

Anurita Bazar Patrika

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VOL XXXV.

CALCUTTA SUNDAY, JULY 17, 1904.

NO. 56

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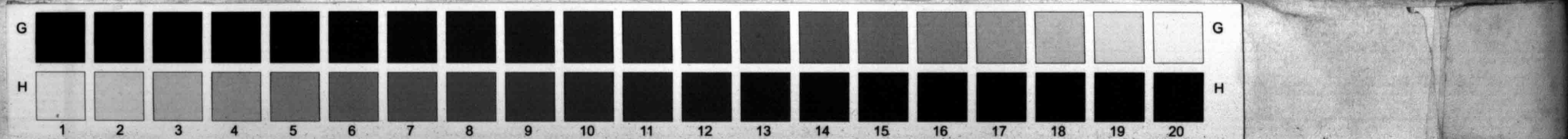
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BURDWAN NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Burdwan, July 12.

A SENSATIONAL RIOT CASE.

A riot case of considerable importance, transferred from Malda to Burdwan, is being tried at the court of Mr. O'Brien, the District Magistrate. The number of the accused in the case, of whom some are Europeans, is nineteen. As the European accused have claimed the privilege of trial by jury, the latter was empanelled yesterday. It is said that two Raj Estates are implicated in the case. The public are anxiously awaiting the result.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

I reported before that in the afternoon of the 3rd instant, a servant of Mr. Davis, stable Superintendent under the Burdwan Raj, lay dead from a gun-shot at the inner doorpost of his house. It is said that Mr. Davis, with his wife and child, had left for Calcutta on the morning of the day of occurrence, leaving his house in charge of his three servants. At about 2 p. m., when one of these men was gone home to take his meal and another was enjoying a siesta, a sudden report of a gun awakened the latter who found that his comrade lay dead weltering in a pool of blood, at the doorpost and a gun lying close by the owners of the house reached home at about 6 p. m. The Civil Surgeon who held the "post mortem" examination of the dead body is said to have expressed the opinion that the deceased had accidentally killed himself with the same gun found close by.

ALLEGED OUTRAGING FEMALE MODESTY.

One Rajabala Dasi, a low class Hindu woman of village Palasi under the sudder thana, who followed the calling of a lime-seller, charged two persons named Kshetra Mistri and Gopinath Mistri with having outraged her modesty. The allegations of the complainant were that, on the night of occurrence, the accused entered her house on the pretext of asking for a quantity of lime and then made an immoral proposal to her. She stoutly rejected their overtures and, for fear lest any violence should be done to her, went inside her hut and bolted the door from there. The accused are then said to have forced open the door, brought her out and outraged her modesty. The case was disposed of on the 8th ultimo, at the court of Babu Kshetra Nath Mitra, Senior Deputy Magistrate, who acquitted and discharged the accused for want of sufficient evidence warranting their conviction.

A GRAND PUBLIC MEETING.

A notice has been circulated over the signature of Raja Bhubhary Kapur Sahab C.S.I., to the effect that "a public meeting of the inhabitants of Burdwan Town and District will be held at the Bangshagopal Town Hall at 5 p. m. on Friday, the 15th of July, 1904, to express sympathy with the objects of the Association for the Advancement of Scientific and Industrial Education and to consider what steps should be taken to establish a District Committee at Burdwan. The Maharaj Adhiraj of Burdwan has consented to preside." I hear that some of our distinguished countrymen will be present at the meeting.

A DACOITY.

A case of dacoity which has been under the investigation of the police for sometime past occurred on the 14th of Jaistha last at the house of a widow named Kamini, a well-to-do inhabitant of village Gowripur under thana Satgachia. It was at dead of night when all the inmates were fast asleep that the dacoits numbering about 15 or 16 entered her dwelling house through an open window. The miscreants having subjected the inmates to various tortures wrenched away all the ornaments from the person of her daughter, broke open a chest and took possession of a box therefrom containing more ornaments. Afterwards they left the house without further troubling themselves with less valuable things. The investigation is being conducted by some Sub-Inspectors of police under the supervision of the District Superintendent himself.

OUTRAGE ON THE MODESTY OF A WOMAN.

An interesting case of using criminal force to a woman for the purpose of outraging her modesty, under section 304 I. P. C. was concluded on the 11th instant at the court of Babu Haripada Bhattacharya, Deputy Magistrate. The story for the prosecution is as follows:—One Funtzy Dassi, a girl of about eighteen summers and of a rather prepossessing appearance, lives with her relatives at Dangupara at Burdwan. On the night of occurrence, she was returning home from a confectioner's shop with some sweetmeat in her hand, when a young man named Nuthbery (those of the same locality, in company with another man who could not be recognized caught hold of her on the way, dragged her towards the river Banka and there on the bank struggled to take undue liberties with her. Her piercing cries brought some people to the spot, when her assailants left her and fled away. The defence urged that the accused had an illicit connection with the complainant before and that the case was a concocted one brought on out of enmity through the instigation of certain persons amorously interested in her. The presiding officer, however, found the accused guilty of the offence under the said section and sentenced him to undergo rigorous imprisonment for two months.

A DROWING FATALITY.

During the recent downpours when even the Banka which is merely an apology for a river became abnormally swollen, a poor woman was passing through a bridge over it then under water with an infant of about nine on her lap. Unfortunately, the woman slipped her footing and the infant fell into the river, alas! only to be recovered a lifeless corpse after a couple of days to the excruciating sorrow of the bereaved mother whose desperate endeavours to regain her bosom's treasure were cruelly baffled by the strong current flowing at the time.

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 effective remedy known. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co. Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co.; Abdool Rahman; Abdul Kareem, Calcutta.

NOTES ON THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

SKRYDLOFF'S RAID FROM VLADIVOSTOK.

Admiral Skrydloff's squadron, which left Vladivostok on the 17th June, to "assume the offensive against the maritime communications of the Japanese army," successfully eluded the Japanese squadron which had been sent after it under Admiral Kamimura, and returned to its station in the north on the 20th June. Beyond sinking one transport and damaging another, however, Admiral Skrydloff appears to have effected very little by his daring raid. He has sent two lengthy despatches to the Tsar narrating his adventures during the cruise. The first, which is dated the 21st June, is as follows:—

SKRYDLOFF'S REPORT.

"On the 12th June, a squadron, consisting of the cruiser 'Rossia,' flying the flag of Vice-Admiral Bezobrazoff, and the cruisers 'Gromoboi' and 'Rurik' left to assume the offensive against the maritime communications of the Japanese Army. The squadron returned on the 20th June.

"Its Commander reports that on the morning of the 15th June the squadron advanced from the north towards the Straits of Shimoseki. When within 20 miles of the straits our ships perceived on the horizon two steamers which they chased, but could not overhaul owing to the great distance. At the same time a third ship was seen, and the cruiser 'Gromoboi' was ordered to capture her. The ship proved to be the transport 'Idzumi Maru.' In spite of the repeated orders to stop she would not do so, until she had been struck by several shells. She then gave up, and men began to jump overboard. The 'Gromoboi' signalled to the men on board to quit the ship. This was done, the crew leaving in two boats. These and the men in the sea who were picked up by the cruiser's boats were received on board the 'Gromoboi.' The 'Idzumi Maru,' of over 3,000 tons burden was then sunk by our guns. Among the 105 persons taken on board the cruiser from the transport were 17 officers.

"After sinking the transport, two more steamers were seen from the 'Gromoboi,' which gave chase. They were found to be the 'Sadu Maru' and the 'Hitachi Maru,' each of 6,000 tons register. In the former, in addition to military stores, were found men of the Telegraph Corps, and twelve officers as well as pontoons. In the 'Hitachi Maru' were found more than 1,000 troops besides military stores. The cruiser 'Rossia' was ordered to capture the 'Sadu Maru,' and the cruiser 'Gromoboi' the 'Hitachi Maru,' which tried to escape."

SINKING THE 'HITACHI MARU.'

"After several shots had been fired warning the transport to stop without effect the guns opened in earnest against the vessel and she stopped. Those on board, however, paid no attention to the signal to abandon the vessel, and only after several more shots had been fired did they commence to lower their boats. The transport settled down very slowly, and consequently the 'Gromoboi' received orders to expedite the sinking. This was soon accomplished by the Russian cruiser.

"The 'Sadu Maru' stopped after several shots had been fired across her bows and in accordance with the Russian signals her boats, which were fairly numerous, were lowered. Some of the boats were let down precipitately, and several capsized. Others crowded with men headed for Tsushima and Iikishima, those islands being visible in the distance. The weather was calm and the sea perfectly quiet.

"The cruiser 'Rurik' received orders to pick up the officers, soldiers and crew, but it was only possible to capture four foreigners engaged on the transport and 25 officers. Other troops did not leave the transport. The 'Rurik' was then ordered to torpedo and sink her. The transport not having been sunk by the first torpedo, a second was fired at her and sank her."

BRITISH STEAMER STOPPED.

"Our squadron then, considering the matter at an end, and in view also of the growing darkness, proceeded on its cruise. A Japanese cruiser was watching them all the while.

"On the following day, in the Tsugaru Straits, the squadron stopped the British steamer 'Allanton.' Her captain declared to the officer sent to examine her, that he was proceeding from Murovan to Singapore with 6,500 tons of coal.

"The examination of the crew, the inspection of the ship's papers and certain irregularities in the log, coupled with the fact that the steamer had previously conveyed contraband of war to Japan, led us to doubt the neutrality of her cargo, and she was sent to Vladivostok under guard, in charge of Lieutenant Petroff. There her case will be examined by the Prize Court. No other ships were seen during the cruise. On board the 'Allanton' were found a Japanese subject of the educated class. He was apparently one of the crew."

RAIDING THE ISLAND OF HOKKAIDO.

The Emperor has received the following telegram from Vice-Admiral Skrydloff:—

"A division of torpedo-boats, under the command of Captain Vinegradsky, Aide-de-Camp to the Grand Duke, the Grand Admiral, which was sent by me on the 15th June on an expedition to the coasts of Japan, returned to Vladivostok to-day. The torpedo-boats approached the port of Esashi, on the Island of Hokkaido, but fog prevented them

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from entering the port. They captured several trading schooners and transport schooners, and brought one back with them to port. An examination of the schooners' papers and cargo shows that the majority of them were taking fish and rice to the ports of Sasebo and Shimomoseki."

THE SECOND DESPATCH.

Admiral Skrydloff's second despatch, dated the 18th June, is as follows:— On the 15th June our cruiser division encountered in the Straits of Korea a Japanese transport steaming from the south in the direction of the Japanese coast, which was visible on the horizon. The vessel proved to be the Japanese transport 'Idzumi Maru,' with troops on board. On the expiry of the period given those on board to lower boats and leave the ship, of which part of the crew took advantage, the transport was sunk by our guns.

Shortly afterwards, to the south-east, two more transports, which proved to be the 'Hitachi Maru' and the 'Sadu Maru,' were seen, the one with troops, and the other coolies, horses, and railway plant, besides the crew, on board. The transports refused to surrender, and at the end of the period granted those on board to take to their boats, the two vessels were sunk by torpedoes and shells.

The losses on the three transports, the tonnage of which aggregated about 15,000 tons, consisted of a portion of the troops and crew and of a large quantity of war material and railway plant.

On the 16th June our squadron fell in with the British steamer 'Allanton' (?), proceeding south with a cargo of coal from the port of Murovan, in the island of Hokkaido. The want of clearness of her papers, and the irregularity of her log, excited suspicion as to the neutrality of her cargo. The steamer was, therefore, sent to Vladivostok in charge of a detachment of soldiers, under Lieutenant Petroff. She will be considered her case.

ADMIRAL KAMIMURA'S FRUITLESS SEARCH.

Admiral Kamimura's account of his search for the Vladivostok squadron was transmitted by wireless telegraphy from a point to the south of Tsushima Island and is as follows:—

At eight o'clock on the morning of the 15th June we became aware that the enemy's cruisers had appeared off Oki Island, and were steering southward. I therefore despatched torpedo-boats to guard the channel between Tsushima and Oki Island, and ordered westbound steamers to take refuge at Takeshiki and telegraphed to Moji harbour to postpone all departure for the west.

I also ordered, by wireless telegraphy, the warships at Takeshiki and the scouting vessels to come to their appointed rendezvous, while the main fleet was doubling the southern end of Tsushima.

The weather was thick and stormy, and we were continually losing sight of the vessels following us. On off Kanzaki I ordered our torpedo-boat flotilla to come out to force the enemy from the north, at the same time changing our course to the north of Oki Island.

Meanwhile the cruiser 'Tsushima,' following the enemy, maintained close touch with them, and reported at noon that the enemy were fifteen miles to the south of Oki. Later at 1.30 p.m., she reported that the enemy were five miles south of Oki.

BAFFLED BY FOG. Then the weather thickened, and she lost sight of the enemy altogether. We hastened to the south of Oki Island, but did not sight the enemy owing to the fog. The 'Tsushima,' by wireless telegraphy, reported herself in our line, and we then gave chase to the northward. The storm increased, but we raised our speed, and went to a certain place where we expected to intercept and engage the enemy in the morning. Our torpedo boats were searching all night, but without result. At daylight on the 16th June we reached our destination, and the weather was clear, but no sign of the enemy was to be seen. We continued our search on the 17th June, and steered to the south. The cruisers, while reconnoitring in the afternoon, 100 miles north east of Tsushima Island, received a wireless message, stating that the enemy were off Hokkaido, so I returned to my base in the Straits on the 19th June, having proved unsuccessful.

Ramzan, a butler in the employ of Lieutenant Pollock, Oxford Light Infantry, now at Simla, was taken to Poona in custody on the 10th on a charge of forging one of his master's cheques. The fraud is said to have been committed in February last while Lieutenant Pollock was in Poona, and was only discovered on the return of the cheque from England. The cheque was for £10 and was signed in the name of Lieutenant Thomas. The accused will shortly be placed before the Magistrate.

The Special Committee which is now sitting on the question of the Simla extension has, it is understood, approved of General Beresford Lovett's scheme for obtaining power for the electrical lighting of Simla from the stream in the Nanto khud below Naldera, which is about 15 miles distant from Simla. It is probable that the increased water-supply will be obtained from a gorge to the north of Mashobra, though so far as can be gathered at present, this is not likely to prove less expensive than the proposal to obtain water from the Sutlej.

CHRONIC DIARRHOEA. 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.—E. C. Hartman, Anamosa, Iowa, U. S. A. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co. Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co.; Abdool Rahman; Abdul Kareem, Calcutta.

Correspondence.

PRACTICAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Sir,—I send herewith a cutting (which is published in another column) from one of the local dailies, "Hong Kong Daily Press," which will no doubt be read with interest by the educated Indians. Just see how the Americans are dealing with the Filipinos, whom they have just conquered. You must have heard that the Americans are going to give the latter a measure of self-government, which means their practical independence. So sincere is the desire of the Americans that the Filipinos should administer the affairs of their country that they are about to send a number of young Filipinos to America to receive education so as to create a body of Filipinos well qualified for the purpose. The efforts in these directions are worthy of a mighty and enlightened nation like the Americans and their eventual success is almost assured, for the state proclamations there are not confined to papers for scores of years as we find in India but are put into practical shapes, and you might also have heard by this time that a big batch of students from this small country has already commenced landing in America. When all the peoples of this world are having their administrations administered by their patriotic leaders and sometimes by more sympathetic custodians, India alone stands a unique chance of being handled by a "Lord" from London and an "Excellency" from Edinburgh.

P. D. ACHARYA.

THE MADRAS JAIL DEPARTMENT.

In review the Report on the Administration of Jails in the Madras Presidency in 1903, Government say:—

Most striking feature in the administration during the year, is the reduction in the number of prisoners. On the 1st January, 1,745 convicts, 25 civil prisoners, and two State prisoners were released in honour of His Majesty the King-Emperor's Coronation; only ten of the convicts so released were re-admitted during the year. The number of convicts admitted during the year by direct committal was 24,731, the smallest number admitted in any one year since 1889. The proportion of literate convicts to total number admitted during the year was nearly the same as in 1902, but the proportion of females to males was somewhat less. The total number of prisoners under trial was 7.7 per cent. less than the number in 1902, but the daily average fell by only 2.7 per cent. A comparison shows that the average period of detention in sub-jails in 1903 of prisoners under trial was greater than in the previous year. The total number of sub-jail prisoners during 1902 was 34,336, and the daily average number was 1,413 while in 1903 with a total number of 31,291 prisoners the daily average was 1,352. The attention of the District Magistrates will be drawn to the matter; and they will be requested to impress upon the Subordinate Magistracy the necessity for avoiding unnecessary delay in disposing of criminal cases, especially when the accused have been remanded to Jail.

The Government note with satisfaction the decline in the number of juveniles imprisoned. The evil effects of consigning juvenile offenders to Jail for petty offences are manifest from the facts revealed in the Inspector-General's Report regarding habitual criminals. The number of juveniles previously convicted increased from 45 to 48, while the number of girls previously convicted was twice that in 1902. The Government trust that Magistrates will not lose sight of the undesirability of committing juveniles to prison for petty offences when they can be adequately dealt with otherwise.

The number of escapes of convicts fell from nineteen in 1902 to eleven in 1903. Six of the escapes were from inside the Jail and were attributable to the negligence or connivance of the warders. The number of offences committed by convicts and the number of punishments awarded were greater than in 1902 in spite of a fall in the daily average number of convicts in Jail. The ratio of punishments to average population was 141.48 in 1902 and 174.50 in 1903. The Government agree with the Inspector-General that it is undesirable that penal diet should be resorted to extensively as a form of punishment. The increase in the number of corporal punishments from 57 in 1902 to 81 in 1903 is regrettable. The mark system continues to be appreciated. The gross expenditure of the Department, excluding the outlay on buildings, fell from Rs. 12,86,644 in 1902 to Rs. 11,50,714 in 1903. The principal causes of the decrease in expenditure were the debt of salaries for only eleven months during the year as against thirteen months in 1902 the fall in the prices of food-stuffs and the decrease in the daily average population. The cost per prisoner fell from Rs. 64-2-1 to Rs. 63-0-5, but owing to the reduced cash earnings the net cost per head rose from Rs. 51-7-0 to Rs. 55-7-0. In connection with the cost of dieting, the District Magistrate of Ganjam will be requested to explain why the rate in Ganjam is so much higher than in Vizagapatam. Several factors contributed to reduce the outturn of manufactures. One of them was that smaller orders were received from public departments. On the other hand the large saving effected by utilising the labour of convicts on large public works in Jails is satisfactory.

The rate of mortality in Jails was affected by an outbreak of cholera in the District jail at Berhampur, but on the whole the standard of health was good. Owing to the decrease of the prison population and the provision of additional accommodation there was less crowding in the Jails. The plants and estimates for the new penitentiary for the Presidency town are still under preparation. The Consulting Architect to Government will be requested in the Public Works Department to expedite their submission.

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; Abdul Kareem, Calcutta.

THE HEAVENS IN JUNE.

The principal constellations which are visible at nine o'clock in the evening in the middle of June are as follows:

Cassiopeia is now in the north under the pole, Cepheus lies above, and to the right is Cygnus, lying in the Milky Way, with Lyra above it, marked by the brilliant Vega. Below on the right is Altair, the principal star of Aquila, though there are no particularly bright stars to the south of this, the Milky Way is very conspicuous, and full of bright knots and patches.

Just south of east is Scorpius, with the ruddy Antares at its heart, and the long line of the tail curving down to the horizon and bending up again. The region west of this is barren, but higher up, near the meridian, is Bootes, with Arcturus blazing brilliantly. Between this and Vega are Corona and Hercules. Virgo lies south-west of Bootes, and its principal star, Spica, is the brightest in that part of the sky. Farther west is Leo, which is now sinking rapidly towards the horizon, and preparing to follow Gemini, whose last stars are disappearing in the north-west. Ursa Major lies north of Leo, and Ursa Minor and Draco are on the meridian above the pole.

THE PLANETS.

Mercury is morning star in Taurus, and reaches its latest elongation on the 8th. At this time he rises an hour before the sun, and may be seen low down in the east in the dawn; but he is south of the sun, and this is not a favorable apparition.

Venus is morning star in Taurus and Gemini, but is too near the sun to be seen with the naked eye.

Mars is also morning star, and too near the sun to be seen, so that his conjunction with Venus on the 19th is unobservable.

Jupiter is morning star in Pisces, and rises before 3 a. m. on the 15th, so that he is conspicuous in the morning sky.

Saturn is in Capricornus, and comes to the meridian about 4 a. m.

Uranus is in Sagittarius, and comes into opposition on the 19th. His position on the 2d is R. A. 17h. 54m. 7s., dec. 23 deg. 38 min. south, and on the 30th R. A. 17h. 49m. 12s., dec. 23 deg. 38 min. south. As his motion between these dates is nearly uniform, it will be easy to find his exact place on a star map. He appears as a greenish star of the sixth magnitude, just visible to the naked eye on a clear dark night.

Neptune is in conjunction with the sun on the 27th, and is invisible throughout the month.

THE MOON.

Last quarter occurs at midnight on the 5th, new moon at 4 p. m. on the 13th, first quarter at 10 a. m. on the 20th, and full moon at 3 p. m. on the 27th. The moon is nearest to the 17th, and farthest off on the 5th. She is in conjunction with Saturn on the 4th, Jupiter at 3 a. m. on the 9th, Mercury on the 11th, Venus and Mars on the 13th, Neptune on the 14th, and Uranus on the 26th. Only the conjunction with Jupiter is close.—"Scientific American."

THE BENCH AND THE BAR.

A preliminary meeting of the leaders of the different benches in Bombay will be held on Monday next to consider what could be taken to perpetuate the memory of the late Mr. J. N. Tata.

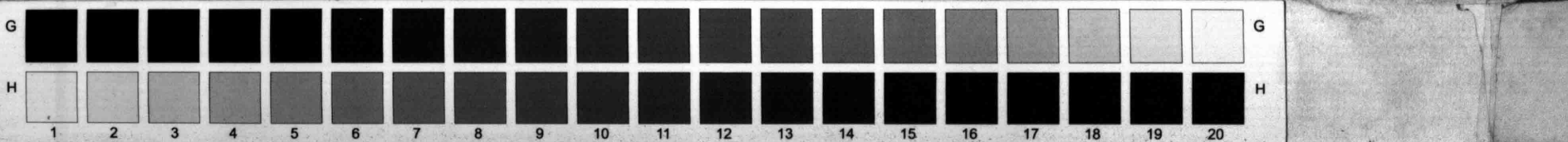
SIMLA IRRIGATION CONFERENCE.

Mr. Sidney Preston's proposal that a conference of irrigation officers should be held in Simla in September promises to prove a marked success as quite a number of irrigation officials are likely to assemble here on the 4th of September for about a week. From Madras Messrs. Macleize and Reid will probably attend; from Bombay, Messrs. Hill, Vivasaraya and Gebbie; from the United Provinces, Messrs. Marsh, McLeod and Netherole; and from the Punjab, Messrs. Benton, Kennedy, Rose, Kan-shack, Davis and others. Some officers will certainly come from Bengal, but Burma is not likely to be represented. At least thirty papers are likely to be presented to the Conference, and not the least interesting will be one accompanied by models on Colonel Smart's 40 feet ganges in Madras, and Lieutenant Hill's paper on earthen and high masonry dams. There will also be papers on the Sirhind and Swat rivers, the Jhelum, and the Ganges Canal, and the Conference promises to be a highly useful and instructive affair.

THE BENCH AND THE BAR.

On Monday afternoon, at the Bombay Police Court, Mr. Philip Godinho, pleader, appeared before Mr. Kurosoudas Chantildas, Third Presidency Magistrate, and stated that as suggested by the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Aston, he submitted his representation in regard to the remarks made against him by his worship in a judgment. After perusing the representation the Magistrate asked Mr. Godinho what he wanted. Mr. Godinho said he claimed to be honourably acquitted from the charges and expressions of censure in the judgment for the reasons stated by him in the representation. The Magistrate asked if he had power to delete any observations from his judgment. Mr. Godinho replied that the Magistrate had and referred to certain legal authorities. His worship asked Mr. Godinho if he had anything further to say. Mr. Godinho said he deprecated all discussion in such a matter but if the Court wanted to hear anything by way of further explanation he should like to be represented by counsel as he would not like to advocate his own cause. In the judgment of their Lordships he had been asked to personally present his representation and he had done so. His Worship said he would consider the authorities and make his order afterwards. Mr. Godinho said it was immaterial to him in what form his worship would couch the order. All that he wanted was an expression from the Court that the remarks were not justified.

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 Rahman; Abdul Kareem, Calcutta.



THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JULY 17, 1904.

GOD AND MAMMON.

"A Frontier Resident" has written an article for the "Ceylon Observer" in which he praises the Thibetans as being a very worthy race. They are beautiful to look at, they are jolly and very kind-hearted. "Poor fellows!" he goes on, "What can they do, armed with old matchlocks, clubs, and knives, against a fully-equipped modern army! What wonder that they try to drive back invaders with their rock catapults. The reckless bravery manifested by the Thibetans at Tuna completely answers the charge of cowardice." But yet he is very glad that Thibet has been invaded. He says:—

"I rejoice in the prospects of a British Resident at Lhasa in the near future, and should rejoice more if the annexation of Thibet was decided on, as would the Thibetans themselves in a few years. Earnest Christians have for years been praying for the opening up of Thibet—one of the few lands still closed to the Gospel—and undoubtedly God is answering their prayers. The British Government has moved only just in time."

So God heard the prayers of earnest Christians and opened the gates of Thibet to them. But, according to the writer, if the British Government "moved only just in time," it was not to extend the kingdom of Jesus Christ so much as to checkmate the Russians; for, says he in the next sentence:—

"The Commission started at the time of year it did for the simple reason that Russia could not reply with a counter-demonstration till the snow-bound passes were opened in spring. Had Russia succeeded in getting into Thibet, as she certainly meant doing, India would have been always threatened. True, there is the natural barrier of the mighty Himalayas, etc."

But if the object of the writer is to Christianize Thibet, why should he object to the Russians doing it? They too are Christians. It seems, however, the desire of the writer is not only to Christianize Thibet but to do the work of proselytizing by the British. To an uncultured heathenish mind, the attitude of the writer may seem amusing; but it is all clear to one enlightened by orthodox Christianity. To him the position is this. Suppose a great General conquers a country for his Emperor; and, in going to do it, he massacres many of its inhabitants and treats them cruelly. Does the Emperor punish him for his barbarities or reward him for the services he renders to his master? The latter certainly does not mind the butchery; on the other hand, he confers wealth, position and titles of honor upon the hero.

In the same manner, if the Rev. General Youngusband conquers Thibet and opens it out to the light of Christianity, why should Emperor Jesus Christ hold him responsible for the massacre? The Emperor, on the other hand, will reward him for the extension of his kingdom, and not only excuse all his sins but take him direct to Heaven.

Neither is the writer the first to give expression to such sentiments. Even an intelligent man like Sir Charles Elliott, as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, held similar views. Presiding over a missionary society, at Darjeeling, Sir Charles said that, even granting there was great suffering in India under British rule, the Indians would feel grateful to England for having persuaded Jesus Christ to them.

Such views may seem amazing to a heathenish mind. But it is very plain to an orthodox Christian. Jesus Christ had said: Pluck out your eyes if necessary to save your soul. Who can deny that this is a sound advice? Well, Sir Charles Elliott's contention was that if the Government taxation was oppressive, such a disadvantage did not affect the souls of the Indians. They were doomed to ever-lasting hell, because the Christian Bible was not known to them. Sir Charles and his co-religionists, had, however, pointed out to the people by preaching and distributing Bibles how they could save their souls and avert the everlasting punishment. So they had conferred an obligation upon the people of this country which they could never discharge, and should, therefore, ever remain grateful to the English, even if oppressed by them.

We fear Lord Jesus Christ was very much mistaken when he declared that a man cannot serve both God and Mammon. Or, it may be, some of his followers have misunderstood him. For "A Frontier Resident" has shewn clearly how a Christian can serve both. When the Christians take Thibet from its people, they serve Mammon. But when they distribute Bibles in that country they serve God. So both can be served, at one and the same time. Take another example which is a little unsavory, but yet very apt. Rob a bank of the money deposited there. Appropriate half for your own use; with the other half, build a splendid Church. And thus you serve both.

In another column will be found an article reproduced from the "Reformer." That article ought to be read as a reply to the contention of "A Frontier Resident." The article is headed "The Constantine of India."

The Indian Constantine is Ashoka the Great, the celebrated Emperor of India. Of course he was only a man, but yet he did not like that his generals should put his fellow beings into trouble to acquire new territories for him. It is not on record that he punished his generals for treating the invaded people with cruelty, but it is on record that he deeply regretted the evils that followed the conquest. He even did not like that his subjects should change their religion for his sake. If Ashoka, who was only a man, could not approve of massacres, though they served to extend his kingdom, why should Jesus Christ, who is divine, excuse a Christian general if he were to massacre the invaded people for the purpose of extending his kingdom?

THE VALUE OF HISSING.

MR. WILLIAM DIGBY in his speech, at the London Indian Society, referred to by us the other day, urged that "A determined agitation should be made to secure for India and the Indian people, equal privileges with those to be enjoyed by the Filipinos." If the matter were put before the English people, it would be impossible for the latter to ignore the demands of the Indians. But will they, the English rulers, listen? Are they not determined to ignore Indian agitations? That is true; and, therefore, Mr. Digby suggests to carry on a "determined" agitation.

We have oftentimes urged in these columns that the rulers of India will never move until subjected to some "outside pressure," and that they not only cannot ignore determined agitation, but have not, even in India, ignored such "pressure." If agitation now-a-days do not move the rulers, it is, because, we have ceased to agitate in a determined manner. We shall explain the position by a story.

It was in those days when birds, beasts, nay reptiles spoke like men, that a fearful hamadryad began to commit havoc near its place of residence. Whenever any living thing passed close by it, it pursued the unwary animal and killed it. A saint one day was passing by it and the serpent flew at him. The saint was pained, and he addressed the monster in a sorrowful tone. Said he, addressing the serpent: "Be good. In this world of God you can never injure a fellow-being without injuring yourself more."

The serpent, when addressed in this fashion, was moved, and agreed to lead a peaceful life. "But what shall I do? Instruct me, kind preceptor," said the serpent. And the saint advised him thus: "Do not hurt even a fly, even when provoked. On the other hand, try to befriend those who injure you." This advice the serpent strictly followed, but the result was disastrous for him.

It was soon found out by his neighbours that the serpent had turned a saint. The first effect of this knowledge was that they ceased to fear him. The second was, that they began, in their turn, to persecute him. And the saint, when after a few months, came to see how his new "chela" (pupil) was faring, found it in a most deplorable state.

The snake had become so weak that it could scarcely move. He further saw that an urchin had caught hold of its tail and was dragging it along to its intense discomfort. The saint rebuked the urchin, and he fled leaving the saint alone with the serpent. The serpent complained that he had not fared well by listening to the counsels of the saint. Previously people respected him, but now they trample him under foot.

The Saint.—But you made a mistake.

The Serpent.—How?

The Saint.—I advised you not to strike. But I never advised you to give up hissing. When evil-minded people approached you, why did you not receive them with a prolonged hiss?

So, therein lies the secret. The Indians have no opportunity nor inclination of biting, but they can yet "hiss." They have tried the method before and have always found it successful. Only the hiss must be a determined and prolonged one. We shall shew shortly how Englishmen carry on their agitation.

OFFICIAL SYMPATHY FOR INDIA.

OUR readers may remember that Mr. Robertson, a kind friend, had said in the April number of the "Reformer" (which is Mrs. Bradlaugh Bonner's paper) that there must be much misgovernment in India etc. His idea was that since there was misgovernment in England, where the people govern themselves, the situation must be far worse in India governed by aliens under despotic principles.

Well, when Mr. Robertson's article appeared, Mr. Pennington came forward to refute his views. Our readers may remember this Mr. Pennington; for, he wrote a pamphlet on India which was criticized in these columns. He is very sympathetic, only he is an ex-Anglo-Indian official. Which means that his sympathies for India are not as free as the dew of Heaven.

Mr. Roe is another Anglo-Indian official, and his article on "Indian Taxation" appeared in the "Asiatic Quarterly Review." He too agrees in the general opinion that "there are mistakes in our system of taxation." But while we contend that the mistake lies in the severity of the system, Mr. Roe says that it is to be found in its leniency. This is what he says.

"Our greatest mistake of all was that of the Permanent Settlement of Bengal."

There are some people in India who have two meals a day and who live upon rice; they are Bengalees. And this, because of the Permanent Settlement. The only people in India who have yet vitality enough to enter a protest against a wrong, feeble though it be, are the Bengalees, and, that because of the Permanent Settlement. All others beyond Bengal have lost their manliness and exist as human sheep. This is mainly due to a rigorous system of land settlement. And it is this Permanent Settlement that Mr. Roe considers "the greatest mistake of the British Government." So, you see, what is usually meant by official sympathy is quite different from what is meant by popular sympathy.

One idea should however console Mr. Roe. But for this Permanent Settlement of Bengal, the British would have lost their Empire in India. Do you want to know how? Famines now desolate India, and it is Bengal that protects it. If Bengal had been as impoverished as other portions of India by severe taxation, a widespread famine would have compelled the British rulers to evacuate the country; indeed, the stench of dead bodies would have forced them to do it.

When Mr. Pennington's article was sent to the "Reformer" the Editor of that paper sent it to Mr. Robertson for criticism. So in the "Reformer" to hand appears both the article of Mr. Pennington and Mr. Robertson's reply to it. Elsewhere will be found Mr. Robertson's reply.

THE Criminal Bench of the Madras High Court just now presents the unique spectacle of being presided over by two Indians, Mr. Justice Subramania Iyer and Mr. Justice Sankaran Nair. The two Judges who are presiding over the Criminal Bench of the Calcutta High Court are, however, both of them Europeans. There was a time when

an Indian Judge was invariably associated with a European colleague on the Criminal Bench here; but, of late, the practice has been practically discontinued. Will His Lordship the Chief Justice be pleased to reconstitute the Bench on the old lines? It should be, however, distinctly understood that, if we regret the absence of an Indian Judge on the Criminal Bench of the Calcutta High Court, we do not by that insinuate that, the European Judges, presiding over it, are giving dissatisfaction. If we ask for a mixed Criminal Bench, it is on principle. We must say, however, that, the European Judges are now and then led to act in a hasty manner. Take, for instance, the case of the Balasore Zemindar, Shyamananda Das Paharaj, who was put to so much trouble by District Magistrate Mr. Egerton. Their Lordships knew that the Magistrate was pursuing him in a determined manner, instituting case after case against him; they themselves had declared that Mr. Egerton had acted not only illegally but injudicially towards the Oorya Zemindar; yet they did not give him that protection which he sorely needed.

THE latest act of the Balasore Magistrate was to seize some of the old guns of the Zemindar, and prosecute him under the Arms Act. These guns were sent to the Hon'ble Judges for their inspection, and they found them all old and useless "with possibly one exception of which we (the Judges) are doubtful." So, it is clear, it was not to serve any public purpose that the Magistrate prosecuted the Zemindar with such zeal. Yet the Hon'ble Judges did not take note of the fact that the Zemindar was unnecessarily harassed, though he kept only unserviceable guns. Does not this fact alone go to confirm the contention of the aggrieved Zemindar that the Magistrate had "zid" in the matter, though he denied he had any in his mind? The Hon'ble Judges, in dismissing the motion, made the case over to the Magistrate again for disposal. Of course, they indirectly recommended that the Magistrate should take no further notice of the case; probably he will listen to the advice offered to him. But, in adopting this attitude, the Judges apparently sought to soothe the feelings of Mr. Magistrate Egerton, though it was the persecuted Zemindar, and not his persecutor, who deserved sympathetic consideration at their hands. And fancy the ferocious way he was prosecuted! The family to which the Zemindar belongs is very ancient and most respectable in the district. Yet he was treated as if he were a felon, simply because he had the misfortune of incurring the displeasure of the lord of the district. This is not the first time that Mr. Egerton has behaved in this high-handed manner. In a future issue we hope to show how he sought to turn Murshidabad topsy turvy when he was in charge of that district by his illegal doings.

JESSORE stand aghast because of the frequency of the execution of capital sentences. This is what our Jessore correspondent writes to us:—

"Two death-sentences have been executed here within one month; and two other convicts, now in the jail, are awaiting the same doom. Of course these men were legally convicted; yet, there are cases on record to show how men, hanged on the clearest evidence, were afterwards found to be absolutely innocent. Our misfortune is that, the voice of the jury here goes for nothing. One can see it at once from the following case. One Hanif Sheikh was charged with murder. He was tried by the Additional Sessions Judge. The jury returned a unanimous verdict of not guilty. The Sessions Judge was apparently shocked and referred the case to the High Court. We are astonished to hear that the High Court has upheld the conviction of the man, and sentenced him to transportation for life."

Our correspondent then makes the following remarks:—

"If the unanimous verdict of five jurors has not the slightest influence upon the Judges, we do not know what is the use of the legal provision of the benefit of the doubt."

Our correspondent alludes to cases of innocent men being hanged for supposed murders. The "St. James' Gazette" to hand reports such a case which occurred in Denmark. It reads like a romance. For the benefit of those of our Judges who pass capital sentences with a light heart we shall publish the story here. Lawyers are familiar with it, though it may be new to laymen.

SOREN Quist was the pastor to Vielby, a little village in the Jutland Peninsula. A splendid old specimen of his race he was pious, philanthropic, self-sacrificing, but marred by one flaw—an inherited violence of temper. But this was not the cause which made him refuse the request of Morten Burns for his daughter's hand. Burns was a prosperous cattle farmer, but a low brute. Sometime after the unsuccessful suit had been forgotten, Soren Quist took into his service a degenerate brother of the farmer, Niels Burns by name. He was an idle good-for-nothing, whom the saltwater parson would occasionally belabour for his indolence. One day Niels Burns angered his master that the latter beat him with a spade, and knocked him down, saying that he had done the fellow so much, that the old man stooped down to look at him, but Burns sprang up laughing, and ran like a rabbit into the adjacent woods, and was seen no more. Strangely enough, Morten Burns demanded of his father and said he would make the parson produce him, even if the body had to be dug out of the ground.

SEARCH was made for Niels Burns without avail; then they began to hunt for the body of the man supposed now to be murdered. The accusation came from Morten Burns, the rejected suitor. Preliminary hearing and an application to the Magistrate showed that the last seen of Niels was in an angry altercation with Quist. Persons standing beyond the hedge had seen a spade lifted into the air, had heard heavy blows, and the parson's exclamation as Niels Burns fell. Witnesses swore that afterwards they saw the accused man digging in his garden. Men with spades now went Quist's garden, and Morten Burns led the search. They had not dug deep before they came upon the hat of the missing

man. Soon an arm appeared, then an entire corpse was disinterred. The face could not be identified owing to decomposition; but the clothes were the clothes of Niels Burns; the shirt bore his name. In the left ear of the corpse was the leaden ring which for years Niels Burns had been wont to wear. "Surely," said Quist, "this must be the work of Satan and his ministry. Take me to prison; in solitude and in chains I will await what God in His wisdom shall decree."

It was in vain that the accused man protested that he had seen his servant rise and run away after he had been struck. Here was the body; and ready, too, was the saying of witnesses who swore to hearing a door creak at night, and to seeing the pastor pass into the garden, then return to his room some time after. Then Quist confessed that his blow might have been fatal, that he might have afterwards fetched the body of Niels Burns from the woods and buried it. He had, he admitted, walked in his sleep. He had composed and written a funeral sermon while asleep, and that, he said, might now well serve for himself. Sentence of death was passed, and though everybody, save those who had been against him at the trial, loved him as a father, all felt that he was guilty.

TWENTY-ONE years elapsed. Then an old beggar presented himself asking alms in the village of Aalsee, adjoining Vielby. Those who saw him were amazed. Here was the living presentment of Morten Burns, who had but lately died. The clergyman who had buried the latter took the beggar to his parsonage and strictly questioned him. Unaware what lay behind the admission, the mendicant said, "I am Morten Burns." Then the whole story came out. Morten Burns had cherished a deadly hatred of Soren Quist for his refusal to let him marry his daughter. When he heard of the assault upon Niels, he hid the latter. Together they went to a spot where a suicide had been buried, dug out the body, and took it to Morten's house. Niels removed his own clothing and they put it upon the body of the corpse. Morten then took a spade and dashed in the features of the latter. They buried the body in the parson's garden and Morten, securing some of Quist's clothes walked about in the garden as the witnesses had described. Then he gave Niels a purse of gold and bade him quit Danish soil for ever. It was only now that hearing by chance of his brother's death, and hoping to profit by it, the supposedly murdered man had come back to learn what had happened, and to clear up one of the most tragic miscarriages of justice that ever resulted from circumstantial evidence.

CAPITAL sentence has since been abolished from Denmark. We wonder every civilized Government has not abolished such a barbarity as yet. If there is one country where Judges should be absolved from the responsibility of passing death-sentence it is India. For a chain of coincidences has again and again hanged a man here and yet people have never been persuaded to believe in his guilt. There is no doubt the execution in many a case was mere murder and the Government would do well to expunge from its Statute Book a provision which is utterly repugnant to the genius and instinct of the Indian nation.

WHEN the Philippine Islands came into the possession of the Americans, the latter knew not what to do with these acquisitions. The crime of slave trade had one time threatened to destroy their country. They knew what it was to outrage moral laws. After having proclaimed in their manifesto declaring their independence that "all men were equal," it would be ridiculous on their part to hold subject territories. There was a hot discussion whether the country of the Filipinos should be retained as subject to the United States, or its independence declared. Mr. Bryan's party was for leaving the Filipinos alone. The contention of his party was that the Americans knew not how to administer the affairs of a conquered country, and therefore they should give independence to the natives of these Asiatic Islands. Besides, the attempt of the Americans to govern the Filipinos would necessitate the creation of a civil service, that is to say, a caste of rulers, who would not only prove costly but a dangerous element in America itself trained in the atmosphere of bureaucracy. The party, however, who wanted to retain the Islands, had a reply to these contentions. They urged that the English had paved the path for them. They have shown how to govern subject races. Have they not given happiness to the Indians? Have they not created "the ablest Civil Service in the world"? So what the Americans will have to do is only to copy British rule in India.

THE land-grabbers succeeded; the Philippines was retained as a subject country, and the Indian methods were sought to be introduced to rule the Islands. But the Americans soon found their mistake. They are now anxious to get rid of the Islands in the best way possible. They cannot of course leave the people to their fate; so, they are training the Filipinos to a life of independence and the way they are proceeding shows that they are sincere. Just see how disappointed they were in the methods which England had introduced in ruling India. Here is a cutting from the "Hong Kong Daily Press," June 15th, sent to us by a correspondent whose letter is published elsewhere:—

Manila, P.I., 6th June. "Last week was marked by an event of great significance. This was the news, received unofficially, of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Thomas E. Kepner, a Manila lawyer. The ruling, in brief terms, establishes the illegality of any appeal by the Government from acquittal for the defence in criminal cases, so that all such cases already pending may be dismissed on proper motion." In one of our recent leading articles on "India and the Philippine Islands," we have already pointed out that the Americans have framed a code of laws for the Filipinos in which it is provided that, an accused, once acquitted, should never be tried again. Will the generous rulers of India relieve

the Indians of the barbarous provision of appeals against acquittals? It does not exist anywhere in the world. It did not exist in India. It was suddenly introduced by Sir James Stephen, who died mad. The Americans having faith in British statesmanship adopted it in the beginning. They have now flung it away.

THE municipal election matter of Monghyr, which has culminated in a law suit in the 2nd Munsiff's Court of that town, and particulars of which appeared in a recent issue of the "Patrika," has made further development. Babu Gopal Chandra Som, the defeated candidate, has memorialized the Government of Bengal to suspend the publication of the elected candidate's name in the "Calcutta Gazette," pending the disposal of the regular suit instituted in the Munsiff's Court for a declaration that the election is void on the ground that it was secured by illegal practices. The reason why Babu Gopal Chandra Som has moved the Government is the Munsiff's refusal to issue injunction restraining the publication of the election of Moulvi Mahamed Ismail's name in the "Gazette." The memorial to the Government contains some very serious allegations, which are not likely to be passed over without an inquiry.

WE congratulate Babu Nalin Beharee Sirkar on his election to the Municipal seat in the Local Council. His public career was very effectively described by Maharaj-Kumar P. K. Tagore, who proposed him and whose speech is published elsewhere. He has been practically elected unanimously by the whole Corporation. Well may Babu Nalin Beharee be proud of this fact; for, the Corporation is now composed of diverse elements. Babu Nalin Beharee should remember one thing. Every non-official member is a member for whole Bengal. So, though recommended by the Corporation of Calcutta, his duty is to represent every district of Bengal, and not his constituency alone. He should thus study the questions affecting the Muffasil; for, it is the districts in the interior, and not Calcutta, that constitute Bengal.

MASTER Satya Sunder Deb is a young Bengalee, who has gone to Japan for the purpose of learning porcelain and metal enamelling. From his boyhood Satya Sunder manifested a remarkable taste for both Science and Art. He is now studying in the Higher Technological School at Tokio, the Maharaja of Cossimbazar and Babu Jogendra Chunder Ghose contributing towards his expenses there. Satya Sunder has been in Japan for about a year and within this short period he has learnt enough of the art to run a business here in India. But he is determined to stay in Japan till he has thoroughly mastered the subject. We are glad that Babu Jogendra Chunder Ghose is so favourably impressed with the intellectual capacity of the young man that he intends sending Satya Sunder to America after he has finished his education in Japan to complete it there.

It is anticipated that General Macdonald will reach Lhasa during the first week of August.

The postal arrangements of the Tibet expedition are working smoothly under Mr. Tulloch, Chief Superintendent. The strength of the field service post office will shortly be increased.

There will be no meeting of the Viceroy's Legislative Council during the course of the current month. The first meeting will be held early in August, and a date will be fixed within a couple of days.

News has been received that the appeal against the decision of the Judicial Commissioner in the Salampur Raj case has been rejected by the Privy Council.

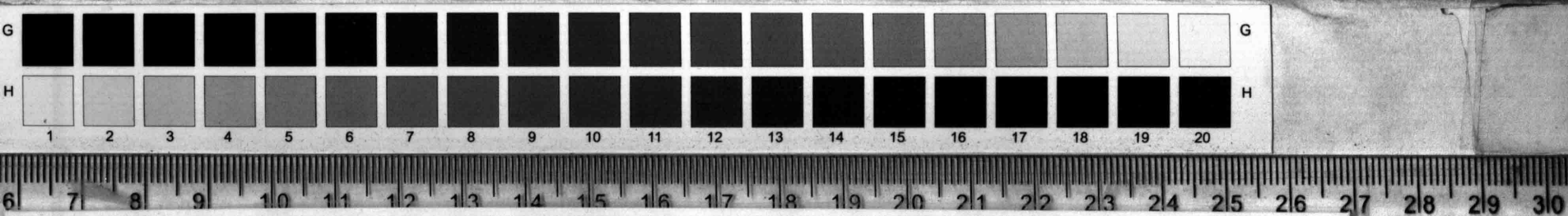
Crop Telegrams report satisfactory prospects from all parts, except the Punjab and the North-West Frontier. At Banau rain is urgently wanted. Everywhere the water supply in the canals, except in the Bara, is sufficient in Peshwar but has decreased in Dera Ismail Kha.

At the Bombay Police Court, before Mr. Kurlondas Ghahabidas, Tejsi Velji, a Hindu gram merchant, was charged with travelling between Elphinstone Road and Marine Lines Station on the 17th ultimo without a ticket. On arrival at Marine Lines by a local train, accused tried to evade the ticket collector, and when stopped showed a season ticket available between Elphinstone Road and Grant Road. The Magistrate fined accused Rs. 5.

Mr. Amir Beg, a Jagirdar of Ahmedabad, has appealed to his co-religionists, through the columns of the "Bombay Gazette," to join the Congress whole-heartedly and call upon Sahabzada Nasir-ud-din Khan, Hon. Mr. Ramat-ullah and Jazi Kabur-ud-din to convene a meeting of the Bombay Mahomedans to elect delegates for the forthcoming Congress and once for all declare the allegiance of Bombay Mahomedans towards the Congress. Some such demonstration is Mr. Amir Beg holds, necessary with a view to impress the Government that Mahomedans do not choose to remain isolated.

On the 11th before the District Magistrate of Bangalore, Mr. P. L. Moore, the case in which Mr. Jagan, a jockey, is charged with assault to the bar-keeper of the Bowling Institute on the night of last Saturday week was called on, when Mr. Delmonte, the complainant, represented that he wished to withdraw the charge, as Mr. Eggan had apologized for his conduct. The Magistrate permitted the withdrawal of the case. The case in which Head Constable Mung Lal, of the Shoolay Police, was severely assaulted three weeks ago by young Goodsir and a party of boys of Richmond Town has been adjourned to the 18th instant.

The "Gazette of India" notifies that, in exercise of the powers conferred by the Indian (Foreign Jurisdiction) Order in Council of 1902, the Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct that any European British subject, appointed by either name or by virtue of his office to be a Justice of the Peace in or for any country or place beyond the limits of British India, shall have in the proceedings against European British subjects or persons accused of having committed offences jointly with such subjects, all the powers conferred by the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1898 (Act V. of 1898) on Magistrates of the First Class, who are Justices of the Peace and European British subjects.



THE BOGUS TELEGRAM CASE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Darjeeling, July 15.

The Bogus Telegram case against Messrs. Elliott and Thomas was resumed this morning before the Deputy Commissioner. Mr. Banerjee examined Messrs. St. Leger, Fernandez, Rose, Daniel, Pickett, Ellis, Ahmed Khan, Bhattacharjee, Fernandez and Rose proved Thomas's letters. Daniel stated he was brother-in-law of Decruz, saw Decruz leave one day with bedding and returned about six days after and go to church for fulfilling his vows made before them and again disappeared for about a week and at his mother's request he searched for Decruz and met Elliott who said Decruz must be in a safe place. To inform Mrs. Decruz and afterwards receiving letter from Decruz he went to Pickett's and saw Decruz and conversed with Pickett. He did not suggest leaving for Mr. Andrews, 21 Elliott's lane and said the first Superintendent. Mr. Ellis did not examine him then. He said that Mr. Ellis asked questions and wrote down answers but denied that he told Ellis that Elliott had said that Decruz was in a safe place in his keeping and would be away for some time.

Pickett said Thomas brought Decruz on 24th February and asked accommodation for him at a rupee per diem. He compassionated Decruz, who came with tears in his eyes and wanted accommodation for three or four days. Decruz remained six days and was then asked to go away. That Daniel had come one Sunday and saw Decruz. That Decruz had paid 10 of which 4 was returned. Thomas was Mrs. Pickett's nephew. Decruz brought no articles with him, except the clothes worn.

Mr. Bhattacharjee, booking clerk, Sealda, proved his initials on the back of the currency note Ex. 3 and that he made the passengers sign his name and proved the signature. He kept the number.

Superintendent Mr. Ellis stated he enquired into the case and deputed Inspector Ahmed who brought the currency note and arrested Decruz who made statement. He took Decruz to the Magistrate and had his confession recorded. He then arrested Decruz on 29th March and in pursuance of his statement, the currency note was recovered which was traced to the German Bank as paid to Beye. He proved the statements made by Daniel and gave him the lie. He proved the recovery of Thomas's letters from Thacker. He proved Thomas's writing before him. He also stated that he learnt on the 13th instant from a Walsh prisoner, Presidency Jail, that Thomas had put up with him on 28th January returning from Bombay where he had gone and sent a bogus telegram at the instance of Elliott on 26th January to the "Indian Daily News" and shewed a telegram receipt and a copy of the message sent and had received from Elliott 100 and telegram at the Bombay English Hotel under the name of Anthony, and Walsh reported the whole matter in the Fenwick Bazar Police station and the information was recorded in the case book and that the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, is arranging for obtaining the bogus telegram sent from Bombay.

Inspector Ahmed Khan stated he searched for Decruz from 18th February and found him on the 24th March. He obtained the number of the currency note from Sealda office and procured the note from the Currency Office and the note bore Decruz's signature.

Mr. Bannerjee then applied for time to produce further evidence in connection with the Bombay bogus telegram sent by Thomas at Elliott's instance. Thomas having left Calcutta like Decruz on 23rd January, and having sent the telegram on 26th January, the same day Decruz sent his telegram from Darjeeling to prove the conspiracy to bring down the money market. After some discussion during which Mr. Edwards, Solicitor for the accused, admitted the relevancy of the evidence sought to be given, the further hearing of the case was postponed to 29th instant.

CRIMINAL SUIT AGAINST A JUDGE.

Mymensing, July 12.

I have already telegraphed to you the fact of a criminal suit being instituted in the court of the Joint Magistrate of Mymensing against our District Judge, Munsiff and others under section 133 of the I. P. Code for obstructing a public thoroughfare by placing a barrier across the road. The petition of complaint filed by the complainant runs thus:—

"A public thoroughfare named Dwarka Nath Ray Choudhury's road leading from the south to the Munsiff's court and then bifurcating into two other roads alongside the court house, on the east and west respectively has been in existence for a long time, and being a short cut to the Subarnakhal road and the Sadar Ghat as well as to the Collectorate, the Criminal Court and the Post Office, has been extensively used by the public both for foot passengers and for vehicles for a long period.

"On the 25th June, under the orders of Mr. W. H. Lee and Dr. V. Ray the said road has been stopped by the persons mentioned in the column II by illegally placing a barrier across the road and by deputed peons to threaten such people as may attempt to use the road. The public and Your Honour's humble petitioner consequently have been debarred from using this road as well as the river at the Sadar Ghat, thereby causing a great deal of inconvenience.

Under the circumstances mentioned above there is a great likelihood of an imminent breach of the peace, particularly as the order, in addition to causing untold inconvenience, is illegal.

"Under the circumstances Your Honour's humble petitioner most respectfully prays that Your Honour would be pleased to personally inspect the place of occurrence which is about 200 yards from Your Honour's Court and direct the immediate removal of the said obstruction under Sec. 144 Cr. P. C. and make such other order as may appear proper to Your Honour after enquiry under Sec. 133 Cr. P. C."

The Joint Magistrate has issued notice to both parties to produce their evidence on the 14th July. He came to inspect the road on Thursday last.

POTATO CULTIVATION—III.

(Special for the Patrika.)

Time for preparing and manuring land for Potatoes and Planting.

It is very difficult to fix the exact time for preparing lands to plant potato seeds. As rain does not set in simultaneously everywhere. In some localities, rain sets in earlier while in others it comes late. In the plains, the cultivation generally begins from September or October that is, after the close of the rains. The planting may be done in November. In that case the crop will be rather late. In the hill stations the planting should begin from February till April, thus one will see the harvesting time in the plains is the planting time in the hills.

Dig the land up to the depth of a foot or a foot and a half, by means of hoes (Phuroa or Kudali) as soon as the Bhadoi crop is harvested. Then spread or sprinkle the manures at quantities noted below all over the field. Then plough and ladder it occasionally, as to help the manure mixing up thoroughly with the soil and becoming soluble. Without good tillage, the land cannot yield a good crop. By deep ploughing, lands become loose and this looseness facilitates easy absorption in the soil of the ingredients of the atmosphere which plants receive as food. Besides it allows light and heat to penetrate the soil. Without light and heat, no plant will live or grow. The land should be therefore well ploughed before sowing or planting. Deep tillage is most beneficial to potato crops especially.

Table with 3 columns: Recipe No., Quantity, and per bigha of land. Includes recipes for 150 maunds, 110 maunds, and 135 maunds.

The last process is very economical no doubt, but its beneficial result it takes sometime to understand. If you add to above recipes about 25 maunds of vegetable manure your soil will become more rich and more fruitful. These processes noted above for increasing the fertility of the soil, are rather too costly no doubt. But on the whole, they will repay more than for your troubles and the costs of cultivation. I note below another process of manuring lands at a less or no cost.

In March or April (if you are owner of a good number of cattle) remove your cowshed on the field to be used for potato crops. Let your cattle remain there till the end of August. By this arrangement you get a large supply of cowdung for your land. Sprinkle this all over your field daily. Tether your cattle daily during day time in different parts of your field. By this means you get the total quantity of urine and dung deposited in your field, which serves as manure. In September remove your cowshed to somewhere else. During the intervening time, have your field hoed, ploughed and laddered occasionally.

Let the manure, when decomposed, mix with the soil. This will enrich your land perfectly. Before sprinkling the manure over your field, try to protect it by raising bunds on all sides of it; from being washed away.

Here is another method. Dig a pit in your field in one corner, put the cowdung in it from day to day and let it decompose there. This sort of decomposition creates ammonia and carbonic acid gas, which are the chief elements to form and nourish plant life. As soon as the matter has decomposed totally, remove it from the pit and sprinkle the same all over your field, in the manner stated above. This method of preparing manure requires at least one year to have the cowdung thoroughly decomposed. The former method is therefore preferable. Under no circumstances raw animal manure should be used, as it is the abode of insects and worms which seriously injure plants, roots and tubers.

The third method is this. Spread "pana" about a foot thick all over your field. Then sprinkle the manures mentioned in any of the above four recipes. Then again have your land hoed, ploughed and laddered occasionally till it becomes fit for planting. Manure may also be used at the time of planting in certain limited space, where the tuber is to be planted. This is rather more economical than all other methods no doubt but would not bring in a satisfactory return.

I have tried all the above methods in my experimental farm with satisfactory results. Out of all the four recipes No. 3 proved to be very successful.

We understand that Mr. Grant Burls, Director-General of Stores, India Office, has submitted his report on the supply of stores to India, and has made several important suggestions for an improved system of supply in future. The report must have reached the Government of India by this time, and considering the importance of the question to the commercial community, the Government should publish the report before passing final orders on the subject.

The "Kathiawar Times" says that some thirty-five Christian converts from Jainism, of Valsan, in Gujerat, have expressed their willingness to re-embrace their old religion and are to be re-admitted. One of these converts is represented to have been once a Muni Maharaj of the Jain community. A noteworthy point with respect to this man is that some time before he had published a book in denunciation of the Jain religion which created quite a sensation in the community.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST AN EDITOR.

On Friday, before Mr. Donald Weston, the Chief Presidency Magistrate, the case in which Babu Monoranjan Bannerjee, stood charged with having used criminal force towards Miss Mary O'Sullivan, by throwing his arms round her body, with intent to outrage her modesty, was resumed.

Babu N. L. Day, instructed by the Senior Court Inspector, appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Buckland instructed by Babus Tarak Nath Sahu and Kessub Chander Gupta, for the defence.

The prosecution examined the following witnesses:—

Mr. Melitus said amongst other things: "I remember the 20th June last. At about 6-30 p.m., I was returning from work. My attention was drawn to a mob opposite Harry and Co's. The complainant held this Babu (identified by the arms. She said that the Babu was pushing her and insulting her."

Q.—Did the young lady was agitated and worried?

Ans.—I cannot say. Witness continued:—"I went to the Waterloo thana, with the young lady and Mr. Andrews. This child also went there. The Babu said 'Don't hold me, I am not a prisoner, Mr. Andrews caught hold of him and took him to the Waterloo thana. Thence we were sent to the Bara Bazar thana. There the lady made a complaint."

Inspector Carrol was next examined. He said amongst other things: "This young lady made a statement to me. A stick was shown to me. A reference was made about the stick. I made inquiries about the stick. I made enquiries about it to Mohindra. Mohindra Nath Das made a statement to me."

(Here Mr. Day said addressing the Court: "Sir I have been informed that Mohindra had been gained over.")

A Sergeant of Police was then examined. Then Mr. Day said "That is our case Sir, we don't call any more witnesses."

The Court then examined Mohindra Nath Das and examined him. He said: "I have a shop in Tirrita Bazar. I saw this 'meushahab' before. I saw her a little less than a month, at about 5-30 or 6 p.m. She came to my shop to get a 'hookah' repaired."

Q.—She gave you the 'gurgara' and went away. Did she again return to your shop?

Witness.—Yes. She asked me, if I could give her a thin stick. I gave her one which was close to me. She took the stick and struck it three times on the head of a child and began to walk. The child did not cry.

Q.—Did you see any one with the young lady, besides this Babu? (meaning the child).

Witness.—No.

Q.—Did you see him (accused) before? Witness.—No. I did not see him before. Babu N. L. Day cross-examined Mohindra Nath and he said: "I did not see Mongulgir Janardar that evening. At about 7-30 p.m., when I was closing my shop the complainant with 3 or 4 ladies in a gharry, showed this stick to me from the gharry and said 'did you not give me this stick?' On the following day the Janardar of the Bara Bazar thana questioned me, 'did you see this Babu (accused) with the 'meushahab?' I said, 'No.' He also questioned me whether I had given her the stick. I said, 'yes.'"

(Babu N. L. Day then said this was his case. The Court then inquired of Inspector Carrol where was the transfer "chalan." He told that it was in the thana. It contained only the name of the complainant and the defendant and the charge. The Court ordered him to produce it on the next occasion. The defendant made a statement:—"I live in Metiaburaz. I am the Editor of the 'Nova Prativa.'"

Q.—Don't say anything about that paper.

The defendant went on: "After closing my shop at Radha Bazar at 6-30 p.m. I came to Lal Bazar in company of Monmotho Nath Singha and Promotho Nath Mukherjee. They waited for Tramcar in Chitpore and went towards Dhurmtollah. After passing a few paces, I met one Gonesh an employe of the Army Navy Store. As I was going in haste, just opposite the type-writing office, my right arm brushed against the 'mem'. Near the City Press I talked with three 'Madras'. We made room for her to pass by as the footpath was narrow. The lady went away. When I was near Sooterkins Lane, I saw the lady at the head of the lane. As I passed her, she caught hold of me. I felt angry and told her to let go the hold. She said 'she would show me.' Then Melitus came and questioned what was the matter. She said, 'a native pushed me and I shall not let him do so again'. In the meantime Andrews came with a stick and said to me 'you are trying to seduce Miss Bolla.' He then raised up the stick to strike me. At last I was taken to the thana. In the thana—the young lady said 'she has been pushed by me.' Inspector questioned me whether there was a crowd at the time. She said, 'yes.' Inspector again questioned her 'did he do it intentionally?' She answered 'yes.'"

Andrews then said to the Inspector that there must be some sort of check for these things and then they consulted with the Inspector.

The court after this framed a charge under section 354 I.P.C. (using criminal force with intent to outrage female modesty).

The defendant pleaded guilty.

Mr. Buckland then examined the young complainant. She brought other things:—

"I went about 5 minutes from the pewterman's shop. It was a night at the time. It was a great crowd. Lots of people were passing there. When I first happened I thought it was an accident. I then turned round and said what was the matter Babu. I saw him near the pewterman's shop. After I had left the pewterman's shop, just opposite the 'Golkooti', the accused came and embraced me. He followed me on purpose. He rushed up to me from the back and secured me. It is a very crowded street. What he did was the worst he did. I thought he had gone away altogether and so I did not bring the police. I did not see any constable. At that time I was so excited that I did not even think of getting into a Tramcar. I was quite beside myself."

Q.—How? Your recollection is so clear?

Ans.—Oh! but I remember everything. The man followed me all the time.

At this stage the case was adjourned till to-morrow (this day).

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

(From our own Correspondent.) London, June 24.

A PROTEST MEETING. The article from 'Die Woche,' from which I have made a lengthy extract, sets forth the opinion of a Swedish explorer with regard to Lord Curzon's glory hunt. Meanwhile, in England the fight against unjustifiable aggression continues actively though it is impossible not to confess that the larger part of the British public remains apathetic. Their souls are not in the war, but neither are their souls against the war; and in such an atmosphere of public opinion it is easy for the Government to pursue its favourite tactics of allowing things to glide unresistingly into the abyss. There is, however, one small band of protestors who are strenuous in their opposition to the Tibetan muddles and measures, and the leader of them is, of course, Sir Henry Cotton. Sir Henry is putting all his energy into the struggle, and in many parts of the country he addresses meetings on the subject, in addition to the work of his constituency in Nottingham. Last Saturday, for instance, he spoke at Camberwell; on Wednesday he attended South Place Institute, in the City; to-morrow he will take part in the great open-air demonstration in Hyde Park against the Licensing Bill. On Sunday he will read a paper at the Church Conference on the 'Morality of Imperialism.' This is merely an average week. The meeting last Wednesday at South Place was an interesting gathering. There was a good audience, and Mr. J. J. Robertson was in the chair. Mr. Robertson deplored the fact that Englishmen had become hardened to frontier warfare, but there had never been a worse instance of it than the Tibet Mission. Already there had occurred what he did not scruple to call abominable massacres, and to so-called 'Peaceful mission' had developed into an armed force of 7,000 to 8,000 men. He then went briefly into the alleged causes of the war, and maintained that England was creating against herself such a hatred amongst the people of Tibet as would eventually check all trade. A dangerous feeling would also be fostered in China, which was, he declared, particularly unwise now that Asia is witnessing the prowess and rising power of Japan. Besides which, the whole cost would be laid upon the backs of the over-burdened people of India. He did not believe that the present Government would dare to place any pecuniary liability upon the people of England so soon after the great war in South Africa. But, under the miserable system of administration in India, expenditure was constantly heaped up and one frontier war after another was indulged in after the manner described by Cobden years ago. Mr. Robertson introduced Sir Henry to the meeting as the one to whom it was mainly due that any public attention had been drawn to Tibet. They would welcome a man, he said, who knew Indian questions from the inside, who had abundance of information, and a moral courage which was much too rare. Sir Henry moved a resolution strongly condemning the enormous cost and the lamentable bloodshed of the campaign. He rejoiced that the subject was now attracting wider attention in England, especially in the Metropolis. He then went on to pay a unique compliment to the working men of England. He could not say that among the middle classes much interest had been aroused in the matter. At the clubs perfect apathy prevailed. In the Churches little was said to arouse the congregations to the moral degradation to which England was subjected by such an expedition as that to Tibet. But there was one class which was most receptive, most ready to take up the matter. He had spoken in the Midlands and in London, but never with greater satisfaction than to an audience of working men. He believed that through the working classes the heinousness of the present policy would be forced upon the rulers of the Kingdom. With regard to the future, when Colonel Younghusband will have reached Lhasa, Sir Henry stated that he believed he would find the Grand Lama still there. The city was so sacred that a Lama would not leave it to take up a wandering life among the mountains constantly harassing the British troops. We can console him, remarked Sir Henry, to agree to any terms we please; but what guarantee have we that he will carry them out? There could be no guarantee whatever except by that course which Lord Curzon had persistently recommended and to which the British Government has hitherto withheld consent. One result would be certain. There would have to be a permanent Resident at Lhasa, and permanent garrisons at all the towns between the capital and the frontier to safeguard his return. It was not always safe to prophesy, said Sir Henry, but in this case there could be no doubt. The result of Lord Curzon's adventure would be the annexation of Tibet, —if not of the whole, then of a large portion —with a stationary garrison of at least twenty thousand troops. This resolution, and another afterwards proposed, were agreed to unanimously. In addition to Sir Henry five other speakers addressed the meeting, and their speeches were apposite and enlightening. Mrs. Bradlaugh Bonner declared that no one could improve trade with a country by impoverishing it and killing off its people. Road-building was good only if there were a desire for communication, but the Tibetans had no such desire. In any case, however, the spade was better than the sword. Following Charles Bradlaugh's daughter, Mr. J. M. McCabe delivered a passionate appeal for morality and humanity in the conduct of international affairs. To-day, he declared, the Christian nations of Europe were offering the peoples of Asia the Sermon on the Mount on the point of the bayonet. Was it to be wondered at that the Tibetans scarcely appreciated such treatment? As a contrast to the fervour of Mr. McCabe came the cool dispassionate analyses of Mr. J. A. Hobson, the economist. His chief point was that it will be useless to hope for better frontier policies unless men were placed in the Foreign, Colonial, and India Offices strong enough to resist the importunities of the frontier men. The other speakers were Mr. S. H. Swinny and Mr. Herbert Burrows. I am glad to hear that Sir Henry Cotton is going to take a short rest on the Continent next month. He needs it.

SENTENCE OF DEATH ON COOPER'S HILL.

At last the date of the extinction of Cooper's Hill College has been definitely fixed, and that date, precisely numbered. At the end of the session 1905-6, it will close its doors for ever, and one small source of the wastage of India's money will disappear. The date is even earlier than most people expected. Writing to the "Engineering Times" at the beginning of this month, Messrs Ernest Benedict and R. W. Western declared that the students now in residence would complete their course and that on this account the College would continue to exist till the beginning of 1908. They plainly described the drawbacks of the College from an engineering and educational point of view; nevertheless, they felt constrained to say: "This institution has been so often threatened in the past that there are grounds even now for not regarding its extinction as a foregone conclusion." Mr. Brodric might not be Secretary of State for India in 1908 at the time of the closing scenes, but "while" they continued, "the possibility of a reprieve should be borne in mind, it must not be regarded as in the least degree probable." A doubtful possibility is now converted into a certain impossibility. The chance of reprieve is now well-nigh nonexistent. Issued from the India Office this week, the actual wording of Mr. Brodric's statement runs as follows: "The Secretary of State for India in Council has now arrived at a decision as to the date of closing the Royal Indian Engineering College at Cooper's Hill. The prospectus for 1904 states that the College will be permanently closed at the end of the session of 1905-6, and that the entrance examination to be held in July of this year, under the conditions explained in the prospectus, will be the last. It also states that, from those passing the entrance examination, twenty-five appointments will be made in the Engineering Branch of the Public Works Department one appointment in the Accounts Branch of the Department, and two appointments in the Telegraph Department. Applications for admission to the entrance examination must be made in writing to the President of the College, on a printed form to be obtained from the Secretary to the College, on or before Friday, July 15 next. A further communication will be shortly made as to the future education of candidates for the Public Works and Telegraph Departments in India."

It is to be hoped that the concluding statement does not presage another Cooper's Hill fiasco. The India Office should remember that there are not a few Indian boys of constructive and mechanical skill who would make excellent engineers, and who could, with careful training, do much for the engineering development of their country. The India Office should remember this. It is almost needless to add that the India Office won't.

SLAVERY FOR CHINAMEN.

Outwardly, no one can look more astonished than the defender of the Chinese Labour Ordinance in the Transvaal when he is told that its regulations are merely slavery in masquerade. "Slavery!" he cries in amazement, "why, my dear Sir, the Chinaman enters into a free contract with the mine-owners! You can scarcely call that slavery. Besides, it is an actual kindness to take the labourer from the over-crowded warrens of Southern China and to pay him, in South Africa, the wages he has ever received at home." The latter part of Mr. Curzon's argument is hardly worth discussing; the Rand millionaire is not—never likely to be—a philanthropist. But as to the earlier statement, is it a fact that the Chinaman freely enters into such a contract as would be held valid in England as a reasonable and blameless industrial bargain? This momentous question has just been dealt with by Major Seeley, the Conservative Member of Parliament who resigned his seat representing the Isle of Wight to test his constituents on this very matter, and was triumphantly returned without opposition. Desiring to know whether, owing to the servile character of its terms the Ordinance would be held void by English law, Major Seeley prepared the following questions in order to clear up the whole matter:—

"Considering the terms of the contract in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance and in the absence of any special enactment legalising such contract:—

"I. Would such a contract be valid according to English Law if made in England (a.) between two British subjects, and (b.) between two persons who are not British subjects?"

"II. If the answer to the first question is in the negative, would such a contract be wholly void or could any portion or portions of it be enforced?"

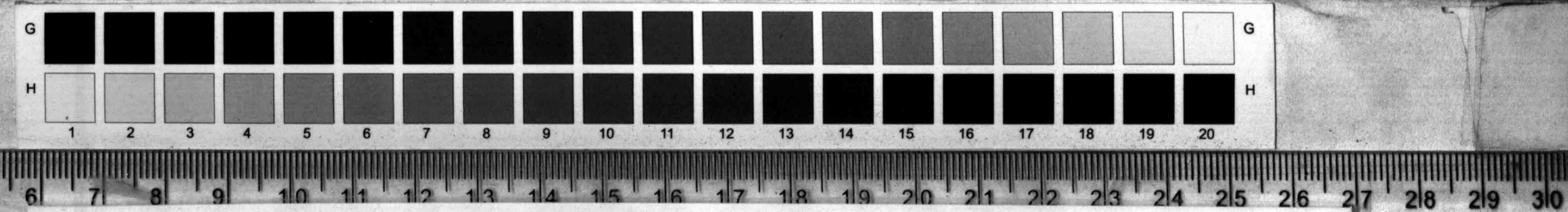
"III. Would such a contract be valid if made out of England, but within any of the King's dominions?"

"IV. If such a contract were entered into in England, and the employer sought to hold the labourer to its conditions by force, what remedy or remedies would the labourer have against the employer?"

Major Seeley then made enquiries in various impartial quarters as to the highest legal authority on the matter at the English Bar. There was a general agreement on one name, and a case for the opinion of Counsel was submitted through the ordinary legal channels to a distinguished K. C. The opinion was soon arrived at, and its tenour was wholly favourable to the views which Major Seeley has so frequently and so strongly expressed. The King's Counsel declares:—

"I. and II. I am of opinion that such a contract if made in England would not be valid according to English law; because it is in undue restraint of trade and of the liberty of the subject, and is inconsistent with the fundamental principles of the common law. For instance, the law will not allow a person to renounce the capacity for acquiring and enjoying property, nor will it allow any enforcement of agreements by any other compulsion than that of our Courts of Justice. (See Hargrave's argument in Somerset's case, pages 86, 97; Broom's Constitutional Law, 2nd Edition.)

"III. I cannot conceive any system of jurisprudence in a civilised nation under which a contract of the kind in question would be enforceable in the absence of legislation expressly sanctioning it and containing provisions similar to the contract.



IV. The remedy in the case supposed would be by "habeas corpus" or by action for trespass to the person.

The opinion was not delivered as badly as given above. It was supported by numerous quotations from standard authorities and leading cases. For instance, in "Brown's Constitutional Law" the following opinion occurs: "The law of England will not permit the servant to incorporate into his contract the ingredients of slavery." To this may be added Lord Hobart's famous dictum: "The body of a freeman cannot be made subject to distress, or imprisonment by contract, but only by judgment." Yet, says Major Seeley, it will be remembered that forcible deportation and the renouncing of the right to hold property are the salient features of the contract entered into by the Chinese labourer. Major Seeley publishes this momentous finding in a letter to "The Times"—a newspaper which has consistently supported the illegal and onerous provisions of the Labour Ordinance. He does not give the name of the Counsel from whom he obtained the reply since the latter, though willing that his opinion should be published, did not wish his name to appear. Major Seeley, however, sent the name, confidentially, to "The Times", and the Editor has not, as yet, raised any objection to the weight and authority of the unrevealed King's Counsel. This effort of Major Seeley's is the most important contribution made during the last month to the Chinese Labour problem, if we except the Chinaman's own contribution of forty cases of heri-beri on the arrival of the first "slaves" shipment at Durban. In Parliament little definite has been accomplished. There are motions in the names of both Liberal and Tory members, and they are held by the Speaker to prevent free discussion upon the matter. Even Dr. Hutchinson could not raise the question of heri-beri importation into South Africa because notice had been given some time ago of a motion to be moved regarding the health of the Transvaal miners. This vague motion is held by Mr. Deputy Speaker to block all discussion on the later and sinister development of the Chinese question. "It is very strange," concludes Major Seeley in his letter to "The Times" "that in the very country where we fought for freedom one of our first acts is to sanction a new law depriving a whole class of persons of the benefit of some of the most essential principles of liberty assured to them by existing laws." Strange it may be; but it is only symptomatic of the reaction which has triumphed over the Empire during the last decade. There are signs in England of a healthier ruling. Would there were similar indications of the introduction of beneficial changes in India.

A PAN-BRITANNIC EXHIBITION AND ITS USELESSNESS.

These are the days of exhibitions, national, international, and imperial. No sooner is one ended in one part of the world than another is projected in another continent or country. In Great Britain the Cork and Glasgow Exhibitions are but a few years old, and the Bradford Exhibition is going on; in America the great St. Louis show is still running. In addition to these efforts, preparations are already in hand to hold an enormous Pan-Britannic Exhibition in London during the summer of next year. Unlike the larger exhibitions which have preceded it—London, Paris, Chicago, St. Louis—the newest exhibition will not be international, but will be strictly confined to the products and manufactures of the various parts of the British Empire. Very appropriately it is to be held at the Crystal Palace, an enormous glass building in the South of London which was erected to accommodate the first International Exhibition of 1851. It was then situated in Hyde Park, and it set the fashion in these enterprises—a fashion which has been followed by other Western countries. The organisers of the 1905 Exhibition do not anticipate much difficulty in obtaining a collection of exhibits which will compare favourably with its forerunner of more than fifty years ago. They will appeal first to the Government of the State, and to those of the Colonies, and the Crown Colonies of the Empire. If any space should be left over after the requirements of these have been met, it will be placed at the service of private exhibitors. Up to the present, the Colonial Governments have shown themselves very favourably disposed towards the project. Unhappily, the same cannot be said of the Indian Government, although the organisers explicitly declare that it is very important that India, as well as the Colonies should be well represented. Mr. George Collins Levey, C.M.G., is superintending the arrangements of the exhibition. Referring to India's exhibit, Mr. Levey remarked that it is impossible for the people of this country to realise that India is England's best customer, seeing that she has no the services of High Commissioners, Agents General, or emigration and commercial agents ever seeking to bring her immense resources before them. Yet it is a fact that India is commercially more important to the United Kingdom than any of her group of Colonies. India is too reticent for these go-ahead days, for, said Mr. Levey, the Indian Empire has taken no active part in any exhibition since that held at South Kensington in 1886. The Indian Exhibition at Earl's Court in 1886 and the Indian Court in the Paris Exhibition of 1900 were representative of Indian arts and manufactures, but they did not demonstrate the great market value of India nor her enormous exports of tropical and sub-tropical products. Let India see to it that something better is done on her behalf in 1905.

THE ABOLITION OF SALT TAX.

Late this afternoon a paper was read by Mr. J. B. Pennington before the East Indian Association. It was entitled "a suggestion for the abolition of the salt monopoly without any material sacrifice of Revenue," and in it Mr. Pennington outlined a scheme of what would really be a universal graduated income tax realising a sum only little short of the amount now raised by the impost on salt. Under his proposal the burden upon the peasantry would amount to sixpence a year for each family, and in exchange, salt would be entirely free. Mr. Pennington's paper contained numerous references to the evil of the salt tax which deprived the people of sufficient quantities of a necessity of life the absence of which was credibly declared to cause or at least to render more dangerous the chief diseases of India. Dr. Hutchinson, who has so recently discovered that leprosy is due to the eating of badly salted fish, was

in the chair, and from the medical point of view he strongly urged the total abolition of the salt tax. He pleaded most earnestly for its removal without regard to the immediate financial aspects of the question, since the state would be more than recouped in the greater health and strength of the people. The discussion was long and interesting. Sir Lepel Griffin thought Mr. Pennington's suggested substitute for the tax was impracticable: a direct income tax would be attended by the annoyance of the tax-gatherer in every house and it would be followed by a revolution within six months. He had never heard any complaint among Indians against the salt tax. Mr. J. D. Rees took up a similar line of argument. These speeches were conceived and uttered from a narrow standpoint. Mr. S. S. Thorburn raised the discussion for a few short sentences to the level of statesmanship. If Dr. Hutchinson and Mr. Pennington were right, then, said he, there was a good case for enquiry and the salt tax must be abolished at all costs. The first duty of a Government was to preserve the health of its subjects. He narrated some of the hardships of the salt monopoly—stories which to the ears of many in the room sounded almost incredible. Nevertheless Mr. Thorburn concluded that Mr. Pennington's suggested substitute for the salt tax was outside the region of practical politics. Salt was necessary for cattle, Mr. Thorburn went on. Would it not be possible to so combine it with some flavour that it should be palatable for cattle while it was unpalatable to man? Then the salt tax could be lightened on cattle-salt in order to improve the condition of live stock. Dr. Hutchinson treated this ridiculous suggestion with the indignation it deserved. Mr. Thorburn's plan, he said, would provide cheap salt for cattle and dear salt for man. Therefore, even if he personally knew of such a flavour as that asked for, he would not tell any one how to prepare it. After this prompt reply two Indian gentlemen spoke. Mr. Kershasp, from Madras, explained how the action of Chetties in that Presidency made the cost of salt to the people even higher than it would be under the Government tax alone. The statements of Sir Lepel Griffin and Mr. J. D. Rees that they had never heard of complaints against the salt tax led Mr. Hansraj to point out pertinently that the Indian National Congress protests against it year after year. In reply Mr. Petre said he wanted to hear the complaints of the people, not of the Congress, before he would believe that the salt tax was a hardship. Peasants grumbled about direct taxes less heavy than the salt-tax, but they did not grumble against the salt tax. Mr. E. J. Sewell struck a higher, better note. Since doctors had proved that salt was necessary to life and that the salt tax was inimical to health, that tax ought to be swept away whether there was an outcry or not. He differed absolutely from several other gentlemen who had spoken. He had been among the Indian people for twenty-six years and had heard loud complaints. The tax was continually harassing them. It was true they did not come in a body or organise demonstrations with flags and drums. But those who knew the Indian peasants knew that it was not their nature to form processions of protest headed by a brass band. Dr. Hutchinson also touched on the alleged absence of complaint among the Indian people. While he was in India he heard continual complaints from medical men. Indian medical men came to him spontaneously to strongly protest. "If you have any influence with the Government," they would tell him, "get them to abolish the salt tax." Salt was now so dear that the natives were often obliged to take impure earth salt which was dangerous to their health. In no country save India was there taxation upon so important an article of food as salt. Mr. Pennington replied shortly to this criticism by declaring that he did not profess that his scheme was an ideal system. It was merely a suggestion to try some of some substitute for the salt tax. In next week's letter Mr. Pennington's paper will be dealt with more fully than time will now permit, and certain aspects of the discussion will be criticised as indications of the attitude adopted by Anglo-Indian officials towards so important and so vital a reform as the total abolition of the salt tax.

HUMANITARIANISM IN INDIA.

Mr. Henry S. Salt, of the Humanitarian League, like the late William Tallack, though on a much wider scale, is desirous of serving the cause of humanity in India. Mr. Tallack confined himself to prison reform, and, if I remember rightly, only took action, so far as India was concerned, when his help was pointedly sought—by the Editors of the "Patrika" chiefly. Mr. Salt, on the other hand, became interested in humanitarian matters in India before his assistance was called for. When it was found that he was willing to take the needs of India within his purview, he was requested by Indian friends and fellow-workers to take a definite interest in India; whereupon Mr. Salt set to work to provide an organisation to do what was needed. With this view a special Department of the Humanitarian League is in the course of formation. It will deal with Indian questions, such as the administration of criminal law, corporal punishment, the introduction of rascism and vivisection, animal sacrifices, butchery for food, blood sports, the destruction of birds for military, and various barbarities for fashion. It is felt that some organised protest is needed in India, as in England, against the vast amount of unnecessary suffering inflicted through callousness or ignorance, and against the importation, in some cases, of cruel European practices in the name of Indian sentiment. Members and friends of the Humanitarian League who are in sympathy with this project, and willing in any way to assist and advise, are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary at 53, Chancery Lane, London. Already the co-operation of several well-known workers in India have been secured, and I have no doubt that, in a quiet way, much good will be accomplished in this new departure by the Humanitarian League.

At the next meeting of the Municipal Commissioners of Madras, to be held on the 25th instant, they will consider a proposal by the Government of Madras to contribute towards an investigation into the causation of malaria in Madras, and if the Government undertakes to carry out the investigation, whether the Municipality would consent to allow a portion of the plague hospital to be used as a laboratory.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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

New 5-Rupree Note.—The new five rupee notes for India are still under manufacture at England, and it is not yet known when the first consignment will arrive.

Public Works Postings.—Mr. R. L. D. Gompertz, Director, Indian Telegraph Department, retires from the service from the 19th July. Mr. K. S. Aitrick, Assistant Engineer, 2nd grade, Burma, has resigned the Service.

Plague Figures.—During the week ending 9th July the plague mortality for all India fell from 2,688 to 1,919, and the decrease in the death-rates is noticed in all provinces except Calcutta, where the figures rose from 9 to 18, Bengal 47 to 76, the United Provinces 17 to 35, and Hyderabad State 23 to 28.

The New Loan.—The following is the result of the allotment of the three crores loan advertised in "The Gazette of India Extraordinary" of 2nd July 1904—Aggregate amount of tenders, Rs. 8,06,54,600; minimum rate of accepted tenders, Rs. 97-7; tenders at that rate received per cent., Rs. 17.08; total amount of accepted tenders, Rs. 3,00,00,000; total amount to be received by Government, Rs. 2,92,72,090-7; average rate at which loan is issued, Rs. 97-9-2.1 pies.

End of the Attempted Extortion Case.—After a long and protracted trial, the case in which Babu Poorna Chander Gupta, Editor "Novo Yug", who stood charged by Dr. P. L. Mytee, with having attempted to extort money from the complainant by producing a letter, purporting to have been signed by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, was concluded on Friday last. The Court in the course of a lengthy judgment dismissed the case and ordered the return of the defendant.

A Hotly Contested Case.—On Thursday at the High Court the Hon. Mr. Justice delivered a lengthy judgment in the case of Peterson vs. Schiller and others in which most of the leading counsels were engaged, and which occupied the attention of the Court for nearly fourteen days. After reviewing the facts of the case, and dealing with the evidence on both sides, his lordship held that the action of expulsion was unwarranted, and that the plaintiff was entitled to the relief mentioned in the first three paragraphs of his plaint, and awarded Rs. 5,000 as damages. Regarding the account of the plaintiff's share in the profits, his lordship directed a reference to the official Referee as from the date of expulsion. The partnership will continue under the provisions of the two deeds, namely, the 3rd of January 1901 and 8th of April 1902. Costs to be on scale No. 2.

Alleged Kidnapping.—On Thursday, before Mr. W. A. Bonnard, the case, in which Mr. Stark obtained a notice on his mother-in-law, Mrs. Stark, on a charge of kidnapping, to produce his children in Court, was called on for hearing. Babu Surendra Nath Chatterjee, Vakil, appeared for the prosecution. Messrs. Swinhoe and Remry represented the defence and submitted that before the matter was referred to Police; that Mr. Summers of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children had seen the children. The lady also produced the children before the Commissioner of Police and had them examined by a doctor, who gave a certificate as to the marks on their persons, the loss of hair and the cut on the chin of the younger child. After some discussion the Court suggested an amicable settlement of the matter. The defendant said that Mr. Stark was not fit to take charge of his children. The case was therefore adjourned to the 23rd instant.

An Ingenious Thief.—On Thursday, one Joy Kuran Dobe and another man were placed before the second Presidency Magistrate on a charge of having in his possession a stolen G. C. note for Rs. 1,000. On the 15th June last, a G. C. note for Rs. 1,000 was stolen from the firm of Gorderhone Das Sukdeo Prasad. The payment on it was stopped in the Currency Office. On the 16th June it was presented in the Currency Office through Messrs. Graham and Co. for encashment, when the fraud was detected. One Joy Kuran Dobe had gone to the firm of Gorderhone Das with a hundi from another firm. There he heard all along the theft of the note. He came out with another man went to Messrs. Graham and Co.'s office and the two men said to the cashier that they had come from a marwari firm to make payments of Rs. 250 and presented the G. C. note for Rs. 1,000. The cashier gave them the balance Rs. 750 and they went away. Subsequently the note was presented to the Currency Office for encashment and it was discovered that it was a stolen property. The case was partly gone into and then adjourned.

A Dishonest Partner.—On Thursday, Babu Krishen Kalk Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore disposed of a case in which one Nibaran Chander Sircar, a dealer of molasses was charged with endangering a human life, criminal breach of trust and misappropriation in respect of certain sums of money. The accused who is a resident of East Bengal, peacefully carried on a business of molasses with one of his neighbours for a long time. They recently came to Calcutta with a cargo of molasses and after selling the goods and making necessary purchases proceeded with a boat towards their country. At mid-night when the partner of the business was fast asleep and their boat was in the river the accused who previously conspired with the crew threw him overboard. The River Bidadyadhuri for the purpose of appropriating the whole amount of their sale proceeds. The accused after reaching home with tears in his eyes told to the people that his partner died of cholera and every farthing had been expended for his treatment and so he became a penniless beggar. The next morning the unfortunate partner was found lying on the shore in an unconscious state by a fisherman who out of pity carried him to the local thanna where he after regaining his sense narrated everything to the Police. The accused was subsequently arrested and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 200.

The statement in a Simla paper, to the effect that, in the event of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab taking leave next year, probably Sir Denzil Ibbetson would officiate for His Honour, leaving Mr. Hewett undisturbed, is altogether premature.

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

PARS FROM THE "PIONEER."

Allahabad, July 15. The "Pioneer's" London Correspondent wires under date 14th July:—

Dr. Morrison, the "Times" Peking correspondent, states that the Japanese at Peking are indignant with the Kaiser for his Wiborg telegram.

A high Russian official writes in the "quarterly Review" exposing the weakness and folly of the Tsar. The "Times" and other papers take serious notice of the paper.

The Tibet Expedition.

Gyantse (Tibet), July 12.

It is rumoured that the Tibetan peace delegates are at Nagatse. Present rumours all point to a comparatively speedy conclusion of the campaign, as the enemy are said to be thoroughly convinced of the futility of further armed resistance. At Penam the Lamas tried to drive the fighting men back into the jungles, but the news of our advance established a panic. The Tibetans do not expect our artillery to be so effective, and it is undoubted that the moral effect of gun fire has been enormous.—"I. D. News."

Simla, July 13.

It is understood that General Macdonald intends, if his preparations are complete, to move forward towards Lhasa to-morrow or Friday, should there be no stubborn resistance on the road. The military authorities expect that the Tibet Capital will be reached about the 5th or 6th August. It is not likely that the Mission and its escort would remain in Lhasa after the middle of September as the approach of winter would render it very difficult for troops to return in safety.—"Englishman."

Gyantse, July 13.

Ta Lama is reported to have returned to Lhasa via Rong valley with the other peace delegates. According to Chinese postal runners he is at Nagatse. Two thousand men are reported holding Karala, the inhabitants of Gyantse and Monastery Lamas returning to their homes. A certain number of the villagers are coming into camp and selling agricultural produce. Great difficulty is found in procuring fodder for the transport train. There is an indication of returning confidence in our intentions among the local people. The attitude of Tasha Lama of Shigatse is uncertain. It turns out that the Shigatse army which made the first attack on the Mission acted not on his but on the Dalai Lama's orders. The political have ascertained that Tasha Lama has been recently deprived of a good deal of executive authority by the Central Lhasa Government.—"Englishman."

Gyantse, July 13.

Colonel Younghusband has issued the following proclamation:—

The British Government have no desire to be on other than friendly terms with the people of Tibet, but it must be known to all that the present Government of the Tibetan country have for some time past displayed an entire ignorance of, and disregard for, international obligations by repudiating their treaties with the Government of India; moreover, they have shown gross disrespect to the Government of the King Emperor, firstly by refusing to negotiate in an amicable manner on the points at issue between the two Governments; secondly, by committing overt acts of war in attacking with armed force the British Mission sent for the above purpose. It has therefore become necessary for the British Government to mark their grave displeasure and to demand reparation of the Government of Tibet for the insults offered to their representatives and the armed attacks made on their peaceful Mission. As such reparation and satisfaction can only be obtained from the present rulers of Tibet at Lhasa the Mission will proceed to that place in order to impress upon the Government of Tibet the serious consequences of the course they are pursuing, and to obtain the necessary redress for the insults offered. The nature of the redress to be exacted will greatly depend on the attitude of the Tibetan Government to whom further opportunity of reasonable settlement of the matter in dispute will be offered.

All Tibetans are therefore warned by this Proclamation that any interference with the British Mission, or armed force escorting it, will meet with condign punishment and that any such action will only result in making the terms demanded more exacting and the measures taken to enforce them more severe. It is also hereby notified that the British have no desire to fight with the people of Tibet or to interfere with their liberties, that the British Government will, in accordance with their traditional policy, scrupulously respect the religion of the people. At the same time it is necessary to impress unmistakably upon the Government of Tibet that they cannot with impunity offer insults to the British Government and must realise the obligations they have entered into and act up to them in all respects.—"Englishman."

Gyantse, July 14.

The move on Lhasa has begun. The telegraph is not going on, but every effort will be made to keep up communications by means of mounted infantry.

Simla, July 14.

General Macdonald reports that his preparations for an advance are complete, and he was marching to-day (14th) to Katong. The Karola was reported to be occupied by 2,000 Tibetans with 2,000 in support.

ARRIVAL AT KHOTANG.

Gyantse, July 15.

The force has arrived at Khotang. The weather has been very inclement, there was heavy rain last night and again during the march the Chinese postal runners report that snow is falling on Karola. The Mounted Infantry patrols state that Gobsjong is not occupied, but a member of the Council of Four who was to have joined the peace delegates at Gyantse is said to be waiting for the force there.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, July 9.

Reuter's correspondent at Chifu says that two terrific explosions took place at Port Arthur last evening.

The "Newest Nachrichten" announces the representatives from Berlin banks three weeks ago signed a contract with St. Petersburg for a loan of fifty million marks at 5 per cent.

Reuter wires from Perm that the Russian steamer Menelaus reports that the Russian Volunteer cruiser Petersburg with eight guns on deck stopped her at the Crewe Hall on the 11th instant, south of Joudah, and detained both for four hours overhauling her papers. She then steamed away northwards.

A telegram from St. Petersburg says an official communication from the general staff states that General Alexioff's military staff reports from Japanese sources that the Japanese attacked the positions at Port Arthur on the night of 10th instant and were repulsed with losses so enormous as to be difficult to calculate, but they are estimated at thirty thousand. A previous unofficial report to the same effect stated that the losses were due to Russian mines.

General Sakharoff reports that the Japanese are fortifying the heights between the railway and the road from Kaichan to Ashichan and also massing between Sinyen and Venghangsheng.

There have been encounters between the Russians and Chunchusee on the outskirts of Liaoyung.

London, July 14.

Sakharoff reports that on the morning of the 12th instant the Japanese from the east opened an attack on the Russian position at Kutiatzia which is apparently a place only eight miles east of Tashichiao.

News from Niuchang says that Japanese scouts yesterday morning were six miles south of Niuchang.

Reuter from Tokio says it is reported that the Japanese have occupied Kingkow unopposed.

Yesterday's report of the slaughter of 40,000 Japanese is regarded at St. Petersburg rather as a means of softening the news of the fall of Port Arthur which is said to be imminent.

London, July 15.

Telegrams published at Tokio states that Yingkow was occupied by the Japanese at midnight on Wednesday unopposed.

GENERAL.

London, July 13.

Mr. Brodrick, in reply to Mr. Herbert Roberts regarding the cost of the Tibet Expedition, said, the Home Government did not intend to pay for the same, the Tibet question being essentially of Indian interest.

Mr. Lyttleton, replying to Mr. Schwann said that though willing to give the matter further consideration, he was not prepared at present to reconsider the decision of his predecessors against the transportation of Ceylon convicts to the Andamans.

London, July 14.

Mr. Arnold Forster introduced his Army Reform Scheme in the House of Commons to-night. It reduces the Army by fourteen battalions and leaves the Militia untouched, because the country is not yet ripe for a change therein. The Volunteers will be reduced to 180,000 men, but will receive much larger grants, and produce efficiency. It is proposed to divide the Army into two parts, keeping one purely for Home service, with two years' service with the Colours and six with the Reserve.

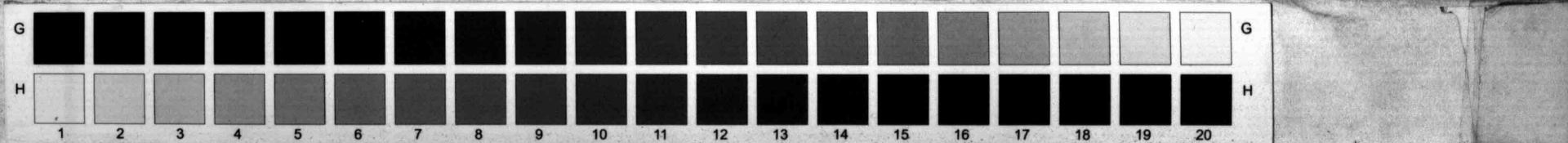
Mr. Arnold Forster said that the three years' system had broken down and must end, because the men refused to extend their service, and we had already had to send abroad many men who had only ten months' service. The condition of the Militia was perfectly unsatisfactory and he believed the Volunteers were our best material though it was not clear that we were making the best use of them. Conscription he said would result in an annual addition to expenditure of £25,900,000 while a large Home Army was unnecessary in time of peace. The present number of troops abroad was a necessity. India required 52 Battalions, and the Colonies 37 Battalions. The fourteen Battalions abolished would include the 3rd and 4th Battalions recently raised, and five Garrison Battalions raised during the war would be absorbed. The linked battalion system will be abolished; a striking force of sixteen thousand men will be kept at Aldershot ready to immediately take the field. The cavalry and artillery remain untouched, but an Artillery Reserve will be established. Mr. Forster's scheme means a saving of half a million and a reduction of 8,761 men.

London, July 15.

A Morning Post telegram from Shanghai states that Emperor of China is seriously ill with dysentery.

With the exception of The Morning Post, Standard, and Daily News, Mr. Arnold Forster's proposals have been approved by all papers including the Daily Chronicle. The Morning Post in a bitterly worded article says Government has already done a great destructive work for the Army, and there is no evidence that the new scheme will meet the needs of war for which large numbers of trained men are the first consideration. The Standard says the practicability and efficiency of the scheme is more than doubtful, and it will probably collapse entirely owing to the lack of long service men. The reserve will have no backbone of old soldiers, and it is not clear that the economics will be substantial. Some of the proposals are more likely to increase the burden of the British or Indian tax-payer.

Mr. Arnold Forster in the course of the debate on his Army Scheme said enlistment for general service would be nine years, with the colours and three with the services. He calculated that short service would provide 87,000 reserves and 23,000 general service. The object of abolishing linked battalions was to secure a much larger number of men with the colours kept abroad than at home.



THE CONSTANTINE OF INDIA.

No religion has ever been established without the exercise of military or regal force. In the annals of modern missions we invariably find that no progress is made until the chiefs have been won over and induced to accept the Christian faith.

If we turn to India, we are confronted with a remarkable parallel; for just as Christianity was raised to the rank of a world-religion by Constantine, so Buddhism was made a world-religion by Asoka.

Constantine was a member of an entirely new dynasty. So was Asoka. Constantine was third in succession to Diocletian, a great soldier and still greater administrator, who recognised the Empire after a period of disaster.

Constantine had a vision of the Cross. Asoka had a vision of the Buddha "in the full perfection of beauty, surrounded by a halo of glory, and surrounded by the lambent flame of sanctity."

Constantine summoned all the bishops of the Empire to a great council at Nice. Asoka summoned all the Buddhist dignitaries of India to a great council at Patna.

By his first wife Constantine had a son named Crispus. The Emperor's second wife, Faustina, fell in love with Crispus. The affection was not returned, and so she procured his death.

After his conversion, Constantine abandoned Rome, and issued to the Pope Decretals giving him the sovereignty of the Western Empire. The last act of Asoka was to sign a deed of gift, which conveyed the whole world to the Buddhist Assembly.

"This earth, encinctured by its sapphire zone, This earth, bedecked with gleaming jewels rare, This earth, of hills the everlasting throne, This earth, of all creation mother fair, I give to the Assembly."

Fortunately we have other, and more authentic, information in regard to the Constantine of India. Scattered through the whole extent of what were once his dominions there are inscriptions which give us at first hand the ideas and methods of the Buddhist Emperor.

violence is done to those who are personally unhurt. All this diffused misery is matter of regret to his Majesty. This is a strange variety of conqueror! The crusaders, and patriots, and Fredericks, and Bonapartes of Europe do not set up inscriptions of this character!

There is, however, another reason for his Majesty feeling still more regret, inasmuch as in such a country dwell Brahmans and ascetics, men of different sects, and householders who all practise obedience to father and mother, obedience to teachers, proper treatment of friends, acquaintances, comrades, relatives, slaves, and servants, with fidelity of devotion.

This paragraph is so utterly different from the common run of religious deliverances that it requires special consideration. The Christian never takes up his pen without slandering all those whose opinions vary from his own. We are continually being assured that virtue had no existence in the earth before the advent of Christianity; and that the non-Christian portions of the modern world are sinks of iniquity.

Another quality of the Indian king is his perfect toleration. "His Majesty, King Piyadasi, does reverence to men of all sects, whether ascetics or householders, by donations and modes of reverence. . . . A man must not do reverence to his own sect by disparaging that of another man for trivial reasons.

Thus, three hundred years before the birth of Christ, this poor benighted heathen had acquired those ideas of toleration which it took Christianity seven centuries to learn—and which it has not quite assimilated yet. The Christians who first advocated toleration did so because their sects were feeble and oppressed and were not able to persecute.

After eighteen centuries of Christianity, Tennyson had to look forward; to dip into the future, far as human eye could see. "Till the war-drum throbbed no longer, and the battle-flags were furled. . . . and the kindly earth shall slumber, lapt in universal law."

"Now, by reason of the practice of piety by his Majesty King Piyadasi, instead of the sound of the war-drum, the sound of the drum of piety is heard, while heavenly spectacles of professional cars, elephants, illuminations, and the like, are displayed to the people."

"Whatsoever meritorious deeds I have done, those deeds the people have copied and will imitate, whence follows the consequence that growth is now taking place and will further increase in the virtues of obedience to father and mother, obedience to teachers, reverence to the aged, and kindly treatment of Brahmans and ascetics, of the poor and wretched, yea, even of slaves and servants."

These few brief extracts from the only authentic memorials of the great Maharajah of India will at least serve to show that the heathen East could produce men that it need not be ashamed of. Looking down the Calendar (not the one of Newgate, but the Calendar of Saints—there is little difference) we can find no Christian sovereign worthy to be compared with King Asoka; and even European heathendom pales before this Hindu monarch.

THE CONSTANTINE OF INDIA. CHILPERIC in the "Reformer."

"OUR RELATION TO INDIA."

I am glad to have Mr. Pennington's criticism of my paper, which I desire to have checked at every point. He is much above the common run of officials in point of sympathy and open-mindedness, while, as his paper shows, he has quite enough of the normal "esprit de corps" to be zealous in vindication of our Indian Government.

1. Professing to accept in general terms my a priori thesis that "there must be much misgovernment in British India," because he has "never heard of a country where there wasn't" he ignores the purport of my argument. Its special ground is that if by universal consent there needs the constant checking of constitutional government to prevent misrule and fiscal extortion at home, there must be an abundance of these in India, where there is no constitutional system.

"Such a plea did not even the simplest peasant. . . . my duty to explain to some of them the orders of the Government, and point out their justice and wisdom. When I had done this to the best of my ability, their comment was simply, 'Of course, the Sarkar (the Government) is lord; but it is a breach of faith.' I rebuked the speaker openly, but agreed with him in my heart."

2. By his own showing, Mr. Pennington's argument as to the proper unit for the calculation of national incomes is of little importance: he concedes the vital points that "the poor are becoming poorer"; and that the "income of the poor must be far below the 'average.'" But he sets up some confusion when he observes that four annas a day "is amply sufficient to satisfy the modest wants of many of our domestic servants."

3. Asserting that I have "evidently been misinformed" as to some points in regard to Indian poverty, and have "misunderstood some of my own evidence," Mr. Pennington neither specifies the points nor hints at the nature of the misinformation and misunderstanding. I must express my regret that Mr. Pennington should thus conform to the inveterate official practice of falling back on general "bluff."

4. The existence of a submerged class in Britain is no vindication of misrule in India. I am of those who strive for a social reconstruction in Britain; and I should scout the application to Britain of the optimistic rhetoric of which our officials deliver themselves in regard to India. Misery in Britain is a result of industrial stress, a vicious land system, and local over-population. I readily grant that not all the endemic misery of India is due to over-taxation; in Bengal, I suspect, much has been due to over-population. But the fact of the over-taxation is proved to the hilt, and that it does work misery is obvious. Mr. Pennington has not even challenged my main arguments and figures.

5. Mr. Pennington says that I "do not enter into the question of remedies." I expressly pointed (p. 229) to "the two great lines of action"—land irrigation and the improvement of agriculture—as well as to the wasteful military expenditure and the ruinous over-taxation. Did Mr. Pennington read through my article?

6. Mr. Pennington's treatment of my remarks on the irrigation question is so strange that, did it come from another, I should charge him with disingenuousness. He remarks (a) that it would seem I have "not read . . . even a paper by Mr. Hughes in the current number of the Asiatic Quarterly Review." Mr. Pennington should really bring his mind to be more attentively on what he writes. My article appeared in the April number of the Review, and had to be in the editor's hands long before Mr. Hughes' article in the April number of Asiatic Quarterly? (b) Mr. Pennington goes on to say: "At least his figures . . . agree with theirs (Mr. Hughes' and the Commission's). Mr. A.K. Coomaraswamy is quite out of date now." Here the implication is that I took my figures for present-day irrigation from Mr. Connell's book. Mr. Pennington has really small ground for indignation against other people's inaccuracy. Again I must ask whether he read my article through. I actually gave (p. 229) the official figures (32.6 million acres) of irrigation for 1901-2. If these do not agree with those of the Commission and Mr. Hughes, the presumptive reason is that the latter deal with 1902-3. But I must point out that there is clearly something wrong somewhere when the increase in irrigation comes out at eight or eleven million acres in one year. If I have misquoted the Statistical Abstract for 1901-2, perhaps Mr. Pennington will let me know. But he puts the total in one place on the authority of Mr. Hughes, at 41 million acres, and in another at 44 millions! (c) May critic states that his "nearly 41 million acres under irrigation" is "an enormous increase on anything ever accomplished under native rule." Now, according to the official figures for 1901-2, and according also to the figures of Mr. Hughes, less than half of the total area is irrigated by Government works; and there are many testimonies to the fact that of the ancient works many were allowed to go to ruin under British rule. Long ago, J.M. Ludlow alleged that "for half a century we did nothing but let these fall into decay"; and the famous Madras petition of 1852, cited by him, alleged that of the extremely numerous ancient works "not more than four-fifths of those still existing are kept in repair, while others have altogether disappeared." These ancient works were built in ages lacking our command of capital, and lacking above all our modern scientific methods, for a population probably less than half the present. And yet Mr. Pennington boasts, in the normal official manner, that the British expansion, much of it made only within the last twenty years, is "an enormous increase on anything ever accomplished under native rule." Let the reader judge the value of the vaunt.

I have really no desire to disparage the engineering genius of the late Sir Arthur Cotton. It is so constantly proclaimed by Indian officials, however, that the very claim tells of a scanty lot of similar masters; and when we find our bureaucracy thus crediting themselves with matchless virtues because one European engineer of the nineteenth century has excelled the native engineers of past centuries, one begins to realise more fully the total value of the panegyric on their own management. What answer is it to me, I would ask, to say that the irrigation of the Tanjore Delta was in a most critical condition when Cotton took it in hand? Is not that an explicit admission of the previous British neglect?

7. Mr. Pennington has criticised my remarks on irrigation without understanding their drift. He takes passages without noting their context. I wrote that "positively the 'only hopeful feature' in our rule is the measure of success accruing to certain works of irrigation. Is this, then, a boon which India owes to British rule? On the contrary, the irrigation work which yields more revenue than any other in India—the deltaic system of Cavery, which formed the model of the only others that have been successful—was in full operation when Tanjore became a British province; and the most efficient works of the past century have succeeded by following native lines." This is not a denial of recent progress in irrigation; it is an assertion of it. The question raised is whether we have done anything for the Hindus that they could not conceivably have done for themselves, and I am corroborated by Mr. Hughes in the very extracts which Mr. Pennington calls a "destructive comment" on my article. Mr. Pennington has simply missed the issue. I put Connell's words in inverted commas; and I had already given the date of his book. The question was not which works yield the largest revenue to-day: the simple fact that the Cavery works did so 25 years ago sufficed to prove the proposition in hand. When, therefore, Mr. Pennington says my "assertion that the Delta of the Cavery yields more revenue than any in India is surprisingly inaccurate now," is a mere ignoratio elenchii. At the close of my article I call the Cavery (or Cavery) system "by far the most successful section" of the Government canal system; and this remains true. Success is not measured by absolute revenue; it is a question of proportional results. It is this kind of essentially nugatory official denial that confirms so many of us in our distrust of official assurances.

8. Mr. Pennington takes me to ask for accepting what he calls "merely an imagination" of Mr. Rogers as to the selling-up of agriculturists in Madras Presidency (I thank him for the correction here), which he pronounces entirely without foundation." Well, Mr. Rogers ranks, I understand, as no less qualified an authority on Indian matters than Mr. Pennington; and in the January number of the Asiatic Quarterly, where he repeats his proposition, he writes, after accusing the Pioneer (mistakenly, I think) of great exaggeration as to the general rate of increase in assessments:—"We regret that we are obliged to concur in the structures of that journal on the system of assessment adopted in the Madras Presidency. These structures are based on actual statistics published by the Government of the Presidency within the last few years." If Mr. Rogers' propositions are "entirely without foundation," what is the value of any official testimony? Mr. Pennington I fear, has here fallen into something worse than "rhetoric." He twits me with not having alluded to certain denials by him in the Asiatic. I certainly have missed them, though I have read a number of his letters there; and it is to be regretted that he gives neither references nor quotations. Such questions are not to be settled by official bluff, in the teeth of official assertions. Mr. Pennington speaks of the matter as being "set at rest by the Secretary of State." Mr. Rogers on his part writes in one place of "Lord Ripon's crude ideas" being wisely vetoed by the Secretary of State, and in another of "the ill-informed fiat of the Secretary of State." The judicious outsider is really not moved to take sides.

9. I am at a loss to see how I can have misrepresented Mr. Pennington and his fellow-memorialisers by quoting their proposal that directly-taxed cultivators should not be taxed more than 50 per cent. of the value of the net produce, without citing also their further suggestion that the assessment "should not ordinarily exceed one-fifth of the gross produce." Where is the "mis-statement"? I quoted a formula which all could appreciate, and passed over one which could carry only a vague idea to most British readers. Mr. Pennington himself has avowed that there is dispute as to the proportion of gross to net produce. What is more, in quoting that very phrase as to gross produce in one letter to the Asiatic Quarterly, he wrote concerning it: "We only wanted to make sure that in future no one should ever pay more"; and yet again, in a letter, he writes: "We could hardly have had the audacity to recommend that no one should ever be called to pay more," laying stress here on the word "ordinarily." I should have thought I was treating Mr. Pennington not inconsiderately in putting aside a matter over which he had so cautiously contradicted himself. He seems to have "misunderstood his own evidence."

John M. Robertson in the "Reformer."

THE ARABIAN DATE PALM IN AMERICA. ITS POSSIBILITIES FOR INDIA. Dr. E. Bonavia contributes a special article on this subject to "Indian Planting and Gardening" of the 9th instant. He quotes from two "Bulletins" issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, which show that the date palm is being grown in Arizona, while there are extensive plantations in Lower California, the yield in the latter instance being 30,000lb. so far back as 1897. Dr. Bonavia goes on to say:—

The most important part of this "Bulletin" is the thorough research made as to growing date palms on alkali lands, where it was supposed that nothing could be profitably grown. "The date palm has the unusual power of resisting large amounts of alkali, the most dangerous foe to agriculture in the arid regions, both in the soil, and in the irrigating water." If waterlogging be prevented, "this plant can live and thrive when irrigated with water so salty as to kill all ordinary plants."

There seems here a fine field for experiments with this wonderful tree in the surroundings of the Sambhur lake in Rajputana, and also on "oosur" lands, which are not a few in India, if the locality can be efficiently irrigated, and if the experiments can be scientifically conducted. The Americans are not going to be contented with only making experiments with this important plant; they will assuredly turn their experiments into commercial successes. There are "over 90 named varieties now on trial in the Salt River Valley of the United States," procured from the Algerian Sahara, from Bessarab and Muscat, from Egypt, and even from the Panoh Ghur region of Baluchistan. Experiments made in the United States "demonstrated the possibility of importing date off-shoots from the Sahara, and placing them in the deserts of the South-West (Arizona) in practically as good condition as when they were cut off the parent tree; and with a greater percentage of survivals in Arizona than when planted in the Sahara!"

One more extract. In the Sahara, under the shade of date trees "Apricot, peach almond, pomegranate fig and jujube trees can be successfully grown, and under these again vegetables." These American Bulletins on date culture give so much information on the cultivation of this very remarkable tree that they should be in the hands of all those who are conducting experiments with it, both in India, Australia and elsewhere.

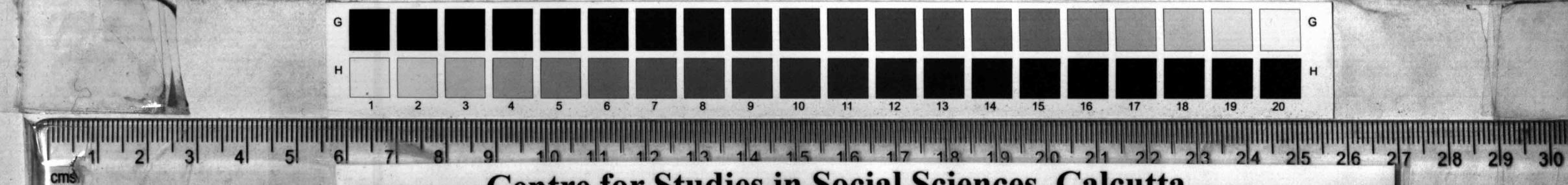
It is not generally known that in Australia date cultivation is being carried on with much success. In the "Empire Review" for June, p. 453, there is a paper by S. J. Mitchell on "Bisecting Australia with a Railway." He there states that artesian wells have been bored in some places with magnificent results. "At Sultanina one yields a surface flow of over a million gallons per day. Here the Government are successfully raising date palms; already about 3,000 have been planted, and are doing well, the fruit being very fine."

It is a mistake to think that seedling date trees are of no value. The produce of the choicest variety now in commerce is far below the demand for it. It is the "Deglet Noor," and is grown in the Sahara on the Moroccan border. It cannot be multiplied sufficiently rapidly to supply the demand for its fruit. It originated from a chance seedling, and indeed all the best varieties known must have originated from seed, and then multiplied by offshoots. It is a mistake also to suppose that those dates which have not a commercial value are, therefore, of no use. Dates of all kinds are of value for feeding the people; and in India especially, seeds of the best kinds should be sown by hundreds of thousands, every year, in suitable localities where water is obtainable; so that in time millions of trees may grow and supply food for the people. If among these any "Deglet Noors" should turn up, they can be multiplied by off-shoots for commercial purposes. There is yet another mistake. In some localities trees grow well and fruit, but do not ripen their fruit for commercial purposes; but this does not at all mean that the unripe dates are valueless. They are quite fit for food, although not fit for the tables of the rich.

It is to be hoped that the "Bulletins" here reviewed may give a different aspect to date culture not only in India but elsewhere.

H. H. the Maharaja of Dholepore will be installed on the "gadi" in November next. We are glad that even the "Madras Mail" has at last come to realise that there is considerable overcrowding among third-class passengers, upon the South Indian Railway; and it is to be hoped that its leader upon the subject will soon bring about a better state of affairs.

†Asiatic Quarterly Review, July, 1903, p. 188. ‡Asiatic Quarterly Review, January, 1904, p. 196. *Article cited pp. 61, 62.



Varieties.

NEW LIGHT ON PLANT GROWTH.

The effect of electricity on plants has been under consideration and investigation for several years. Recent experiments at the Massachusetts Agricultural College tend to show that atmospheric electricity acts as a stimulant to them, and has much to do with their development and conflagration.

THE GREAT AUK'S EGG.

The Great Auk's Egg, which was put up for sale in London the other day, is said to be one of the finest of the seventy or so of these eggs which are known to exist. The egg was discovered at the London residence of the late Lord Garvagh, by Mr. J. E. King, the well-known ornithologist.

A STARTLING THEORY.

In the course of a lecture before the Royal Institution, London, Prof. E. Rutherford threw out a startling suggestion as to the cause of the earth's heat. The lecturer remarked that Lord Kelvin, in his estimate of the world's age, had qualified his words by adding "provided a new source of heat is not discovered."

POSITION OF THE EARTH'S POLES.

Professor John Milne has made the suggestion that the displacement of position of the earth's poles, which is of an irregular kind and which can be traced to no known law, may be due to movements of the earth's crust, and that, therefore, the magnitude of the change in position of the poles might be expected to correspond in some way to the number and frequency of great earthquakes.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

In the Cantor Lectures on Hertzian Wave Telegraphy Dr. Fleming explained with great clearness and with the assistance of appropriate diagrams how the migration of electrons, which are shot out of an aerial wire when a "wireless" message is sent, becomes transformed into a wave motion—in other words, how the vibrations of the electrons set up loops of electric strain in the ether. The simplest picture, though it is not a very adequate one, is to imagine a pump shooting a stream of electrons on to a water surface and producing concentric ripples where the stream flows in.

INDIA AND THE FAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, June 17.

Indian Coolie Immigration.—Sir Henry Fowler asked the Secretary of State for India: When the correspondence with reference to the British Guinea Ordinance on Indian Coolie Immigration will be circulated.

Monday, June 20.

The Thibet Mission.—Capt. Norton asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he is aware that the general in command of the Thibet escort is now about 200 miles away in the Chumbi Valley and the political agent nearly 300 miles away on the Indian frontier; and if he can say under these circumstances who is to carry on negotiations with the Thibetan authorities.

Capt. Norton asked the Secretary of State for India: If he can state what relief, if any, is being sent to the 700 men now besieged at Gyantse, in Thibet; and, seeing that 20,000 animals and men are now required to keep open the lines of communication can he say approximately what amount of additional transport will be required when the rainy season begins this month.

Mr. Brodrick: As I stated on May 31, in reply to a question by the hon. member for West Denbigh, the Government of India have taken steps to send forward such reinforcements as it considers necessary for the safety of the Mission. These steps include the provision of transport. The reinforcements are far advanced towards Gyantse.

Mr. Brodrick: It is better that I should not in this House give exact particulars. (Hear, hear.)

Capt. Norton asked the Secretary of State for India: If he can say whether the Commander-in-Chief in India was consulted with reference to the escort sent to accompany the mission to Thibet and gave his approval.

Mr. Brodrick: Certainly.

Mr. Lambert asked the Secretary of State for India: When the ultimatum sent to Lhasa expired; whether any arrangements have been made with Russia as to the advance to Lhasa; and when any forward movement will be made by the force now at Gyantse.

Mr. Brodrick: June 25 has been approved by his Majesty's Government as the date on which the Mission is to be authorised to proceed to Lhasa, if by then the Thibetan Government has not sent a competent negotiator with the Amban to Gyantse; and the Mission will act on these instructions if the Thibetans fail to comply with our request. The Russian Government has been informed of the intentions and policy of his Majesty's Government.

Mr. Flynn: Will the sanction of the suzerain Power be obtained?

Mr. Brodrick: The suzerain Power has been kept informed of our operations throughout.

Mr. Bryce asked when Parliament would be put in possession of the communications which had passed between his Majesty's Government and Russia on this subject.

Mr. Brodrick: I do not think that is a subject for laying papers on, at all events at the present time; but the Foreign Minister has throughout kept the Russian Ambassador fully informed of what the Government were doing.

The Indian Viceroy's Council.—Mr. Schwann asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether, in the Bill he has recently introduced to amend the Viceroy's Council, he will take the opportunity to provide that at least one representative and experienced Indian member shall be appointed to the Viceroy's Executive Council; and whether he is aware that a representation to this effect was contained in the Minority Report of the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure.

Mr. Brodrick replied that he was aware that a representation to the effect named by Mr. Schwann was contained in the minority report of the Royal Commission. It was open to the Crown to appoint an Indian member to the Viceroy's Council if deemed desirable, and his Majesty's Government were not prepared to limit the choice of the Crown in this matter.

Expanding Bullets.—Mr. MacNeill asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the troops in the Indian Army or the British Army in India, or any of them, are provided with the dum-dum bullet which was originally manufactured for the British Army in India, or with any other bullet of an expanding character and if the dum-dum bullet and other bullets of an expanding character are no longer supplied to the British Army in India, when did the change take place.

Mr. Brodrick: All dum-dum ammunition now in stock in India is issued for practice only under stringent regulations. The general manufacture of this class of ammunition ceased in 1902.

Children Employed on Ceylon Tea Estates.—Mr. Schwann asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies: Whether he will state how many children there are of school-going age belonging to the Indian immigrant coolies employed on the tea and other estates in Ceylon; what would be roughly the total cost of providing vernacular education for these children; whether, as in British Guiana, the education of these children will be made a duty of the employers; and whether he will advise the Ceylon Government so to increase the present grants, in-aid that this duty will not press unduly upon the employers.

Mr. Lyttelton: I am not in possession of the information for which the hon. member asks in the first part of his question, and I am unable to make any statement on the subject pending the receipt of the report

which I have been for some time awaiting from the Colonial Government, and for which I have again asked by telegram.

Value of the Rupee.—Mr. Lough asked the Secretary of State for India: What is the present actual value of the rupee, and, seeing that the maintenance of the exchange value at 1s. 4d. is calculated to injuriously affect the export of Indian tea in its competition with exports of tea at similar prices from China and other silver-using countries, where there is no fixed standard, whether he can do anything to alleviate this alleged grievance.

Mr. Brodrick: At the present price of silver the bullion value of the rupee is approximately 9d. The suggestion that the maintenance of the exchange value at a higher level is injurious to the Indian tea trade in its competition with China is not in accordance with the opinion expressed in 1899 by the Committee on Indian Currency, over which the right hon. member for Wolverhampton presided; nor is it borne out by such statistics of the export of tea from India and China as have been brought to my notice. There is no intention of modifying the Indian currency system.

The Report on Railways.—Mr. Randles asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the Report on Railways by Mr. Robertson has been considered; and, if so, what steps are being taken to carry out the policy recommended in the report both as to development and improved facilities on existing railways.

Mr. Brodrick: The report on railways by Mr. Robertson is still under consideration. I am unable to say at present to what extent Mr. Robertson's recommendations will be acted upon.

A Secretariat for Commerce and Industries.—Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree asked the Secretary of State for India: If, in providing for the addition of a member to the Council of the Governor-General of India under the Indian Councils Bill, his intention is to place the new member in charge of a department of commerce and industries; and whether the new member will make it his special duty to organise a special system of technical and industrial education in India.

Mr. Brodrick: I would refer my hon. friend to the answer which I gave on the 9th instant to the hon. member for Ross and Cromarty. The establishment of a Secretariat for Commerce and Industries is under consideration, but has not yet been finally decided upon. Should such a Secretariat be established, it would no doubt give attention to the question of technical education.

The East Indian Accounts.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he will state when the Explanatory Memorandum on East Indian Accounts and Estimates, 1904-1905, will be presented to Parliament.

Mr. Brodrick: The Memorandum is in preparation, and I hope that it may be presented to Parliament early in July.

Tuesday, June 21.

British Troops in India.—Captain Norton asked the Secretary of State for War: If he can state the number of men enlisted for three years now serving in India, and also how many of these will complete their term of service prior to the close of the trooping season 1904-1905, also the number of troops required for Indian reliefs for 1904-1905.

Mr. Bromley-Davenport: The number of men serving on their three years' engagement on the May 1 returns was 3,677. About 1,000 of these will complete their term of service prior to the close of the trooping season 1904-1905, unless they extend their service. The drafts estimated as required by India next trooping season amount to 11,300.

The Thibet Mission.—Mr. Charles Devlin asked the Secretary of State for India: If he will state the object of the mission to Thibet, the cost to date of same, the progress made and the loss of life sustained in promoting negotiations; whether, in view of the determination of the Thibetans to resist further negotiation of the character exemplified by the mission; it is the intention of the Government to continue the work of the mission; and if, in the event of success attending the mission, it is the intention of his Majesty's Government to annex Thibet.

Mr. Brodrick said: For the object of the Thibet Mission, the progress of the negotiations, and the intentions of his Majesty's Government, I must refer the hon. member to the Blue Books and to the statements made from time to time in this House. There is no change of policy on the part of his Majesty's Government. The total estimated expenditure to March 31 last was 308,500l., and the monthly expenditure from April is estimated at a little over 50,000l. Down to June 10 there had been killed in action two British officers, one native officer, 20 native rank and file, and two followers. There have also been the following deaths, otherwise than in action:—Two British officers, one British soldier, one native officer, one native warrant officer, 63 native rank and file, 116 followers.

Mr. Lambert: Can the right hon. gentleman tell us what has been the loss of life among the Thibetans?

Mr. Brodrick: The information with regard to the losses among the Thibetans has been published as it reached us, and we have no other knowledge on the subject.

Mr. C. Devlin: The right hon. gentleman has not answered the latter part of my question.

Mr. Brodrick: Yes, sir; I have stated that there is no change in the policy of his Majesty's Government.

Mr. Herbert Samuel: May I ask the right hon. gentleman whether the Thibetans have been made fully aware that it is not the intention of his Majesty's Government to annex their country?

Mr. Brodrick: Yes, sir, in every way in which the Government could make it clear.

Coolie Disturbances.—Replying to Mr. MacNeill, Mr. Lyttelton said that he had asked for a telegraphic report on disturbances said to have taken place in Tien-tsin between two batches of Chinese indentured labourers awaiting embarkation for the Transvaal mines, in which three Chinamen were said to have been killed and 20 wounded, the disturbances being reported to be due to the feud between natives of North and South China.

Expanding Bullets.—Mr. MacNeill asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he can now say whether the troops, or any of them, on active service in the invasion of Thibet are provided with the dum-dum bullet, or any other bullet of an expansive character; and if so, what explanation, if any, can be offered for the use of such bullets in the

Tibetan expedition, having regard to the undertaking against their use in Boer war, and the declaration signed by all the delegates of the European Powers except the delegates of Great Britain at The Hague Conference, to abstain from the use of bullets which expand or flatten easily in the human body, such as bullets with a hard envelope which does not entirely cover the body or is pierced with incisions.

Mr. Brodrick: The Government of India have informed me that no dum-dum ammunition has been used by the Thibet Mission escort, and that none is in the possession of that force.

Wednesday, June 22.

Liquor Shops in Bombay.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he is aware that on the Soparibag Road in the city of Bombay there are within a distance of 1,640 yards 14 shops for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and that an application has been made to the collector for permission to open another shop within the same area; whether he will state what steps will be taken to ascertain local public sentiment in the matter before the application is granted; and whether he is aware that permission is frequently given for the opening or transfer of shops without the inhabitants of the locality concerned having had an adequate opportunity of making known their objections.

Mr. Brodrick: I have been in communication with the Governor of Bombay on the subject, and have ascertained from him that instructions were issued last year for a reduction in the number of shops in the Soparibag Road if, on careful local inquiry, they were found to be excessive. I presume that action has been taken accordingly. I am not aware that an application for permission to open another shop in the same area is pending. A license for another shop in the Falkland Road has lately been refused. Before an application is granted, notices are posted up in the locality, public proclamation made, and residents personally informed by the Excise officers. The procedure is considered by the Bombay Government to give to the inhabitants an adequate opportunity of making known their objections.

NOTICES OF MOTION, ETC.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: If his attention has been drawn to the fact that owing to want of adequate traffic arrangements stores of wheat and grain of the last harvest in India have been detained at the Kurrachee and other ports and at several railway stations, and that owing to the delay in transit thousands of bags have been rotting; and, if so, can he say whether the local authorities are taking steps for increasing the facilities for the transit of these stores, as well as for the preservation and storage of the surplus stock, so as to make it available for future local consumption in seasons of scarcity.

Mr. Herbert Roberts.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies: Whether, in view of the decision of the Chief Justice of the Transvaal Supreme Court with reference to the right of British Indian subjects to trade in any part of the Transvaal, he is now in a position to state what steps will be taken to give effect to this decision by the removal of existing restrictions upon their trade.

A MONGHYR SENSATION.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Monghyr, July 10.

In my last I spoke of the tug-of-war between the two rivals, Babu Gopal Chandra Som, M.A., B.L., and Maulvi Mohammad Ismail B. L., pleader, for the Municipal Commissionership, which fell vacant on the death of Babu Kanti Charan Mukherjee, and how the latter gentleman succeeded in securing the seat. I need not reiterate the circumstances under which the election took place, but I regret to notice that this circumstance has given rise to further bitterness of feelings between the parties. The paucity of the legal element on the Municipal Board goes to prove the worthlessness of the present Corporation, and it was gratifying to see that a pleader succeeded in securing the seat left vacant by its late occupant, who was also a pleader, instead of an ornamental figure head, who could have been easily elected, if a certain person in authority had merely willed it. Babu Gopal Chandra has instituted a suit against Moulvi Md. Ismail in the Munsif's 2nd Court, Monghyr, for a declaration that the election of his rival is bad in law, inasmuch as it was had by the exercise of undue influence, threat, persuasions &c. The plaintiff also put in a petition supported by an affidavit, for the issue of an injunction against the Government of Bengal in its Financial and Municipal Departments, and the Superintendent of Government Printing Press, Calcutta, restraining them from publishing the election of the Moulvi Sahab in the "Calcutta Gazette," and against the Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division, restraining him from sending up to Government the Collector's letter recommending the publication of the elected candidate's name in the next issue of the "Calcutta Gazette." The Munsif has refused the application for injunction on the ground that the persons sought to be restrained as above are no parties to the suit. The suit has created a great sensation in the town.

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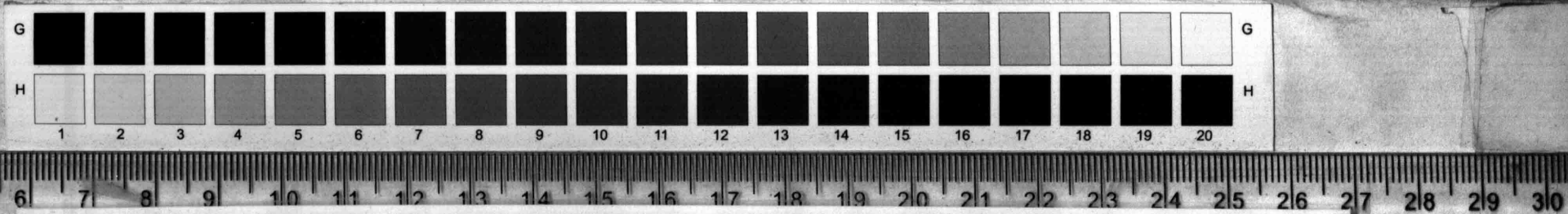
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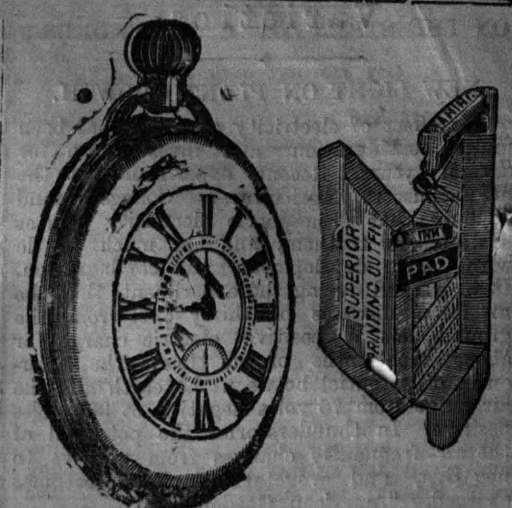
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SHORT STORY.

ON THE STRENGTH OF HER WORDS.

(By Herbert Jamieson.)

The boys had suggested a game of tennis, and Cyril Wyatt came up from the garden to get his tennis-racquet, which was standing in the corner of the verandah that ran round the back of the fine old house.

"Thanks, old man, a thousand thanks! And you'll be best man at the wedding?" Cyril did not look wholly delighted at the suggestion.

Just see "how he coached me through my exam. I wonder whether he'll ask you to be his best man."

filtered water, particularly in the rainy season, since about a dozen years, it is resolved that a Special Committee, consisting of six Commissioners and the Chairman, be appointed to investigate into the matter and suggest possible remedies, and that this Committee be empowered to consult expert opinion, if necessary.

FURLOUGHS.

The following statement shows the number of furloughs which may be allotted to officers of the Indian Civil Service during the second half of 1904:—

THEFT OF POSTAL STAMPS.

Mr. Johnston, officiating Sessions Judge of Lucknow on Tuesday convicted Brij Mohan, a Brahman boy messenger, aged fifteen, employed in the Branch Post Office, attached to the Civil and Military Hotel, of secreting letters which had been posted, and afterwards removing the stamps and converting them to his own use.

THE SLAVE'S REVENGE.

"The slave," says Souvestre, "is a slave which is obliged to accept everything imposed upon it; but finally avenges its wrongs with the slowness and cruelty of a slave."

Corporation of Calcutta.

A special meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday at 4 p.m.

MEMBER ON THE BENGAL COUNCIL.

The item for consideration was to recommend a member to H. H. the Lieutenant-Governor for nomination to a seat on the Bengal Legislative Council in place of the Hon'ble Dr. Ashutosh Mukhopadhyaya, resigned.

Mr. Banks Gwither said that a man who had a long connection with the Corporation, should be a representative of the Corporation. The candidate should be a man of large experience.

Moharaj Kumar Prodyat Kumar Tagore proposed that Babu Nalin Behary Sircar be elected. In doing so he said:—

It is with sincere pleasure that I beg to propose Babu Nolin Behary Sircar to be elected a member of the local Legislative Council as a fitting representative of this great Corporation.

Mr. Wilson asked if anything had been done with regard to reducing the number of crows. The motion agreed to at the last meeting was that immediate steps be taken to reduce the number.

The President said he took it the reduction could only take place during the nesting season. He should like to hear any proposals.

Mr. Wilson understood that it was entirely a matter for arrangement between the President and the Commissioner of Police.

The President said that the arrangement was not with a view to shooting crows, and he had done nothing with regard to that.

Mr. Wilson said that if the Commissioner of Police thought so, he had nothing more to say than that it was regrettable.

The President said he was willing to delegate his powers to any member who wanted to shoot crows.

Mr. McDonnell said he would give the permission. He hoped a return would be placed before the Committee to show how many crows were shot in Fytche Square.

FOOD IN THE SPIRIT WORLD.

London, June 20.

At Versailles on Saturday the extraordinary case of the "Succress of Marly" came up for hearing, telegraphs our Paris correspondent.

It will be remembered that Mme. Chappuis, a widow over seventy years of age, practised spiritualism with Mme. Marbin, who, it is stated, pretended to evoke the spirit of the deceased M. Chappuis.

During the seances, which were accompanied by rose-coloured clouds and green flames, "the late M. Chappuis" invited his wife to come and join him in the other world, and to give the medium, Mme. Marbin, all her property, which she did. Mme. Chappuis is now dead, her death being hastened, it is suggested, by the "emotion" of the seances.

On Saturday the spiritualist denied everything. All she had ever done, she said, was to engage in table turning with Mme. Chappuis. She had never received any money from her, and if she now occupied the dead lady's house she had paid for it. Several witnesses, however, flatly contradicted these statements.

It came out during the hearing that the late M. Chappuis was very comfortable in his new quarters; indeed, for a spirit his tastes were of a strongly mundane kind. His food, he said, was of the best, and through the medium he more than once offered to give his wife the recipe for the dishes he preferred.

When Mme. Chappuis on one occasion asked whether she could communicate with her husband she received the answer, "No not for a moment, as he has gone out with his dog Minette. But I will go and look for him," said the voice. Shortly after he arrived with his dog and entered into conversation with the widow.

On another occasion two members of the Chappuis family changed the order in which they had agreed to enter the medium's sanctum, and "the late M. Chappuis" mistook their identity, taking the older for the younger.

Whatever the import of the communication with the departed might be, it invariably closed, with a recommendation on M. Chappuis's part to be kind to the medium.

General Oku says he buried 1,510 Russians at Telissu. Natives say the Russians buried, burned, or carried away a hundred others. The Russians say they were practically famished before the battle and the troops were soddened by the rain. They had to cross a mile of open country under a decimating Japanese fire. Fears are entertained in Russia for General Stackelberg's army. General Kurapatkin is condemned severely for sending General Stackelberg south and this action is compared to the unferming of the foundation of a house containing inmates in the third storey.

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

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR AT NOAKHALI.

Noakhali, July 10.

His Honor and party consisting of the Private Secretary, A. D. C. Inspector General of Jails, Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Financial Secretary reached Noakhali at about 6 a.m., and were received by the Magistrate, the District Judge, the Chairman of the Municipality, the District Superintendent of Police and the members of the Reception Committee.

The entire length of the road leading from the Railway Station to the Circuit House was beautifully decorated and lined with plantain trees. Several arches and gates were erected, and the Town-Hall, Zillah School, Jubilee School, Girls' School were also tastefully decorated. His Honor and party at first drove down to the local Jail and then visited the Hospital, the Magistrate's Court, the Civil Court after which His Honor drove down to the Circuit House, where he dined at 10. Between 2 to 3-30 p.m. His Honor received the official and non-official leading gentlemen of the town. After 4 p.m., His Honor visited the Zillah School, the Jubilee School and the girls' School. At 5-30, a Durbar was held at the Town Hall. Four addresses were presented, one by the Municipality, one by the Islam Association, one by the Hita-Sadhini Sabha (which is People's Association of this District). In reply, His Honor thanked the local bodies for expressing a kind feeling towards himself and feeling of loyalty to the Emperor Edward VII. His Honor's attitude towards local wants and grievances were very sympathetic, every one present were impressed with the sincerity and the sympathetic tone which characterized His Honor's utterances. Regarding the inconvenient timing of the train service, His Honor said that he had been informed by the Railway authorities that the grievances would be removed after the rainy season. As to the construction of a feeder road from Shonaimuri to Rangunge, His Honor thought that no less than 75,000 rupees would be necessary, out of which Government would be prepared to sanction a grant of Rs. 25,000. Regarding the difficulty of communication between Sandip and the mainland, His Honor thought that this was a real grievance, he would consult Railway and Steamer Companies as to how best it might be removed and the District Board should be prepared to grant a subsidy for the purpose. As to the telegraphic communication with Lakhimpore, His Honor would request the Telegraph authorities to undertake the project. Replying to the Municipal address, His Honor said that efforts should be made to strengthen the finances by appointing a paid assessor which would ensure fair and impartial assessment all round. The rates should also be increased. This unwholesome tanks and cess-pools, should be filled up. His Honor regretted the party feeling which prevails here at the time of Municipal elections. Local Self-Government was really a boon if really self-sacrificing and capable members of the community are elected by the people as their representatives. His Honor expressed satisfaction at the general sanitary improvement of the Town.

Replying to the 'Hita Sadhini' Sabha's address, His Honor regretted the policy which had transferred one junior scholarship from Noakhali to Rangumati, as a backward district it deserved educational encouragement; and His Honor would see that another junior scholarship be allotted to Noakhali. As regards the appointment of a permanent Subordinate Judge at Noakhali, His Honor could do nothing without consulting the High Court. If facts and figures justified, His Honor in communication with the High Court would see that a Subordinate Judge is permanently located at Noakhali. Regarding the proposal of partition of Bengal, His Honor praised the gentle and the courteous manner in which the subject was introduced. He was glad that there was no attempt to exaggerate the feeling evoked by the proposal. So far as he understood the proposal, it was not for transferring portions of Bengal to Assam but the erection of some districts of Bengal together with Assam with a separate Lieutenant-Governor, a legislative Council and a Board of revenue. The matter was now under the consideration of the India Government and the Secretary of State for India and he had no doubt that it would be finally settled by them with due regard for the feelings and opinions of the people. Referring to the Belvedere Conference, His Honor said that His Honor had the opportunity of discussing frankly all the aspects of the scheme, with the delegates from the Eastern Districts. As to reform in the existing system of payment of landlords' fees under the Bengal Tenancy Act, His Honor would try to devise an elective system under which such fees might be received by the landlord without difficulty, in consultation with the Board of Revenue.

Replying to the Islamia Address, His Honor understood there were only 7 Mahomedan graduates in this District all of whom had chosen honorable non-official professions; so that there were no competent Mahomedan who could be appointed to the executive or the judicial branch of the Provincial Service. His Honor urged importance of education. His Honor was prepared to sanction a grant of Rs. 2,500 for the equipment of a 'Madrasah' provided an equal sum were raised by local subscriptions and donations, but the education imparted in the Institution should be based on modern methods. While religious education had its importance, secular education would not also be neglected in the present condition of life.

In course of the address, His Honor thanked Babu Pyari Lal Roy, Zemindar of Shaikhta Nagore, for a liberal donation of Rs. 2,500, for the construction of a contagious diseases ward to the local Civil Hospital which was to be associated with His Honor's name.

In conclusion, His Honor congratulated Mr. S. O. Dhar, District and Sessions Judge on the latter's acquisition of the title of Rai Bahadurship, after a long and meritorious service under the Government. His Honor hoped that Mr. Dhar would pass his retirement, in peace and prosperity.

At nightfall all principal streets were illuminated and at about 9-30 there was display of fire-works in the Union Club playground. His Honor left this place at 10 p.m.

MUNICIPAL IRREGULARITIES.

A Siakhot correspondent writes to the 'Tribune':—The privilege of Local Self-Government is going to be abused, and we cannot help drawing the attention of the authorities to the following irregularities which have taken place during the last few months. The Superintendent of Octorai was appointed on probation for six months, but only after two months he was confirmed in his post without sufficient ground, although exception was taken to his actions in general meetings. Many members were absent on the day of his being confirmed, as they disliked his being made permanent so soon. The Sanitary Inspector was appointed on a consolidated pay of Rs. 50, but, strange to say, he was given Rs. 15 as horse allowance after a short time. His predecessor used to draw Rs. 10. The allowance is given to keep a horse, but we are at a loss to understand how when he had no horse the Inspector was drawing the allowance? Another irregularity, which is the sensation of the day, is the filing of a complaint under Sections 417, 420, 571, Indian Penal Code, by the Superintendent of Octorai, against Lala Harjas Rai, a Municipal Commissioner, without obtaining the permission of the Municipality. We hear that the expenses to be incurred on the prosecution are to be met by the Municipality. The Municipality is loth to spend money for repairs and execution of sanitary improvements, but not so for useless enterprises.

HIGH COURT N. W. P. DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE.

Clement Peal—Petitioner v. Elizabeth Peal and Henry Fordham.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 8TH JULY.

The petitioner in the case is one Clement Peal, a guard in the service of the East Indian Railway. On the 1st of January 1894, he was lawfully married to the respondent, then the widow of Sergeant McLaughlin. After his marriage, the petitioner cohabited with her for a series of years at Allahabad and had three children by her, who are still living. From the date of their marriage till the 10th of December 1902, they lived happily as man and wife and no clouds threatened their sky. It has been sworn to by Peal that on the 11th of December, 1902 he was on the platform of the East Indian Railway at the Allahabad station, at about 6-45 p.m. As the train was put back for about three hours, he came back to his quarters at about 8 p.m. to take a cup of tea. He found the three doors of the front closed; so he went to the back of the house. He found two out of three doors closed. The third, that is, the bed-room door, was slightly ajar. He went in and found his three children asleep. His wife was not in the room. He heard voices in the sitting room. He passed through the dining room. There was no light in the dining room. He lifted the curtain to go into the drawing room. He saw his wife and the co-respondent, Henry Fordham. As soon as the curtain was lifted, they jumped apart. They were on a cane sofa. The light was low. He used one of those strong expressions, which one uses when angry to an unchaste woman and asked both of them to leave the house. He next went towards the station. He was followed by Fordham and his wife. They begged forgiveness and the latter promised to be a good wife. It was upon this understanding that the case was compounded between man and wife. The next suspicious incident happened about the middle of February of the current year. Fordham had left Allahabad and was in the employ of the Railway Company at Burdwan. Mrs. Peal in the course of her journey from Allahabad to Calcutta and back again from Calcutta to Allahabad twice broke journey at Burdwan. She was received at the Railway station by Fordham and also seen off by him; as is deposed to by the 3 ticket collectors, Herbert Jordan, Henry Jordan and the third with an apostolic name, Simon Paul, who professes to be a great authority in divorce cases. The last witness produced by the petitioner was Nakruddin, the Dak Bungalow cook. He said that Mrs. Peal stopped at the Burdwan Dak Bungalow on two occasions and that she was accompanied by Henry Fordham who sent food for her through his own 'Khansama' and that Fordham's bungalow was close to the Dak Bungalow and was separated by a tank between.

It was also in evidence that on the two occasions of her visit, Mrs. Peal signed her name in the Dak Bungalow Visitors' Book as Mrs. Newcock. Her husband stated on oath that he had examined the book and found the entries in his wife's hand-writing. The pages containing the above entries have been removed from the visitors' book—a fact which tells its own story.

The petitioner appeared by a Counsel, there was no appearance on the part of the respondent Henry Fordham put in his appearance under Henry Fordham put in his appearance that she was accompanied by Henry Fordham and although not represented by a counsel, he carried on the cross-examination of the witnesses himself.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 9TH JULY.

On the 9th July, the statement of Nakruddin was concluded. He said that on the second occasion of her coming to the Dak Bungalow, Mrs. Peal took a smaller room with only one bed and was not accompanied by her children. He was cross-examined at great length by the co-respondent, who began by asking a large number of questions about the Dak Bungalow cook and passed next to the Dak Bungalow book. Nakruddin was followed by the Chief Ticket Collector of Burdwan. He said "About the 5th of this month, Fordham spoke to me at the Burdwan Institute about my evidence. He said 'What is the good of running a poor man in? If you three Ticket Collectors denied recognising Mrs. Peal I could square the Dak Bungalow 'Khansama.'" The petitioner Peal was recalled for cross-examination at Fordham's instance and said: "I believe Fordham is my step cousin. My mother and his mother are step-sisters. The night I returned to my quarters, and found Fordham and my wife together, Dunham Blake was in the house in bed. He is my wife's brother, aged 19. The boy is stone-deaf. I am not friendly with my wife. I was not on the platform in arm with my wife." After this, Fordham volunteered himself as a witness. He said Mrs. Peal had been simply and friendly terms with him and that no adultery had been committed. His examination has not as yet been finished.

JUDGE AND PLEADER.

QUESTION OF GIVE AND TAKE.

On the Appellate Side of the Bombay High Court the Hon. Mr. Justice Chandavarkar and the Hon. Mr. Justice Batty have disposed of an application for revision in the case of Imperator against Dattatrya Venkatesh Belvi, a pleader. The accused was convicted by Mr. W. O. Alcock, Assistant Sessions Judge of Belgaum, in February last, of intentional insult or interruption to a public servant in a judicial proceeding, and was fined two annas, or in default one month's simple imprisonment. An appeal from the decision was made by the accused to Mr. T. Walker, Sessions Judge of Belgaum, who confirmed the conviction and sentence.

Mr. Young, instructed by the Hon. Mr. D. A. Khare and Mr. K. H. Kelkar, appeared for the accused. There was no appearance on behalf of the Assistant Sessions Judge.

Mr. T. Walker, in disposing of the appeal, had remarked that, in acting as he did, Mr. Alcock considered he was being interrupted and hindered to a degree which no Judge ought to permit; and Mr. Belvi's interruptions were due entirely to zeal for his client's interests and with no intention whatever of insulting the court. The offence was that, in the Sessions case tried by Mr. Alcock, a witness Gurdapaya, whom the defence wished to call, was not present in Court. The Assistant Sessions Judge directed Mr. Belvi to call his next witness; and this direction was given four times to Mr. Belvi, who four times refused to accept it and persisted that he wanted a note made on the record of the absence of Gurdapaya. That this conduct amounted to intentional interruption seemed to Mr. Walker unquestionable. Nothing could be clearer, he said, than that when a Judge had once definitely ruled a point, pleaders must give way. A reasonable amount of give and take was, of course, usual and proper; but this seemed to have exceeded the latitude which could be allowed by any court to its pleaders; and Mr. Walker thought Mr. Alcock was right to do as he did in the way he had done. Mr. Walker said he took the account of the facts solely from Mr. Alcock's statement, and not from any admission of Mr. Belvi, or by way of compromise between the statements of Mr. Alcock and Mr. Belvi. He was confident that Mr. Alcock, both as a member of the Indian Civil Service and as occupying a seat on the Mofussil Bench, would be most careful to state the facts exactly as they occurred, and not in any way to exaggerate circumstances or stretch points against a pleader of the Court. Mr. Walker noticed a question of jurisdiction raised in the appellant's statement, and thought there was nothing in it. He confirmed the conviction and sentence.

The appellant, in his petition to the High Court, stated he was a pleader practising in the Courts of Belgaum. While engaged in conducting a case, the petitioner requested the Judge to make note of a certain fact. The Judge having declined to make such a note, the petitioner had to repeat his request; but in doing so, he had no intention either to insult or interrupt the Court. The Judge, however, took a different view, and proceeding under Section 480 of the Criminal Procedure Code, ordered the petitioner to be taken into custody. The Court as Sessions Court then rose, tried civil appeals in which the petitioner himself appeared, and then took up this case and convicted him. Petitioner submitted that the Court below had exceeded its jurisdiction in trying and convicting the petitioner after the Court, as Sessions Court, had risen for the day; that the Courts had given no reasons in their judgments; that the Court of first instance ought to have framed the charge and specified the interruption or the contempt, and ought to have allowed evidence to be taken; and that the Sessions Court had proceeded on an erroneous apprehension of the facts and of the law.

Mr. Justice Chandavarkar in delivering judgment, said the accused had been convicted by Mr. Alcock, Assistant Sessions Judge of Belgaum, under Section 228, Indian Penal Code. That Section required that the insult to the Court or interruption should be intentional. In this case, there was no evidence of any intention on the part of the pleader to insult or interrupt the Court. The whole affair had been given undue importance and might have been more quietly settled. Some latitude should be allowed to a member of the Bar insisting in the conduct of his case upon his question being taken down or his objections noted where the Court thought the question inadmissible or the objection untenable. There ought to be a spirit of give and take between the Bench and the Bar in such matters and every little persistence on the part of a pleader should not be turned into an occasion for a criminal trial unless the pleader's conduct were so clearly vexatious as to lead to the inference that his intention was to insult or interrupt the Court. We do not say that we approve of Mr. Belvi's persistence, but after he had apologized it would have been a proper exercise of discretion if Mr. Alcock had let the matter drop. We reverse the conviction recorded against, and the sentence passed upon the accused; and direct the fine of two annas, if paid, to be refunded.

Some time back a well-connected Hindu girl wife residing in the Kanjar Phalla Mohalla, Lahore, decoyed into a house another girl and attempted to kill her, presumably from motives of jealousy. The victim, however, attracted some men and the girl was rescued, but only after she had been severely injured. The girl was murdered was tried in the Sessions Court and sentenced to undergo imprisonment for two years. She has appealed to the Punjab Chief Court.

On the night of the 23rd March last a formidable gang of dacoits had entered the house of a goldsmith named Aniden in the village of Dheri Shahar, District Rawalpindi, and brutally assaulted him and his daughter, causing them thereby grievous hurt. The iron safe was broken open and gold and silver ornaments valuing Rs. 1,500 were carried away. Shaikh Muhammad Hussain, Deputy Inspector of Police, who is a young man of energetic habits, had to investigate into the case and with great devotion and hard labour has been successful in finding clue of the perpetrators of this daring dacoity. A large portion of the stolen property has been recovered and he has also captured 7 or 8 of the number. They have been put on trial; 4 being transported for life, while the case of the rest is yet pending.

THE NARAYANGARH DISASTER.

(From Our Special Reporter.)

Early on the morning of Friday the 8th instant, the Hindu-Calcutta was startled and shocked to receive the report of a serious disaster that occurred to the Madras Mail of the previous night near Kaliaighai river, a mile off the Narayangarh station of the Bengal Nagpur Railway. The accounts were so awful and the particulars as to the loss of life so vague that everybody was extremely anxious for fuller reports, the train having left Howrah with a heavy traffic on account of the ensuing 'rathjatra' festival at Puri. The anxiety of those who had bade farewell to their friends and relatives, parents and children, husbands and wives, can hardly be described. As the day advanced a large number of these anxious people flocked to the Howrah station to see if they could get any information from the passengers arriving there by the Madras Mail due at 6-30 a. m. But alas! there was no sight of the train till five o'clock in the evening. The railway officials at the station also could not relieve their anxieties by supplying them with any information except that the accident had occurred and the line was blocked! We know that there is no law binding the Railway authorities to allay public anxiety by placing official information, however meagre it may be, at the disposal of the press and the principal Station-masters, of any such accident where human lives are concerned, but is it not the duty of the Railway itself to take such steps? And when they do not care it, should not the Government compel them to do this? We know that on an accident to a railway train occurring, a copy of the accident report is forthwith sent to the nearest Magistrate. At least this official should do something in this respect. But of this hereafter.

Now to the facts. Owing to the heavy rains on the previous two days, many people thought that some bridge must have collapsed causing the disaster, indeed such was the rumour afloat in the air. But no. Though the Allahighai was in high flood and the land on both sides of the railway embankment was inundated, the lines were still almost safe, it being ten to twelve feet above the water level. There had however been a 'sinking' of the line at the site of the accident owing to the softening of the earth below it on account of the rains. This 'sinking,' according to the railway experts present, caused the parting of the train at the middle, a coupling having given way. Some seven carriages, one first class, one composite 1st and 2nd, four 3rd class and a composite postal and third class van were completely severed from the main composition of the train when the train was running at a fairly good speed. All these carriages, as they now stand, have been completely damaged beyond all hopes of repairs! But, though it would appear rather extraordinary and amazing in the extreme, the Railway authorities assert that only one 'native' passenger was killed and two Europeans and two 'natives' injured and these are doing well in the hospital! We have had many accidents far less serious than the present one but nowhere, if the official account is to be credited, was the providential help so vivid and so astonishingly wonderful. We now only hope that the authorities are correct in their estimate and calculation. In fact, those who reached Calcutta on Friday, believed that nearly half the unfortunate passengers in these seven carriages must have been killed. We cannot conclude this report without giving some credit to the Agent and other superior officers of the Railway and the medical staff from Kharagpur who at once, on the receipt of the accident message, repaired to the scene, to render every possible assistance to all those whom they hoped to see injured.

A WHALE WASHED ASHORE NEAR COLOMBO.

On Friday last, the carcass of a whale was washed ashore at the village of Athuruwela, near Alutgama, a station on the sea coast railway. The information was wired by the Assistant Government Agent of the province to Dr. A. Willey, Director of the Colombo Museum. The washing ashore of a whale is interesting because the occurrence is rare, and Dr. Willey lost no time in visiting the spot. He left Colombo the same day, and, after inspecting the carcass, decided to secure the skeleton for the Colombo Museum. When Dr. Willey saw it, the huge carcass had been partly broken up, but he expected to save the skeleton. It was that of a cachalot or sperm whale—the oil yielding whale of commerce ('Physeter macrocephalus')—and bore traces of having been shot with a harpoon gun by whalers. The left half of the upper jaw had been shattered and broken off. Measurements taken showed the skull to be 6 feet in height, while the length of the head to the end of the muzzle was 16 feet. The two nasal bones, which would make the head longer, had broken off. The width of the head was 5 feet 5 inches. Dr. Willey estimated the length of a full-grown sperm whale to be about 40 feet. As the usual length of a full-grown sperm whale is about 80 feet, the specimen washed ashore at Athuruwela must be that of a middle aged one. The whale had probably been killed two or three weeks before, as there was hardly any flesh left on the skull except a few tendons, though the body had a quantity of flesh without any skin. It took twenty villagers to lift half of the upper jaw. When Dr. Willey was at the spot, the skull and about eight sections of the vertebrae had been brought ashore. About fifty men were at work, but the skeleton could not be secured at once as the masses of flesh could not be cut through, the hatchets brought into requisition rebounding without making any apparent impression. Dr. Willey expects to secure the rest of the bones after the flesh has fallen off. The smell, however, was not very offensive and no danger of sickness among the villagers was apprehended. Numbers of the 'Portuguese man-of-war,' jelly fish ('Physalis physalis') swarmed in the water and interfered with the salving work to some extent. Their stinging tentacles coming in contact with the naked bodies of the men produced numbness, and they could not work for some time. The work of salving the skeleton is an extensive one, but Dr. Willey hopes to have it brought to Colombo shortly.

While on this subject it is interesting to note that the last time a whale was washed ashore was about six years ago at the village of Weligama, in the Southern Province. The one previous to that was cast ashore at Ambalangoda, also in the Southern Province, about ten years ago. It was that of a baleen or whalebone whale, and the skeleton was secured and lodged in the Colombo Museum. Previous to that another carcass, that of a sperm whale, was washed ashore at Talimannar, in the Northern Province, and the skeleton in that case also was secured for the Museum. The two skeletons now in the possession of the Museum are placed in open cadjan sheds, where they cannot be kept dry. A large substantial shed will become necessary in which to preserve the skeletons of the Museum.

PRANKS OF A MAGISTRATE.

The Gujranwala correspondent of the 'Tribune' writes under date June 22:—Readers of the 'Tribune' have read of the treatment accorded by the Deputy Commissioner of Attock to one of his official subordinates. The doings of our present Deputy Commissioner of Gujranwala are hardly less worthy of record. It is a topic of the day that a Municipal Commissioner was turned out of the meeting room by the Deputy Commissioner. It is said that while a hot discussion was going on on a subject, the member in question was talking with another person. The Deputy Commissioner told him to 'sneak jao,' but he did not; second time he repeated his order, but the member did not obey. On this the Deputy Commissioner cried, 'Koi hai?' The member thought that he would now be caught by the ears by the Chhaprase and made to do 'Uth Baith' like a school boy—and he left the room as a meek lamb. We are sorry for the other members who were glad at this insult offered to their colleague. We draw the attention of the Commissioner to this scandal. The member is a representative of the people and a leader of the Khatris. If Deputy Commissioners find that representatives of the people are not able to sit with them, they should recommend to put a stop to the present system of Local Self-Government and take all matters in their own hands, or modify the system of election. This is not the first case of a 'native' of respectable position having received such harsh treatment at the hands of our Deputy Commissioner. It is a common talk in the court that the common expression in his mouth is 'go out,' and he has applied it liberally before this to 4 pleaders whose name we do not wish to mention.

Mr. Wroughton, Inspector-General of Forests, on leave, will retire from the Service from the middle of next month. Mr. Eardley-Wilmot, now officiating for Mr. Wroughton, will then be confirmed.

The Government of India have requested the Government of the United Provinces to nominate a successor to Rai Bahadur Sri Ram as an Additional Member of the Supreme Legislative Council. The Rai Bahadur will complete his full term in October.

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