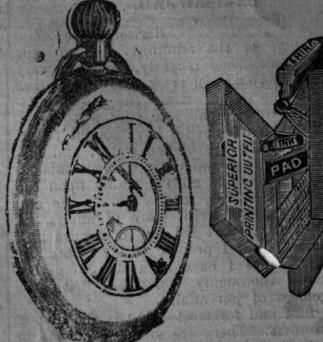
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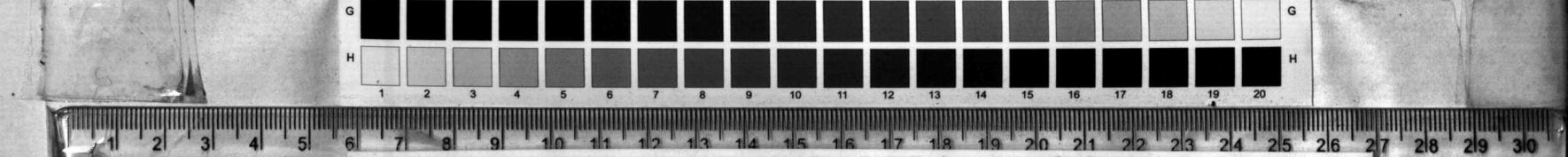
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HOOGHLY ITEMS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Hooghly, June 29.

THE TARKESSUR MOHUNT'S CASE.

The case brought by Babu Jadoo Mahtoo and others for the removal of Mohunt Satish Giri from the Gadi for his alleged misdeeds, is being heard from day to day by the District Judge of Hooghly, Mr. G. K. Deb. The first point which is being considered is, whether plaintiffs have any interest in bringing in this suit for which the Advocate-General of Bengal had given his permission. The witnesses for the plaintiffs have already been examined and the witnesses for the defence are now being examined. Babu Tara Prossano Mookerjee of the Burdwan Bar is conducting the defence, while Babu Ambica Churan Mitter of the local Bar appears for the plaintiffs. In this connection it may be mentioned that a criminal case is pending before Mr. Stinton, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Serampore. It is a case of mischief brought by one Dhukhiram Acharye, a tenant of the Mohunt, against Sashi Bhusan Chuckerburty and 8 others. Some of the accused in the criminal case are plaintiffs in the case before the District Judge of Hooghly while others are Amias of Babu Bepin Behari Sen, Taluqdar of Baidyapore, District Burdwan. The case for the prosecution is that the accused and some Sannyasees on the "fruit" day dismantled a "Chala" (hut) belonging to the complainant and performed the ceremony of "Kanta Jhamp" on the site of the "Chala" and danced thereon in ecstacy. They also caused, it is alleged, mischief by throwing away Ollahs, (sweets) Batashas, sugar, &c. The case for the defence is that they have a right to do it and which right they are in possession from time immemorial; that this was caused by the vast crowd of Sannyasees assembled on the occasion of the "Gajan." Several of the accused also plead alibi. Babu Srish Ch. Chatterjee is for the prosecution and Babu Bishnu Pado Chatterjee is conducting the defence. Both the pleaders belong to the Hooghly Bar.

MATTERS MUNICIPAL.

Our city fathers have at last risen equal to the occasion and have taken in hand the urgent repair of the most important roads of the Municipality. Special contract has been given to a contractor for the thorough repair of the Mookerjee Lane which is the only way to go to the Chinsurah Station from the town. The work, it is understood, will be finished within a fortnight. The breadth of the metal portion would be 10 feet and the depth of the metal six inches. Steps have already been taken to widen the Mookerjee Lane near the Pal's garden. Specifications have, I hear, already been sent to the Land Acquisition Deputy Collector for acquiring the piece of land needed. To Mookerjee Lane, I understand, has been allotted Rupees two thousand plus the cost of acquiring the land. The other important road viz: the approach to the Bandel Junction (Hooghly) has got an allotment of Rupees one thousand and hundred and its work will shortly be taken in hand. The road will also be widened in narrow places. The District Board of Hooghly would do better to co-operate with the local Municipality by repairing shortly their portion of the two Roads mentioned above leading to the Chinsurah Station and the Bandel Junction.

OFFICIAL CHANGES.

Our Magistrate Mr. Carey of the Berhampore fame is likely to come here on the 8th proximo and take over charge. The present incumbent Mr. Hallifax will go away to Berhampore to take over charge of the district from Mr. Hamilton, whose transfer to Rungpore has already been gazetted.

A ROYAL TIGER SHOT.

A STIRRING TALE.

A Russellkonda correspondent writes to the "Madras Mail":—"May I request you to publish in your daily issue a tiger of an extraordinary size shot on 12th May, 1904, by Mr. A. S. Laurie, the Assistant Engineer of Russellkonda. The tiger was attempted by many a country shot, but without a success. The tiger was a shock of terror to the people of the Kallingia villages because it took away several buffaloes belonging to the villagers, and subsequently came to be called a Royal tiger on account of its huge size. The country cartmen were panic stricken by the presence of the tiger in the jungle adjoining the Kallingia road and hesitated to pass the road with their carts for fear of being killed by the tiger. Somehow or other this news reached the ears of Mr. Laurie, who was ever ready, and naturally delighted in some games, ventured to meet the foe. It is interesting to know how he despatched that Royal tiger with one final shot.

Mr. Laurie was told by the villagers that the tiger had taken away one of their buffaloes and thrown it dead on the Kurnungia Ghati road. The sooner had he (Mr. Laurie) heard of this, he lost no time and was ready on the spot waiting to welcome the Royal master. The tiger slowly sneaked out of its den and appeared to sympathise over its head friend (buffalo) at about 6-5 p.m., Mr. Laurie was watching him lying in concealment about 20 yards distance. The grand master first came and stood by the dead buffalo for over three minutes, then sat in front of his dead friend like a "pilevan" (master athlete), resting both his hands on his thighs and looked up to heaven kissing over his dead fellow. After an interval of five minutes he (the grand master) twisted his arroyo whisks on his majestic face with both the front paws and looked to either side with a challenging attention for a little over a minute and then commenced to give a bite with his cadaverous teeth over the neck of his dead fellow (buffalo). Mr. Laurie, who was watching in concealment the chivalrous exploits of this ferocious tiger, waited until he turned his head back and thus securing a position with a well-directed aim, he (Mr. Laurie) shot him dead on the spot with one ball. The sudden and powerful shot is said to have made the tiger jump into the sky as high as five yards and gasping for life, fell down from there in full prostration of its length, measuring in all 11 feet.

NOTES BY THE MAIL.

RUSSIA AND TIBET.

An article bearing the signature of M. Pilenko appears in the "Novoe Vremya" on the Tibet campaign. Dealing with the subject in considerable detail and quoting from Blue-books and various British authorities, the writer maintains that the British expedition to Tibet is directed solely against Russia, all the other reasons invoked being mere pretexts serving to mask the veritable aim of the campaign, which is to destroy the prestige of Russia in Central Asia. M. Pilenko concludes his article by a computation of the loss inflicted on the Anglo-Indian Government by the illegal pasturing of Tibetan herds in Sikkim, and places the amount at Rs. 65 (£4 6s. 8d.) per annum. The "Novoe Vremya" says that the Tibet expedition is the greatest obstacle to the Anglo-Russian rapprochement of which the newspapers have lately been talking so much, that it is a provocation, and that public opinion in Russia will not be reassured until it obtains adequate satisfaction. Millions of Russian subjects regard Lhasa as the Roman Catholics do the Vatican, and it is therefore essential that the Dalai Lama should have complete liberty of action. "If," adds the Russian journal, "Great Britain comprehends the dangerous part which she is playing in the Anglo-Japanese alliance, she will give evidence of it by recalling from Tibet the expedition of Colonel Younghusband."

THE AIMS OF JAPAN.

According to M. Poppel writing in the "Novoe Vremya," Japan is working with inflexible and unceasing endeavour towards one object, "the uniting under one hegemony of all the States of the Mongol race and the setting up of her exclusive influence in the Asiatic East with the device of Asia for the Asiatics." We know he says, that she has already succeeded in winning over by her alluring suggestions one of the influential Princes of Southern Mongolia, the Kartzin Prince, who, since his journey in Japan, has shown himself the first to proclaim the transformation of the Mongolian nomads by the process of civilisation and education in the spirit of Japanese Pan Mongolianism. But without Japanese influence, in comparatively recent times, the Chinese Government conceived the idea of establishing in Mongolia an administrative rank, corresponding to that in the interior of China, for the purpose of dealing with different political affairs. Continuing their efforts in this direction Japan is now seen to have acquired a new proselyte and supporter of its designs in Western Mongolia in the person of the Torgut Prince, presenting through Prince Ching a report in twelve articles of the indispensable reforms to be effected among the Mongolian nomads, dealing with settlements, education, civilisation, and military administration. This interesting report is given out for publication in Peking under the full influence of the Japanese. It is prefaced with the following introduction:—"At the present time the Mongols have long been enfeebled. At the epoch of the accession of the Manchu Dynasty its representatives feared the strength of the Mongols, which might with difficulty have been controlled. For that reason the Government of those times directed its policy exclusively to holding the Mongols in ignorance, and thus weakening them. But at the present time when the aggressive tide of Russian power becomes daily more and more strong, our full object is to strengthen our vassals in Mongolia for this reason, that they will serve as a bulwark for us in the North. In this case, if these three Princes (the Kartzin and Torgut Princes in Eastern and Western Mongolia and Tchasaktukhan in Northern Mongolia) would unite the whole race, so that all the Princes took part in the progressive movement, the development of Mongolia might be full of hope. This would make for the happiness, not only of Mongolia and China, but for the general situation in the whole Orient."

THE FUTURE OF SIAM.

It is reported that already among some of the more influential members of the Colonial Party in Paris the basis of a new Anglo-French Agreement is being discussed. M. Henri Lorin, one of the most accomplished publicists of the party, urges that it is very desirable that France should one day be master of the whole eastern zone of Indo-China, including the valley of the Menam. For the purpose of guarding her Indian Empire, Great Britain desires to extend her influence over all the routes that about on the Indian Ocean, and it is this, says M. Lorin, that explains the quiet but the quiet importance she attaches to the Persian Gulf, the recent incidents at Muscat and Koweit, and the voyage of Lord Curzon. Is there not here, M. Lorin asks, the principle of a new equitable arrangement between the French and the British? Great Britain is to renounce her interests in Siam, and France, on her side, would give up the privileges which she enjoys under certain treaties in the Persian Gulf. M. Francis, we are reminded, recently developed the same thesis which he crystallised into the formula "Bangkok for Muscat"; and animated by the friendly sentiments of the 'entente cordiale,' this formula deserves, in the opinion of M. Lorin, to be seriously studied on both sides of the Channel.

THE RUSSIAN MOOD.

Having just returned from St. Petersburg, where he had exceptional opportunities of arriving at a just appreciation of the present position of affairs, Sir Howard Vincent is assuring the Lobby that much misconception prevails in this country regarding the disposition of Russia. So far, he says, from there being any agitation, absolute calm prevails. There is no excitement with regard to the war and no recrimination at the unexpected turn of events, so confident are all classes of ultimate success. On the other hand, a St. Petersburg correspondent of exceptional authority, cables that the chief subject of discussion in the capital is Admiral Alexeeff's relations with General Kuropatkin. It is generally felt that the latter should be given an entirely free hand, as the more practical man of the two, even though he decide not to advance to the aid of Port Arthur, since its fall would only add one more to Russia's tale of disasters up to date, while, by biding his own time, General Kuropatkin is believed to be capable of completely restoring the prestige of his country. A serious blow, on the other hand, would be fatal. Moreover great confidence is felt in the ability of Port Arthur to hold out, in any case, until the arrival of the

Baltic Fleet. "Any effort by foreign power to intervene now would be regarded as absolutely useless, if not as indicative of a desire by stopping the war before Russia has scored a success, to place her permanently in the position of the defeated party." The feeling is that Russia must continue at all costs until completely victorious.

Varieties.

It is a liberal contribution and a good deal ought to be done out of it.

Agricultural improvements on Government estates in Bengal are to cost about half a lakh this year.

It is intended to extend the area of the Government Chinchona Plantations at Darjeeling to the Damsang Forest.

The Sutlej electric-supply scheme for Simla is to be specially investigated by a committee of engineer experts during the currency of the present season.

A City pigeon, after being entangled by one leg by a wire on the top of Gresham College in London, for twenty-five hours, was rescued alive by an adventurous young man in the presence of a large crowd.

The Madras Agricultural Department are distributing a large quantity of seed-cane to ryots and others from their sugarcane experimental station at Samalkot during the present planting season.

The smallest coin in the world being a genuine circulation is probably the Moltese "grain," a tiny fragment of brass about as big around as the tip of a pencil and having a value of one one-hundredth of a penny.

We hear of the intention of starting a woodpulp mill to ascertain whether the manufacture of pulp by what is known as the sulphate process is feasible in this country. It is under the consideration of the authorities.

Special trains passed through Lancashire and Yorkshire conveying 60,000 homeing pigeons, which were liberated in different localities and took part in 1,000 races. To reach their homes the birds had to cover distances varying from 150 to 200 miles.

From July 1 the Great Western will run a train from Paddington to Plymouth (246 miles) in 265 minutes, without a stop. The Great Eastern is running a stop train from Liverpool-street to Lowestoft and Yarmouth in two and-a-half hours. An Indian Mail train takes upwards of 10 hours to do a similar mileage (246 miles), but we may expect an improvement before the lapse of the next ten years.

In the neighbouring Province of Assam, on the other hand, although the production of sugar is not a very extensive industry at present, the annual production is some 35,000 tons and with the aid of another 13,000 tons which are imported, appears sufficient for the requirements of the Province. Cultivation of the sugarcane is confined entirely to plains, districts, the crop being very little grown the hills. The annual area under the crop is estimated at some 36,000 acres.

At the annual visitation of savants to Greenwich Observatory, it was stated that the photographs of 10,000 reference stars will be completed in nine years. A recent photograph of a comet showed nine distinct tails. During the year sun photographs were taken on 227 days. On only twenty-five days had the sun been free from spots. The rainfall was greater than the average for half a century. There were 1,361 hours of bright sunshine at Greenwich out of a possible 4,472 hours.

A Norwegian scientist, Prof. Birnbaum, the inventor of an electro-magnetic gun, says it is said, discovered a method of producing nitrogenous elements which are of great value in compounds intended for agricultural purposes direct from the air. He obtains his results by the use of electric arcs of a much greater extent than any hitherto adopted. A Company has been formed to work his method, and has acquired a large Norwegian waterfall, by means of which the electricity will be obtained which is to produce the new chemical fertiliser.

The utilisation of electric power in Italy has undergone extraordinary developments as to the collective horse power of the various small plants scattered over the peninsula in 1890, but it is improbable that the total electric motive force available in Italy in that year exceeded 20,000 horse-power. To-day electricity in Italy provides a total motive force of over 200,000 horse-power. In 1890 there were about 400 communes in Italy either partially or totally lighted by electricity. To-day electric light is general in at least 600 communes. The development of the application of electricity to industrial purposes in Italy is very marked, and with a continued adaptation of the water-power, with which the country is so richly provided, greater progress in this direction may be confidently anticipated.

An occurrence of electro-botanical interest has recently been observed in the Brazilian town of Petropolis in the State of Rio de Janeiro. Among the commonest plants of that part of the world is a parasitical plant known as the Tillandsia. This plant has very small seeds, each of which is provided with a growth of long, light hairs. At any time of high wind these seeds are blown down long distances in the air, to take root and grow wherever they finally arrive, as, for instance on the trunks and branches of trees. Petropolis has recently been lit by electric light, the necessary current being conveyed by wires on wooden poles. Seeds from the Tillandsia have attached themselves to these poles and the wires themselves, and have there grown in far greater luxuriance than when in more usual situations, in many places covering the wires with their long green garlands studded with red and white flowers. This is attributed to the effect of the strong light of the electric lamps. It would seem that the various proposals of forcing vegetation by electricity have gained the attentive ear of Nature herself.

NOTES FROM BENARES.

Benares, June 26.

THE POLICY OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

You have done well to call attention in a recent issue to the pro-Mohamedan policy of the Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces. Sir James La Touche is a kind hearted man and probably does not know that he is doing any wrong to any body by this policy. I am even doubtful that he knows that he is a pro-Mohamedan ruler. Yet he is being looked upon by the Mohamedans in private and public as their "own man" as the phrase goes, while the Hindus think that he is not favourably disposed towards them. I am merely describing the feeling as it exists between the two communities, and are not tracing the cause which led to it. Sir Antony Mac Donnell's policy, declared and carried out was "sympathy and firmness", but while the present Government might justly be said to give evidence of sympathy now and then, it is altogether deficient in firmness. When we speak our minds about our rulers, we feel that we are doing so with a halter round our neck, yet if plain speaking is permissible under the law, I shall say that Sir James is entirely lacking in the qualities of a successful administrator. He may be a peace-maker, a capable secretary, a loyal officer and a safe man, but he is not a successful ruler. Ever since he has assumed the reins of Government, the control over the administration has been slack, one community makes no secret that it is the favourite of the Government, and things are being managed in a way which points to the irresistible conclusion that the work of Sir Antony Mac Donnell is being undone.

THE AUTHORITIES AND THE JOLAHS.

Benares is a Hindu city beyond dispute, but the Jolahs or the Mohamedan weavers have great influence with the authorities. During the day of the plague scare, they simply met in thousands at their mosques and open places to deliberate amongst themselves as to what they should do if the plague regulations were enforced. This attitude on their part gave fright to the officials, and they began courting the Jolahs. They sought their leaders, honoured them with seats and visits, and at the Coronation one of them was granted a certificate, though for what service it is not known. They have been given arm licenses and have free access to the authorities.

A GRIEVANCE OF THE HINDUS.

The Azamgarh riot has revived the memory of the sacrifice that has been committed here. The Hindus and Mohamedans were at quarrel over a temple ground known as Lat Bhairo, and one night the image of the God in the temple was mutilated by some miscreant. The next morning it was discovered and reported to the Police. The Hindus approached the District Magistrate, asked him to visit the spot and find out whether certain Mohamedans whom they named were not the guilty persons. But the Magistrate summarily dismissed the petition saying that they have not a shred of evidence to connect those men with the outrage, and the case to this day remains undressed and as a dark spot upon the detection ability of the Police.

MR. DHARMAPAL'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

Mr. Dharmapal, the well-known Buddhist missionary, has come here with the intention of opening an industrial school. I have seen him as also Mr. Viggars whom he has brought out from England to teach agriculture. Mr. Dharmapal struck me very earnest and sympathetic. Mr. Viggars is however a young man and does not know the vernacular and I am doubtful that he will be an able lieutenant to Mr. Dharmapal. Not that he is wanting in ability or energy, but being a foreigner and an Englishman, I am afraid, he will not feel as deep sympathy with the poor people of this country as an Indian would do. But I do not know; he may for any thing be one of the few Englishmen who do more for the people of this country than for their own. Mr. Dharmapal has in my opinion made one mistake. He should not have brought out an expert teacher until he had opened the school. As it is, I suppose, he

SUMMER COMPLAINT is the children's most dangerous enemy and the mother's most dreaded foe. Immediate and proper treatment is always necessary. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy given according to directions, is the most effectual remedy known. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co. Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co.; Abdool Rahaman; Abdool Kareem Calcutta.

has to pay Mr. Viggars his salary, for the latter cannot certainly be responsible for the delay in completing the arrangements. Mr. Dharmapal proposes to mess the children of all the castes together when his boarding house is open. This with my experience of the Hindu College before me, I fear will raise wanton opposition. True, as he says, the children have no castes but their parents will not take the same view, and I believe it is merely a question of management to feed them according to the wish of their parents. Mr. Dharmapal has been most unfortunate in securing a suitable site for this school and he is in the absence of a better one, raising a small building at Samath. Every one who knows him will wish him success.

THE SEA SERPENT AGAIN.

PLUNGING OFF THE TONQUIN COAST. A hideous monster of the sea, "shaped like a flat-bodied serpent of about a hundred feet in length" is reported to be on the usual periodical visit to southern Chinese waters. It is said to have been observed by the officers and crew of the French gunboat Decides, when cruising in the Bay of Along, near Haiphong. "I was standing on the bridge," says the commander in his report to the admiral, "when my attention was called to a round, dark mass in the water, about three hundred yards to port. Soon afterwards it rose out of the water, and I saw that I was beholding a sea monster shaped like a flat-bodied serpent of about a hundred feet in length. It appeared to have a soft, black skin covered with marble spots, and the head, which rose about sixteen feet out of the water, closely resembled that of an enormous turtle with huge scales. It blew up two jets of water to a height of about fifty feet. It moved slowly through the water at a speed of about eight knots, and when about 150 yards from the gunboat plunged beneath it like a submarine, reappearing on the surface about four hundred yards away. Several of the officers and crew also watched the monster as it gradually disappeared."

GIVING FALSE EVIDENCE.

Babu Joy Gopal Ghose moved on behalf of one Nistarini Dassi, against whom an order of prosecution had been made under Section 193 I. P. C., for the issue of a rule calling upon the District Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs to show cause why the proceedings should not be quashed.

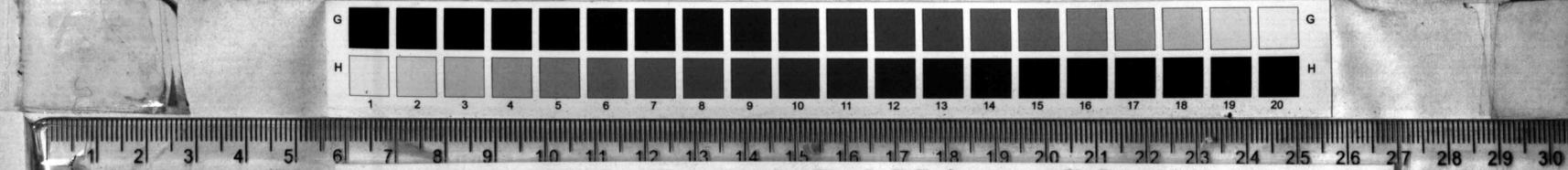
The petitioner was a witness before the Deputy Magistrate of Baraset in a criminal case in which one Minalini Devi was the accused. In the course of her deposition she stated that Minalini was a maid servant when the latter raised her hand making a gesture of assault at the petitioner. The petitioner then brought a case under Section 352 against Minalini. The case was tried before the same Deputy Magistrate, who found Minalini guilty and sentenced her to one day's imprisonment. While giving evidence in this case Nistarini stated "She really beat me with her hand." The Deputy Magistrate found that the petitioner had made a false addition in her statement deliberately and called upon her to show cause why she should not be prosecuted under Section 193 I. P. C. The records were then sent over to the District Magistrate who ordered the trial of the case by the Sub-Divisional Officer of Barrackpore.

Their Lordships issued the following rule:—"Let a rule issue calling upon the District Magistrate to show cause why the prosecution of the petitioner Nistarini Dassi for an offence under Section 193 I. P. C. should not be set aside on the ground that under the circumstances of the case such prosecution is injudicious or at all events unnecessary for the ends of justice."

The Hon. Mr. Justice Crowe, at Bombay, disposed of the suit instituted by Shewraj Bhara and Co. against the LaGardiane Marine Insurance Company, in which the plaintiffs claimed Rs. 5,178, with interest and costs Mr. Padshaw, instructed by Messrs. Payne and Co. appeared for the plaintiffs. Mr. Padshaw stated that the defendant's agent in Bombay had admitted the claim and had written that he would settle it on receiving orders from his principals. The plaintiffs had effected two policies of insurance, but their goods were lost in a storm. His Lordship passed a decree for the amount with interest and costs.

CHOLERA MORBUS has lost its terrors in the home where a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy is kept. It never fails even in the most severe and dangerous cases. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co. Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co.; Abdool Rahaman; Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.

Advertisement for Mother Seigel's Syrup. The World's Remedy. Food, well digested, is the origin of strength. To be strong and healthy, assist your stomach, liver, and kidneys to do their work perfectly by taking Mother Seigel's Syrup, which contains food-digesting ferments and gentle tonics for the stomach, and has cured more dyspeptics than any other medicine in the world. MOTHER SEIGEL'S SYRUP. "I suffered terribly from indigestion," writes Mr. George Collier, of 56, Baronia Street, Redfern, Sydney, N.S.W., on Oct. 11th, 1903. "Whatever I ate seemed to stick in my throat and caused frightful pains in my chest. Now, thanks to Mother Seigel's Syrup, I am never troubled with indigestion, pains, loss of sleep, or any other ailment and am as well as ever before in my life." FOR Indigestion.



ROYAL COMMISSION ON TUBERCULOSIS.

An interim report prepared by the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the relations of Human and Animal Tuberculosis was issued yesterday (30th May) as a Parliamentary paper [Cd. 2092]. It will be remembered that the Commission was appointed on August 31, 1901. The interim report, which is signed by all the Commissioners—namely Sir Michael Foster, M.P. (Chairman), Professor G. S. Woodhead, Professor Sidney Martin, Professor McFadyean, and Professor R. W. Boyce—is as follows:—

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty. May it please your Majesty, We, your Majesty's Commissioners, appointed to inquire and report with respect to tuberculosis:—

- 1. Whether the disease in animals and man is one and the same;
2. Whether animals and man can be reciprocally infected with it;
3. Under what conditions, it at all, the transmission of the disease from animals to man takes place, and what are the circumstances favourable or unfavourable to such transmission;

humbly submit this report on the progress which we have made in the inquiry. The greater part of the above reference is directed to the view which has been expressed that the bacillus which gives rise to tuberculosis in the bovine animal is specifically distinct from the bacillus which gives rise to tuberculosis in the human being, and that therefore the presence of the bovine bacillus in the milk or flesh of the cow, consumed as food by man, is not to be regarded as a cause of tuberculosis in the latter. To this point we first turned our attention.

After duly considering the matter, we came to the conclusion that it would be desirable not to begin the inquiry by taking evidence—that is to say, by collecting the opinions of others (though this might be desirable at a later stage), but to attack the problem laid before us by conducting experimental investigations of our own.

The first line of inquiry upon which we entered may be stated as follows:—

What are the effects produced by introducing into the body of the bovine animal (calf, heifer, cow), either through the alimentary canal as food, or directly into the tissues by subcutaneous or other injection, tuberculous material of human origin—i.e., material containing living tubercle bacilli obtained from various cases of tuberculous disease in human beings, and how far do these effects resemble or differ from the effects produced by introducing into the bovine animal, under conditions as similar as possible, tuberculous material of bovine origin—i.e., material containing living tubercle bacilli obtained from cases of tuberculous disease in the cow, calf, or ox?

We have up to the present made use in the above inquiry of more than 20 different "strains" of tuberculous material of human origin—that is to say, of material taken from more than 20 cases of tuberculous disease in human beings, including sputum from phthisical patients and the diseased parts of the lungs in pulmonary tuberculosis, mesenteric glands in primary abdominal tuberculosis, tuberculous bronchial and serical glands, and tuberculous joints. We have compared the effects produced by these with the effects produced by several different strains of tuberculous material of bovine origin.

In the case of seven of the above strains of tuberculous material of bovine origin.

In the case of seven of the above strains of human origin, the introduction of the human tuberculous material into cattle gave rise at once to acute tuberculosis, with the development of widespread disease in various organs of the body, such as the lungs, spleen, liver, lymphatic glands, &c. In some instances the disease was of remarkable severity.

In the case of the remaining strains, the bovine animal into which the tuberculous material was first introduced was affected to a less extent. The tuberculous disease was either limited to the spot where the material was introduced (this occurred, however, in two instances only, and these at the very beginning of our inquiry), or spread to a variable extent from the seat of inoculation along the lymphatic glands, with, at most, the appearance of a very small amount of tubercle in such organs as the lungs and spleen. Yet tuberculous material taken from the bovine animal thus affected, and introduced successively into other bovine animals, or into guinea-pigs from which bovine animals were subsequently inoculated, has, up to the present, in the case of five of these remaining strains, ultimately given rise in the bovine animal to general tuberculosis of an intense character; and we are still carrying out observations in this direction.

We have very carefully compared the disease thus set up in the bovine animal by material of human origin with that set up in the bovine animal by material of bovine origin, and so far we have found the one, both in its broad general features and in its finer histological details, to be identical with the other. We have so far failed to discover any character by which we could distinguish the one from the other; and our records contain accounts of the post-mortem examinations of bovine animals infected with tuberculous material of human origin which might be used as typical descriptions of ordinary bovine tuberculosis.

The results which we have thus obtained are so striking that we have felt it our duty to make them known without further delay in the present interim report.

We defer to a further report all narration of the details of our experiments (and we may say that up to the present time we have made use of more than two hundred bovine animals), as well as all discussions, including those dealing with the influence of dose and of individual as well as racial susceptibility, with questions of the specific virulence of the different strains of bacilli, with the relative activity of cultures of bacilli and of emulsions of tuberculous organs and tissues, and with other points. In that report we shall deal fully with all these matters, as well as with the question why our results differ from those of some other observers.

Meanwhile we have thought it our duty to make this short interim report, for the reason that the result at which we have arrived—namely, that tubercle of human origin can give rise in the bovine animal to tuberculosis

identical with ordinary bovine animal to tuberculosis—seems to us to show quite clearly that it would be most unwise to frame or modify legislative measures in accordance with the view that human and bovine tubercle bacilli are specifically different from each other, and that the disease caused by the one is a wholly different thing from the disease caused by the other.

DENIZENS OF THE DEEP.

Who that has wandered out along some harbour arm, or who has gazed over the ship's side, into the limpid depths, but has wondered what strange and uncanny beasts lie fathoms deep below him? If only one could wander along the bottom, picking one's way among rocks studded with sea anemones stepping over starfish, prawns, and crabs, and noting the various marine curiosities, fish that never brave the light of day till hauled thereto, an unwilling unit, amidst a strange crowd in the net of some deep sea fisherman.

The shark, with his grinning mouth and ugly teeth, we may pass by. He is so well-known, as is also the porpoise, that friendly visitor, who whiles away the monotony of many a weary day at sea. Next comes the seer, a fish known perhaps to the majority only from its figuring on the menu at certain seasons of the year. But he is a handsome fish, and worthy of some passing attention on your part. The seer may be described as one of the aristocrats of the sea, his forked tail and curved fins giving him enormous power in the water, and enabling him to perform that feat so fascinating to the angler—the observer of nature of leaping some ten to six feet into the air. Indeed, from the angler's point of view, perhaps there is no finer fish in the world than the seer. The Americans boast—and rightly too—of the tarpon, but the tarpon has been well exploited, the seer has not yet had his innings. The one objection to the seer is that he seldom leaves the "blue water," which may be some six or seven miles from shore; and has not the poet put it beautifully, "Our souls do sicken o'er the heaving wave," which verily is the truth in the case of many who would otherwise delight to pursue the lordly seer.

But enough of such fish. Let us pass on to the smaller fry. Foremost among these come the quaint little pipe-fish, and the sea-horse so beloved of us in our childhood's days. The natives of Orissa have a strange theory that these fish are used by the sharks as tooth-picks! They have two claims to our consideration. First is the fact, that unlike most other species, the male carries the eggs and looks after the picaninny—a most excellent arrangement, as I heard one gay young lady remark. Secondly, these little creatures travel most extraordinary distances, having the power of attaching themselves by their tails to any objects, such as pieces of drift-wood and so on. Perhaps they are the couriers of the deep! Another fish there is who copies these tactics, but in a different way. Let us give him his common name, "the sucking fish," and not his complicated scientific name. His procedure differs in two ways from that of the quaint little sea-horse. Whereas the latter fastens himself on to his object by the tail, the sucking fish performs the like feat by his head, the back of which is a mass of small tentacles. And he does not choose interesting objects, such as bits of wood, to fasten on to. Being a slow swimmer himself, he having that universal desire to travel fast, failing which even we humans are prone to, he selects for his steed such fish as the shark, and occasionally turtles, and to such he attaches himself, probably to their own intense disgust. Nevertheless, despite his unpopularity, "he gets there," as our cousins over the water say, and that is the main point.

Another exceedingly strange fish is the Indian sole, who is one of that curious species of flat fish, in shape like a bream, who, owing to the absence of an air-bladder, find it impossible to swim upright, but have to swim along half on their side. The undermost eye is called the behind side, and nature, realising too late the error she made in forgetting the air bladder, kindly did her best to remedy matters by putting both the eyes on one side. One of the most striking points of the Indian sole is a mouth full of huge teeth, of a size that would do credit to a full-grown mongoose. This fish never runs large, and is occasionally recognized, having been caught by the native fishermen in their nets. Talking of eyes, another quaint specimen is the hammer-headed shark. This is a small species of shark whose head is shaped exactly like a double-headed hammer, and the eyes, instead of being in front, are placed one at each end of the hammer-head. Another curiosity is the "globe fish," vulgarly known as the "sea hedgehog." In ordinary life he is shaped like the common or garden fish of the picture book, but instead of scales he possesses rows of sharp spines, like a porcupine's quills, which like the latter animal he keeps laid back flat. But we betide the incantations seer or hungry shark, who snaps him up as a toothsome morsel. Out he blows his little body like a football, up go his spikes, and in all the world he resembles nothing so much as a pincushion gone wrong.

And then the ray. This is a fish not often seen, possessing as he does a bashful and retiring disposition, and being one of those fish who prefer cruising round and seeking their prey at the bottom. But occasionally you may see one leap from the water, like some huge unwieldy kite, his head disappearing again before the end of his tail has appeared on the scene. Some of the smaller species of rays possess formidable stings in their long tails. In fact so poisonous are their stings to human beings, that often they necessitate the amputation of a leg or arm. Another fish constantly seen on the menu is the pomfret. How many ever think or know what they look like in their everyday home life? There are several kinds of pomfret, black, white, silver, and grey. In shape they are all much alike, resembling rather a flat egg with the tail at the small end. They have funny, small mouths and big eyes.

Another quaint fish is the "sea surgeon." His claim to notice lies in the possession of two sharp lancet-like rays in his tail, which he generally keeps lying in a sheath, but when angry he erects them, and by lashing his tail vigorously can inflict serious wounds on any fish within his reach. He does not grow very big. Then there is the "file fish," rather similar in appearance to the sea-surgeon, but easily distinguishable by two

powerful little teeth, projecting like small bradawls from his upper jaw. He has eight of these incisor teeth in all, and uses them to bore holes in the shells of the molluscs on which he feeds. As for crabs and prawns, one could fill a book with the numerous species, from quaint little hermit crabs to huge marine monsters, and from the humble prawn of the dinner table to giants the size of lobsters with large claws and feelers some 3 feet long.

But one last denizen of the deep must I introduce—the "sword fish." There are several varieties of sword fish, one of the most interesting being perhaps the "peacock fish" of the Coromandel Coast. They are curious fish to look at, with their sharp snouts—or swords—and their tails which exactly resemble a three days' old moon fastened to a stout broomstick, their bodies tapering rapidly towards the tail. But perhaps the most remarkable thing about them is the monstrous dorsal fin, some of the rays of which exceed 2 feet in length, giving the fish the appearance of having more fin than body. So powerful is the fish, and so sharp his sword, that they have been known to drive them clean through a boat. But then are they undone, for although capable of attaining great pace in a forward direction, their powers of propulsion backwards are very limited,—why, Nature only knows—and once their sword has been driven into any solid object such as wood, they find the difficulty of withdrawing it so great that it generally ends in the fish retiring disconsolate minus-half his weapon of offence.—"Skeae Dhu."

GOVERNMENTAL FISH BREEDING.

MORE THAN A BILLION AND A QUARTER OF FRY PLACED.

A Successful year for the United States Commission—more than a billion and a quarter of fry placed.

According to the report of the United States Commissioner of fish and fisheries the work of propagating food fishes and stocking public waters therewith during the fiscal year 1903 was probably more successful than in any previous year of the Commission. More hatcheries were operated than heretofore, all old lines of work were actively pushed, and important new features were taken up. The number of fish distributed was somewhat less than in 1902, owing to seasonal conditions; but various valuable fishes, whose cultivation has not recently, has never before been undertaken, received attention, and plans were made for a greatly increased output. The applications for all kinds of fish now greatly exceed those of a few years ago, and to fill them has taxed to the utmost the resources of the hatcheries, and in order to keep pace with the increased catch each year it is necessary to establish more hatcheries, and more money will be required, not only for this, but to keep the present plants working to their full capacity.

The number of stations operated last year was 46, although many of them had no permanent personnel. They were divided by regions as follows: New England 8, Middle Atlantic 7, South Atlantic 3, Gulf 1, Great Lakes 3, north central 5, south central 1, Rocky Mountain 2, Pacific 11. The number of stations at which each of the great commercial species was cultivated was: Lobster 2, cod 2, flatfish 2, shad 4, pike-perch 2, white fish 7, lake trout 5, and salmon 11. The species of fishes cultivated and distributed in 1903 numbered about 50, the new ones being mackerel, sea bass, scup, and tautog on the Massachusetts coast, yellow perch in the Potomac River and Lake Champlain; white perch in the Susquehanna River, and striped bass in the Roanoke River. The fish and fertilized ova distributed in 1903 amounted to something more than one and a quarter billions, which exceeded that of any previous year, with the exception of 1902, and while the Commission makes adequate provision for keeping up the supply of fishes that are sold after by anglers, more than 98 per cent of the whole amount distributed last year were those which are caught by commercial fishermen and thus enter directly into the food supply of the country. The distribution of all fish was as follows:—Eggs, 68,30,359; Fry, 122,60,57,475.

It will be seen that whitefish were more numerous than any other fish, and of the 310,000,000 eggs and fry, Michigan got nearly 150,000,000, Ohio, 71,000,000, Pennsylvania 38,000,000, Wisconsin 26,000,000, New York 25,000,000, and the rest in small lots to other States and Territories. Flatfish distribution amounted to 245,000,000, and all went to Massachusetts. Pike and perch are next in order, and they were distributed over twenty States and Territories, Ohio getting the most 77,000,000; Michigan 48,000,000, Pennsylvania 33,000,000, Vermont 16,000,000, and Massachusetts, Indiana, and Mississippi, 11,000,000 each. Shad come next in numerical order, and of course, the Atlantic States got all, Maryland leading with 37,000,000, Virginia being second with 29,000,000, while New Jersey comes next with 8,000,000. Codfish are fifth on the list, and Massachusetts got all the supply. Lobsters are sixth, and Maine and Massachusetts practically divided the fry, the former with 33,000,000 and the latter with 31,000,000. Of the various kinds of salmon with 47,000,000 eggs, fry, and others were distributed, most of them for commercial fishermen, as Oregon got 18,000,000, California 13,000,000, Washington 12,000,000 and Maine 2,000,000. The rest was for anglers and were distributed through many States.

ANGLERS WELL CARED FOR. For the anglers there were 52,000,000 trout of the following varieties: Steel head, Loch Haven, rainbow, black spotted, brook, lake, Scotch sea, golden, Canadian, and hybrid. Of grayling there were 1,500,000 and of black bass 600,000. Michigan received the lion's share of the trout, 22,000,000, New York being next with 9,000,000; Wisconsin with 2,770,000, Pennsylvania with 1,760,000, Vermont with 1,500,000, New Hampshire with 1,500,000, Maine with 1,375,000, and South Dakota with 1,242,000. The States and Territories shared in the distribution. Montana got the biggest share of

were not generally distributed, with 887,000, next in order being Michigan with 200,000 and Utah with 100,000. California received 1,300,000 of black bass, far more than any other State, while all got some, Texas being next highest with 109,000.

Interesting details from the report show that 3,125,000 striped bass fry were placed in the Roanoke River at Meldon, N. C. The largest number of brook trout fry in one place was 600,000 in Wellington Lake, Col. Put-in-Bay, Lake Erie, had 81,000,000 white-fish fry, the largest number in any one place, and 75,000,000 pike perch fry were placed there as well. Black bass were more widely distributed than any other fish, every State and Territory getting some fingerlings, yearlings, or adults, the largest number being 10,000 in New River, Fries, Va., and the smallest in several places in Virginia. The list is comprehensive and scarcely a State appears with the young black bass set free in less than fifty streams. Nearly 25,000,000 cod fry were put into the Atlantic Ocean off Gloucester, Mass., and 150,000,000 flatfish fry were put overboard at the same place. The distribution of trout fry and fingerlings in New York State was as follows: Twitencell Creek, Beaver River, N. Y., 1,000; County Brook, West Cambridge, N. Y., 550; Mount View Lake, Acre, N. Y., 300; Owego and Sawyer Creeks, Owego, N. Y., 300; Pharsalia Creek, Norwich, N. Y., 300; Saquoit Creek, Richfield, N. Y., 300; Wheeler and Crandall Brooks, Green, N. Y., 300; Trout Pond, Roslyn, N. Y., 350; Cathetacame Creek, Little Falls, N. Y., 300; Nordrach Lake, Phoenicia, N. Y., 300; Skinner and Lynza Creeks, Mannsville, N. Y., 15,000; Longfellow Lake, Pleasant Lake, N. Y., 20,000; Henry and Budlong Creeks, Frankfort, N. Y., 10,000; Beaver River, Beaver River, N. Y., 10,000; Salmon River, Williamstown, N. Y., 25,000; Beaverkill River, Livingston Manor, N. Y., 20,000; Carleton Ponds, Cape Vincent, N. Y., 22,000; Richmondville Creek, Richmondville, N. Y., 10,000; Poutney River, Raceville, N. Y., 10,000; Wiscoy Creek, Bliss, N. Y., 10,000; Sinclair Reservoir, West Point, N. Y., 10,000; Peekskill Hollow Brook, Peekskill, N. Y., 10,000; Schroon Lake, Riverside, N. Y., 10,000; tributary of Owlkill Creek, Cambridge, N. Y., 5,000; Marly Blanchard and Killum Creeks, Carthage, N. Y., 20,000.

CATCH OF COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN.

The Commission's reports also give the figure in regard to the catch of fish of the kind it is engaged in propagating. The quantity of fishery products landed at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., by American fishing vessels during the year 1902, as indicated by the returns received from the local agents at those ports, was 7,334 fares, which aggregated 167,954,875 pounds of fresh and salted fish, having a value to the fishermen of \$4,379,082. This is an increase, as compared with the previous year, of 370 fares, and of 16,789,684 pounds in the quantity and \$129,081 in the value of the products. In the quantity and value of fish landed at Boston there was an increase of 578 fares, 19,981,865 pounds, and \$467,188; and at Gloucester a decrease of 208 fares, 3,192,181 pounds, and \$338,107.

The total number of fares landed at Boston was 3,981, and the products comprised 77,608,596 pounds of fresh fish, valued at \$1,994,198, and 1,865,400 pounds of salted fish, valued at \$48,440; a total of 79,473,996 pounds, valued at \$2,042,638. From the eastern banks there were 212 fares, amounting to 10,847,560 pounds, \$947,018, and from the banks of the New England coast 3,769 fares, with 68,126,436 pounds, \$1,695,620. At Gloucester 3,353 fares were landed, having 39,614,878 pounds of fresh fish, valued at \$7,376,676 and 49,866,001 pounds of salted fish, valued at \$1,548,768; a total of 89,480,879 pounds, valued at \$2,336,444. Of this quantity, 585 fares with 52,034,789 pounds of fresh and salted fish, valued at \$1,847,241, were from the eastern banks, and 2,768 fares with 36,896,000 pounds, valued at \$889,203, were from the banks off the New England coast.

The fisheries of the Middle Atlantic States in 1901, statistics for 1902 not being available, furnished employment to 93,661 persons, of whom 18,623 were on fishing and transporting vessels, 52,300 on boats in the shore fisheries, and 22,738 were engaged as shoresmen in wholesale fish establishments, menhaden factories, oyster canneries, and other occupations on shore connected with the fisheries. The number of persons in the fisheries of the various States was as follows: New York, 11,564; New Jersey, 12,000; Pennsylvania, 2,484; Delaware, 1,998; Maryland, 36,260; and Virginia, 29,325. The total amount of capital invested in the fisheries of this region was \$25,080,371. The investment in New York was \$9,444,271; in New Jersey, \$2,729,571; in Pennsylvania, \$2,110,162; in Delaware, \$6,571,197; in Maryland, \$6,506,066; and in Virginia, \$3,633,104. The number of vessel employed was 3,721, valued at \$3,657,103, with a net tonnage of 54,701 tons, and out-fits valued at \$1,088,706. The number of boats in the shore fisheries was 36,237, valued at \$2,023,880. The apparatus of capture used on vessels and boats was valued at \$1,713,454, the shore and accessory property at \$9,591,366, and the cash capital amounted to \$7,036,872.

The products of the fisheries of these States aggregated 819,046,576 pounds, valued at \$17,455,500. The yield in New York was 228,092,285 pounds, valued at \$3,894,270; in New Jersey, 117,930,964 pounds, valued at \$4,755,522; in Pennsylvania, 6,029,538 pounds, valued at \$251,491; in Delaware, 5,835,180 pounds, valued at \$203,372; in Maryland, 82,975,245 pounds valued at \$3,767,461; and in Virginia, 378,183,358 pounds, valued at \$4,613,334. Some of the more important species taken in these fisheries were: Oysters, 19,749,877 bushels, \$10,287,556; clams, hard and soft, 1,118,777 bushels, \$1,074,834; shad, 31,897,637 pounds, \$1,253,622; alewives, 33,138,605 pounds, \$243,340; bluefish, 16,317,795 pounds, \$758,122; menhaden, 493,936,462 pounds, \$987,228; squeteague, 23,496,333 pounds, \$558,653; crabs, hard and soft, 70,951,965 in number, \$495,385. Many other species were also obtained in large quantities.

Considering this region as a whole, the returns for 1901, as compared with those for 1897, indicate a large increase during the past few years in the extent of the fisheries. There has been some falling off since 1897 in the number of persons employed, but the investment has increased \$4,973,900, and the products 224,874,866 pounds in quantity and \$3,161,087 in value

There has also been an increase in the quantity and value of a number of important forms of fishing apparatus, such as seines, pound nets, trap nets, weirs, fyke nets, lines, eel and lobster pots, dredges, toongs, and crab scrapes.

TERRAPIN UNDER INVESTIGATION.

The Commission also took up the question of the diamond-back terrapin in Chesapeake Bay, which has for years been the most productive region, the growing scarcity of which has led to the belief that the species may eventually become almost exterminated if the present methods of the industry continue, or if no steps are taken to arrest the decline by cultivation. The reported catch of terrapins in Maryland in 1901 was only one-sixtieth of the quantity and one-twentieth of the value of that in 1891; and in Virginia the output in 1901 was one-tenth the quantity and one-thirteenth the value of that for 1891. The decrease in the local output has in part been made good by the importation by the dealers of terrapins from the South Atlantic and Gulf States—these Southern terrapins being kept for a while in ponds and then shipped to market. There have been many requests for data regarding the growth, food, breeding, etc., of the terrapin, but the only report on the subject, published many years ago, is out of print, and much of the information therein contained is obsolete and incomplete.

During the summer of 1902 a complete study of the diamond-back terrapin of the Chesapeake Bay region was undertaken by the division, Prof. W. P. Hay being placed in charge. In addition to the natural history of the species, there were considered the extent and causes of the decrease, the laws regulating the terrapin fishery, terrapin pounds, and their management, the trade, markets, prices, etc. Special attention was given those points in the natural history of the species which bear on the question of artificial rearing, and a series of experiments was inaugurated addressed to this phase of the subject. Supplemental to this inquiry, an experimental pound was established at a favorable locality on the Choptank River, Md., and another at the laboratory at Beaufort, N. C., for the purpose of keeping terrapin under observation and noting their growth, breeding habits, etc.

There was also taken up a study of the diamond-back terrapin from the standpoint of systematic zoology, and specimens were collected and brought together in Washington from Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, in order to determine the specific or varietal differences. The inquiries and experiments will be conducted another season, after which it is hoped that a final report on the biology of the diamond-back terrapin may be made and that a practicable method of cultivation may have been developed.

From the report on the working of the College of Engineering, Madras, during 1903 we find that the progress of the students attending the College's workshop is reported to have been satisfactory on the whole. Excluding the students in their practical course, there were under instruction in the College at the close of the year 292 students or five less than in the previous year, almost the whole decrease having occurred in the draftsman class. There was a decrease under Brahmans and Native Christians, and an increase under Europeans, non-Brahman Hindus and Muhammadans. The results of the B. E. degree examination were fair; six of the twelve College students who entered, qualified for the diploma; of the ex-students seven out of twelve passed the examination in Engineering, however, did not compare favourably with those of the previous year. For the Government Technical examination there were six candidates, mostly from the draftsman class, against ten in the previous year, and two passed. This result was not encouraging. Excluding the single student in his practical course there were eleven military students in the Engineer Subordinate class of the College against ten in the previous year. Fourteen Engineer and 33 Engineer Subordinate students underwent their practical course during the year, and all but one of the former and two of the latter completed it.

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