

Amrita Bazar Patrika

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

VOL XXXV.

CALCUTTA THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1904.

NO 57

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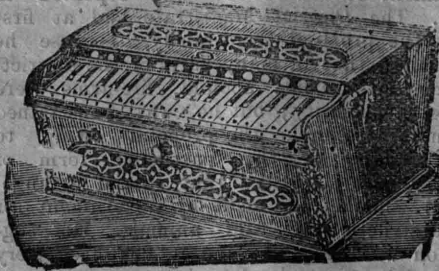
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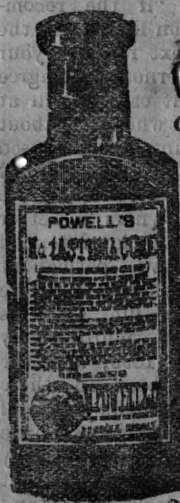
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Ranaghat,
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(Sd.) Dina Nath Mukherjee, Dy. Magistrate, Rajshahi.

Rajshahi, the 12th Oct. 1901.

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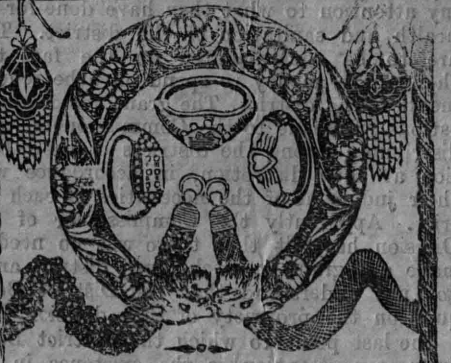
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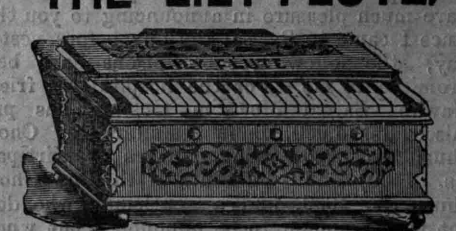
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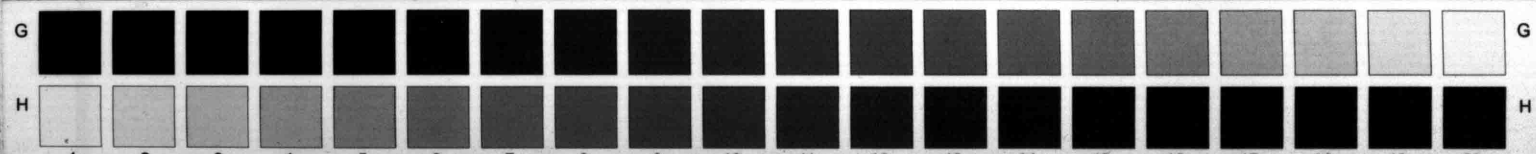
Give it but a trial and you will find its effects yourselves. Price is so moderate that a patient can be cured in one anna or less.

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THE L-G. AT BARISAL.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The Lieutenant Governor in replying to the addresses presented to His Honour at Barisal, said:—

I proceed briefly to discuss the questions to which my attention has been especially drawn in these addresses. A point which is mentioned in the Municipal address and also referred to in some of the addresses is the matter of the water supply of the town of Barisal. The Municipal Commissioners point out that a scheme for the construction of water works at Barisal is roughly estimated to cost 1,82,000 rupees. Of this amount you have already received Rs. 60,000 in two munificent subscriptions. You have also received a grant of Rs. 50,000 from the District Board; and the Government of Bengal has promised a grant of Rs. 25,000. This leaves a sum of Rs. 47,000 to be paid by the Municipality. You say that it is possible that the water works scheme may cost more than the cost estimated, and that it may therefore be necessary for the Municipality to find more than the balance of Rs. 47,000. You point out that the want of drinking water is one of your "crying evils;" and you ask me to pass such orders as may enable you to carry out this scheme. I understand this request to mean that you wish a larger grant from the Government than has been already promised.

Now, gentlemen, I fully concur with you in your statement that a good water supply may be regarded as an urgent requirement of this town. I congratulate you that you have been able to secure the munificent subscriptions to which I have already referred, and also that the District Board has been able to make so large a grant to the headquarters town. Their interest in the well-being of the headquarters town fully justifies the grant which they have made. I am unable, however, to promise you any further assistance from Government than the very considerable grant which has been already promised. You may be able to raise more money by subscription; and you must be ready to do something for yourselves. From enquiries which I have made, I am led to the conclusion that the incidence of Municipal taxation in Barisal is very light. The Municipal taxation consists of a tax on persons, which is certainly not always a satisfactory form of taxation; and that tax has been fixed at a low rate. If the incidence of taxation were raised to a reasonable figure, it would apparently be quite possible for the Municipality to meet the charges, in respect of interest and the sinking fund, on any loan that will probably be required to enable them to carry out the water works scheme. As I have already said, I fully accept your view of the necessity for carrying out that scheme. On your own showing, therefore, it is necessary that the funds should be raised if they can be raised by a reasonable taxation. Thanks to the subscriptions of Rs. 60,000 and the grants of Rs. 75,000 already offered, there appears to be no reasonable difficulty in raising the money required. It is, therefore, incumbent on you as a Municipal Committee to raise the money, in the interests of the people of the town. I am, therefore, bound to point out this duty to you, and to call upon you to perform it. The position of things is that, despite the great assistance offered by private subscribers and by the Government, this scheme, which is more than desirable and really necessary, is blocked by the fact that you have failed to take the necessary action for raising the comparatively small balance required to meet the cost of the scheme. My reply, therefore to the observations made in your address, is that it is your duty without delay to proceed to raise the funds that are necessary to complete the cost of the scheme. You must now proceed to consider ways and means in consultation with the Commissioner and Collector.

This may not be altogether a palatable answer to your statement about the water works. But I think that it is an answer which I am bound to give, for it expresses accurately and clearly my view of the situation. I am glad, however, to be able to modify this statement by holding out hope to you that you may have been a little pessimistic in your view of the possibility of raising more subscriptions for this work. You have yourselves more or less joined together the two questions of the water works and the new hospital and you seem to be doubtful about the possibility of raising money by subscriptions for these two objects. Now I have much pleasure in announcing to you that since I came to Barisal the day before yesterday, the following subscriptions have been promised to me. For the hospital my friend Nawab Saiyid Moazzim Hossain has promised Rs. 4,000, Babu Biswar Roy Chowdhuri Rs. 3,000, the zemindars of Kirtipasa Rs. 1,500, Babu Balkunta Nath Roy Chowdhuri Rs. 1,000, and a gentleman who does not wish his name to be announced but whom you know as the head of the Settlement Department and a man who loves the people another thousand. While the following subscriptions have been promised jointly for the water works and hospital:—The zemindars of Uliama Rs. 1,000, Babu Dinabandhu Sen Rs. 1,000, Babu Upendra Nath Sen Rs. 1,000, Babu Gobinda Mohan Roy Chowdhuri Rs. 1,000, so that a total of Rs. 14,500 has been promised for these objects within the last two days. I wish you success in collecting subscriptions and I trust especially that you will find that there are men, who though non-resident, recognise the obligation resting on them to assist in such work as this.

The question of a good water supply for the jail is one which has my attention; and I am determined to give the jail a good supply of water. I could do this quite independently of any action taken on the part of the Municipal Commissioners in regard to providing a good supply for the town; but, if I did so, you would lose the benefit of any payment that would fall to be made to the Municipality for the water provided to the jail. It would be a pity from your point of view to lose this source of legitimate revenue. The first question, therefore, to be considered is what you are going to do; I have indicated what you ought to do; and my views on that matter are altogether independent of my views of the necessities of the jail. For these necessities I am quite prepared to provide independently; but, on the other hand, I am not prepared to close my eyes to any failure on your part to provide for what you consider—and, as at present advised, I am prepared to accept your view—a real necessity for the town. If a water supply is necessary, you must

be ready to take your full share in paying for it. You cannot transfer all the burden to other shoulders.

The next point which is raised in the Municipal address is the question of the construction of the building for the charitable dispensary. The present building, as you say, has been repeatedly condemned by my predecessors in office and by successive Inspector-Generals of Civil Hospitals, as unfit for the purpose of a hospital. A suitable hospital building must therefore be provided. In such a matter as this it is right that the District Board should aid the Municipality for it is a fact beyond dispute that a large number of patients treated in the hospital come from the interior of the district. In providing such an institution also the Municipality ought to take some share; and, as I have already indicated, there appears to be no adequate reason why the Municipality should not do more than it has hitherto shown itself willing to do in bearing its own burdens of this kind. In the matter of providing suitable accommodation for a charitable dispensary, one may also very reasonably look to private charity and benevolence for aid. In this connection I may note the satisfaction with which I hear of the example shown to non-resident zemindars by the Nawab of Dacca in his liberal subscriptions to the water works. His three sources it ought not to be difficult to secure all the money that is required for the new building. But I am prepared, in consideration of the interest which the Government has in the hospital at the headquarters of districts, to agree to meet myself one-third of the cost of the building, so that all that will be required from the three sources which I have indicated is to raise the remaining two-thirds. This seems to me to be as much assistance as it would be right and reasonable in Government to give in regard to this scheme; and I trust that a grant of one-third of the cost of the building will appear to you to be a not illiberal contribution to this work. I shall now ask the Commissioner of Division and the Collector to proceed as far as possible, to work on a scheme for improving municipal taxation, and for supplying these wants on the lines which I have indicated. I am glad to hear that quite recently Babu Bishesar Rai Chowdhuri has given Rs. 3,000 and the Kirtipasa Babus Rs. 1,500 towards this worthy object.

In turning to the District address I desire first of all to express the great regret with which I have heard of the very serious illness of your Vice-Chairman Rai Dwarika Nath Dutt Bahadur who has just retired from his office in bad health. His valuable services to the community have laid us all under great obligation; and I join with you all in the earnest hope that he may be spared to a continued life of usefulness. The address deals with both the matters to which I have referred. I need say no more about them. I pass therefore to the discussion of what the District Board have to say regarding the project for connecting Barisal with the north of the district by a railway. I have consulted Mr. Manson the Manager of the Eastern Bengal State Railway system. He informs me that the proposed line from Barisal to Palardi is not likely to come into direct communication with the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Direct communication between Barisal and Calcutta via the present Bengal Central line or the Eastern Bengal State Railway would involve bridging the Gora river at a probable cost of sixty or seventy lakhs of rupees. By the alternative route via Faridpur the distance will be so great that no goods traffic would be likely to follow it, especially in view of the steamer competition and passenger traffic which the manager gives me. I think that you will agree with me that it conclusively shows that the cost of railway communication with Calcutta would be altogether prohibitive, and that Barisal must be content with a fast steamer service to Khulna. I have already pointed out to the people of Faridpur that there is no prospect of the Bengal Central Railway being extended to Madaripur; and so far as I can ascertain a direct canal through the Beel route between Madaripur and Khulna would be more suited to the requirements of the districts than a railway line which would as far as we can ascertain certainly not be remunerative.

The District Board draw my attention to the fact that for two or three years half a lakh of rupees had been placed at the disposal of the Divisional Commissioner for the improvement of communications, but that none of this money had found its way to the Backerganj district. I am not sure whether the Board make this a subject of complaint, or whether they merely state the facts for my information as they have already drawn my attention to what they have done for the health and sanitation of the district. They are to be congratulated on the fact that they have money to spend on the requirements of the district. The grant for communications was made to the Commissioners, to be distributed among the districts of their Division at their discretion, in accordance with their judgment of the necessities of each district. Apparently the Commissioner of this Division has felt that there was no need to make any grant to Backerganj district and I do not understand that the District Board question the propriety of that decision.

The last point to which the District Board draw my attention is the existence in the District Treasury of a large sum of unclaimed money, being the landlords' mutation and succession fees deposited for many years past. In this connection it is enough for me to say that the question of these fees has already attracted my attention is now engaging the attention of Your late Commissioner Mr. Savage now a member of the Board of Revenue. It had been already felt that the Bengal Tenancy Act may probably require amendment in regard to this matter; and I am consulting my Hon. friend Mr. Savage about it. The question will be considered in connection with the proposed amendment of the Act.

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; Abdol Karsom, Calcutta.

In the address presented by the Peoples Association there is only one matter calling for remark in addition to those which have been already discussed. That is the request "for a relaxation of the rule for the wholesale disarmament of this district which has deprived even the foremost gentlemen of Backergunge of the use of guns." The address goes on to say "we presume there are none who could say that there are not even a hundred men besides those officially privileged, who might be entrusted with fire arms." I have examined the papers in this case. I find that there had been up to 1896 a steady increase in the number of murders by gunshot. The figures for 1895 brought matters to a head. In the first six months of that year 17 persons were killed by gunshot in their homesteads; and in not one of these cases was the offence brought to justice. The proposal which had been made a year or two before for the disarmament of the district was repeated in 1896. The District Magistrate had at first made the proposal reluctantly, because he considered that in many parts of the district, where wild animals abound, fire-arms were almost a necessity; but he was constrained ultimately to make the proposal owing to the increase of this particular form of murder. He suggested that special arrangements should be made by Government for the destruction of wild animals. His suggestion was adopted; and it has been very successfully worked. You have made no reference to this important fact. Well then, Notification No. 4772J, dated the 22nd August, 1896, was therefore issued by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, in accordance with the views both of local officers and also of his own predecessor in office, Sir Charles Elliot. In issuing the directions which led to the submission of the proposal, Sir Charles Elliot said (in a letter from the Chief Secretary to the Commissioner of Dacca) "if the recommendation to withdraw all gun licenses in the district from 1st January next receives your support, the Lieutenant Governor will agree to enforce it; and in any case it will at least be known that any one who goes about carrying a gun must be carrying an unlicensed one. It would be necessary to make careful arrangements for registering and keeping the guns to be restored to their owners in better times." This shows that it was not intended that the orders should have permanent effect. The hope of relaxing them was before the Government. Now the result of this disarmament was that whereas murders by gunshot had numbered 22 in 1895, and the total number of murders had been 76, there were no murders by gunshot and only a total of 30 murders in 1897. The figures have been very much the same since then. They seem to indicate the truth of the saying that opportunities for ill make ill deeds done; and they justify the issue of the Notification. At the same time I think that, now that crime of this kind has so considerably diminished, some relaxation of the rules might be made. I do not propose to cancel the Notification, and wholly reverse the policy which has been pursued. I am ready, however, gradually to relax the orders so as to permit the District Magistrate to give licenses under certain definite conditions, to respectable and trustworthy persons. At first, the cases will necessarily be few and carefully selected. The persons selected will be men trusted not only to make good use of the guns themselves, but also to take care of their weapons so that they may not fall into the hands of those who will misuse them. If it is proved that lawlessness of this kind has ceased, and that licenses may be given in an increasingly larger number, we shall proceed gradually to extend this privilege. But we must proceed gradually. On the other hand, if the relaxation of the orders produces an increase in this class of crime, the Government will be compelled to resume the policy of 1896 and revert to disarmament. I shall ask the Magistrate to submit proposals through the Commissioner, in accordance with these views; and I trust that this relaxation of the orders may prove not to be unwise. In this matter I have the concurrence of the local officers of this District and Division.

LHASSA AND LAKE CHAD.

Sir Clements Markham, who presided at a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, held in the theatre, Burlington Gardens, on June 27, showed a series of lantern-screen photographs of Lhasa and its neighbourhood, taken by recent Russian visitors to Tibet; and a paper on "The Anglo-French Boundary Commission in Nigeria" was read by Col. G. S. McE. Elliot, R.E., who explained that the work of the Boundary Commission which left England in October 1902 was to ascertain where the frontier between the River Niger and the Lake Chad, defined in the Anglo-French Convention of 1898, actually lay, and he gave a graphic description of the country in which the investigation was made. Among his interesting points was the fact that in the country traversed before the Salt Desert which lived there all the year round, though the country was without water. Moisture existed in the leaves and twigs of certain plants, he explained, and it was probable that the bodies of white ants supplied the birds with all the liquid they required. Ants had been found 50 metres below the surface in some of the wells. As to Lake Chad, it seemed to have periods of high lake at certain regular intervals of years. This, he thought, was possibly due to some large underground syphon or system of syphons. The borders of the great lake were fringed with gazelles, wild-fowl, antelopes, ostriches, elephants, and hippo tracks. Major Burton remarked that the greater part of the country described by Col. Elliot had just been given away to France, so that it was doubtful whether British officers would be allowed into it in the future.

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

THE STORY OF THE KALLACHERA DACOITY CASE.

AS TOLD BY THE PROSECUTION.

(1)
KALLACHERA is a well-known Bazar in the Cachar District about 9 miles from the Sub-divisional headquarters of Hailakandi. It is close to a tea garden of the same name. There is a rich Hindu Mahajan (banker) here, an inhabitant of Sylhet, named Golak Chand Sahaji. He cashes tea garden 'hundis' and has therefore to keep with him cash varying from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 15,000 always. Persons in the neighbourhood and those who constantly pass his residence daily see silver laid bags carried to and from his house and are thus impressed with an idea that the Sahaji (by which name he is known among the common people) has got an unlimited quantity of hoarded cash in his house. This was the impression, it would seem, formed by one Pathan, named Abdul Hekim, an inhabitant of Cabul, who with some other Cabulies used to come for trade to Kallacherra for some years. On his return to his country, he convened a meeting of his friends and relations sometime in October or November last and proposed that they might come to Kallacherra and loot the house of Golaksahaji where they would be sure to find an immense booty. This proposal was eagerly taken up by his audience and ultimately 27 of them (including Abdul Hekim and one Bajid his sister's husband, who became the King's Evidence at the trial) left this country and came to Kushalghur in India about the latter part of November. For obvious reasons they did not obtain passes for coming to India and had to travel through hills to avoid detection. At Kushalghur they took the train and 8 of them (including Abdul Hekim and Bajid) broke journey and halted for a day at Amritsar with the object of getting small loans to meet their travelling and other out-of-pocket expenses but falling in this, they followed the first batch on the following day. The first batch of 18 men reached Calcutta about the 29th November and seemed to have left the same night on the following morning for Kallacherra arriving at Badarpur station on the A. B. Railway on the 1st December, in the afternoon. Here they left 9 of them to wait for the second batch and the rest, viz. 10 men, proceeded on foot early in the morning of the 2nd December for Dwarbundi near Kallacherra. The second batch came to Calcutta on the morning of the 30th December and not meeting their companions they started for Kallacherra the same night, arriving at Badarpur in the afternoon of the 2nd December. Here they were met at the station by 2 of the 9 men who were waiting for them. These two led them to a Masjid about 2 miles from the station where the others were resting. These seventeen men passed the night there and borrowed a "dekhi" from a man living near the Masjid to cook their meals in. Early next morning two of these seventeen men left on foot to inform the first party of the arrival of the second party. The others (15 men) came by train to Shalchapura (which is 8 miles from Badarpur) and they were noticed by the station staff as a large gang of Cabulies travelling without any bundles of cloth or fruits which was very extraordinary. Dwarbundi jungle is about 8 or 9 miles from Shalchapura and the men could reach in 3 or 4 hours but to avoid being seen entering the place of concealment during day they travelled by stages halting at different Musjids where they cooked their meals and came to Dwarbundi the following night. They were met on the way by two of their men and conducted to their "basha." The place selected was a "bila" or hillock about 200 ft. high and covered on all sides by thick jungle and invisible from below, with a natural hollow inside and capable of accommodating some 30 men. There is no habitation close by. Thus the whole party of 27 men assembled there on the night of the 4th December. It was the night of full moon and for obvious reasons they decided to wait 4 or 5 days. In fact they would seem to have selected the night of 9th or 11th December for the dacoity before they left Calcutta. Here they would come out in batches of 2 or 3 men and go to the Dwarbundi Bazar which was 2 miles from the jungle for their grub during the day time; they also sent parties to "sound" the river to see where they could cross it: two of them (among the leaders) also went to see the Mahajan's place to reconnoitre during these days. In the meantime another Pathan, an elderly man, named Nur Mohamed, also an inhabitant of Cabul, a former master of the man Abdul Hekim, who comes to Kallacherra regularly for trade, came to learn in his country of the conspiracy just after the gang had left for India. There is a sort of friendship between Nur Mohamed and the Mahajan sprung out of business relations. He was very much grieved to hear of the danger that awaited his friend and in order to protect him, as far as he could, he immediately started for India. He would in the usual course of business come to Kallacherra this year also, but it would be somewhat later if it were not for this information. He arrived at Delhi on the 1st December and from enquiries made of the Cabulies there learnt that Abdul Hekim and another man, Sher Mohamed had proceeded with a large gang of 60 men. He at once sent a wire to Golak Sahaji as follows: "Thieves have started: take care for life and property." Later in the day he thought that the wire he had sent was not specific enough and he then sent another wire as follows: "Abdul Hekim, Sher Mohamed and sixty men reaching there soon, be careful: I, going to Calcutta, Sinduripatty C/o Gudhar Manager: reply there." He then went on to Calcutta where he arrived on the night of the 3rd December. Finding that no message had come from Golak Sahaji he sent him a reply-prepared message on the following morning to Golak who replied as follows: "Received your telegram note contents with thanks." Golak, it seems, put no credence to these messages from his friend Nur Mohamed and the only precaution he adopted was employing an extra Chaulkidar, a cracked individual, named Hari Christian, who began life as a Hindu, then became a Christian and finally embraced Islam. Nur Mohamed was not satisfied at the conduct of Golak and saw some members of the Calcutta Police, who, on receipt of Nur Mohamed's information, made inquiries and as a result of these the Police Commissioner of Calcutta on the 6th December wired to the District Superintendent of Police, Cachar, as follows: "Thirteen Pathans, headed by Abdul Hekim, left six

days ago to commit dacoity, house of Golak Shah Mahajan, Kallacherra tea garden, Hailakandi on ninth or eleventh instant, arrange to arrest in act." This telegram was received by Mr. H.A.S. Burt, Assistant Superintendent, holding office of District Superintendent, on the evening of the 6th December. It so happened that Mr. Davis, the Inspector-General of Police, Assam, was at Silchar at the time, and as Mr. Burt, as mentioned in his evidence, was engaged in playing card with the latter while he received the wire, Mr. Burt showed the telegram to Mr. Davis, who directed him to proceed to Kallacherra with an armed force. Accordingly Mr. Burt left Silchar on the 8th with 25 Gurkha sepoy, 3 havildars, one naik and one subadar. They were not told the nature of the duty he would be required to do but were simply directed to obey Mr. Burt. Mr. Burt went ahead riding and arrived at a place called Damcherra which is 23 miles from Kallacherra and about the same distance from the hiding place of the Cabulies in the afternoon of the 9th and the sepoy also coming up presently were told to have their meals immediately and be ready to follow up when sent for. Mr. Burt thinking that the dacoity would not be committed till a late hour in the night had an early dinner and departed for Kallacherra at 7.30 p.m. to reconnoitre.

It should be noted that the Police did not inform Golak anything of what they knew or what they were doing.

FAMINE ANTICIPATIONS.

A correspondent writes:—The Peropore grain dealers are apparently expecting a big famine again, otherwise they would not be storing grain in such hot haste. Already nearly 16 lakhs of maunds are stored in "kutchas" patched up huts in confident expectation that there will be no downpour to damage them. One grain dealer alone has invested over a lakh in grain and is still going on.

LOCUSTS IN THE POONA DISTRICT.

The locusts, which were recently to be found more plentifully in the eastern division of the Poona District than in the western division, have now shifted to the latter division, where they are stated to be doing a lot of damage to the growing crops. They are now in a state of incubation at Khed, where the eggs of these destructive insects have been found in large quantities. Masses of these eggs, of the shape of ground nuts, have been discovered on the soil, each mass containing roughly from 75 to 100 eggs. The authorities are destroying the eggs as fast as they can. The last flight of locusts in the Poona District was recorded just twenty years ago—in the year 1884. They then abounded in Purundhar and some other parts of the eastern portion of the Poona District, though their numbers were nothing in comparison with what they are at present, and the damage done was much less.

GOOD SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT.

The revised rules for the grant of Good Service pay and Good Conduct pay in the Indian Army are notified to take effect from the 1st proximo. Good Service pay will be admissible to native Non-Commissioned officers as a reward for having combined efficiency with zeal and good conduct and can be forfeited by the order of an officer commanding at any time. Its amount will vary, in the case of different classes; the maximum being one rupee after two years' service, rising to four rupees after eight years' service. Good conduct pay is applicable to privates, farmers and non-combatants, and varies in the case of different classes, the minimum being eight annas and the maximum rising in some cases to three rupees monthly. After ten years' service it will be granted as replaced for exemplary good behaviour and can be forfeited at any time under orders of an officer commanding. Both Good Service and Good Conduct pay will cease, "ipso facto," if the holder is convicted by a Court-martial or commits any serious offence. It is notified that, with effect from the 1st April last, the present allotment by Command of certain Good Conduct and Meritorious Service awards is discontinued and a system is started under which there will be available for distribution by the Commander-in-Chief amongst warrant and non-commissioned officers who hold a silver medal for Meritorious Service, one annuity of £15, nineteen annuities of £10 each, and seven annuities of £5 each.

We believe that there have been no more negotiations with the Tibetan peace Delegates who bolted or with others, though the Tongsa Penlop has heard again from the Dalai Lama that he is really anxious for peace. As regards Colonel Younghusband's proclamation it has probably been made with one eye on the political situation at Home. Here in India our experience of the result of proclamations of this kind has not been such as to impress us with any great sense of their value. One remembers the proclamation to the Swatis and others when the Chitral campaign began, and also Sir William Lockhart's in Tirah. But they sometimes pledge us to promises which force of circumstances compels us to break. In the Afghan war of 1878-80 we were always issuing proclamations, and in the end they were not worth the paper they were written on.—"Pioneer."

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

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JULY 21, 1904.

THE CUTTACK DACOITY CASE.

AND
RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE.

It is a pity that the horrid disclosures in the Cuttack dacoity case were not made at the time when the Police Commission was holding its sittings and taking evidence of official and non-official witnesses. For, the particulars of this case, if placed before its members, would have at once laid bare the fact how corrupt the police rule in this country is; why it is so; and how impossible it is for European Police Superintendents and European District Magistrates to escape being tools in the hands of their Indian subordinates. It would have been impossible for these subordinates to hoodwink the Police Superintendent if he were an Indian; and it is now proposed to bring some raw youths from England to take charge of the district police! The present rage of District Superintendents have at least this advantage over those proposed to be brought from England that they know something about the manners, customs, and language of the Province. We tremble to think, however, will be the condition of the country, if its police were placed under the control of youthful aliens, which would be practically putting the fates of millions in the hands of half-educated, low-paid, and unscrupulous men of the soil.

Let us briefly recapitulate the facts of the case, alluded to above. It was in the month of February 1902 that a dacoity occurred in the heart of the town of Cuttack. It was of an exceptional character, as the house which was attacked, was occupied by a son of the Maharajah of Keonjhar and fire-arms were alleged to have been used. The Police enquiry resulted in the hauling up of seven men, who were committed to the Sessions, and four of them were convicted and sentenced to transportation for life. The Government was so pleased with the result that it specially thanked Mr. Schurr, the then Police Superintendent of Cuttack, for "the ability displayed by himself and his force in tracking the dacoity home." Further, the Inspector of Police and two Sub-Inspectors, who conducted the enquiry under the supervision of Mr. Schurr, were rewarded by the Government, the former with a gold watch and chain, and the latter two with Rs. 60 each.

The public, however, was not satisfied. They believed that the real culprits had escaped, and some innocent men had been punished in their stead. When Mr. M. S. Das expressed this belief to Mr. Schurr, and also to Mr. Fischer, the District Magistrate, he was reported to the higher authorities, for his pains, as "having harboured the dacoits!" The reader is already aware how justice was at last done to Mr. Das by the Government—how Mr. Schurr was made to apologise to him for this gross libel, and how he was censured for his unjustifiable conduct.

It was by a pure accident that Mr. A. V. Knyvett, the present Officiating Inspector-General of Police, came to know that the four men had been most unjustly convicted and punished. He made a local enquiry, was satisfied of the correctness of his information, and got the men released.

The people of Cuttack were so much overjoyed at the release of these innocent men that they held a public meeting at their town on the 9th instant, under the auspices of the Orissa Association, to express thanks to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and the Inspector-General of Police, and to raise some money for the persecuted victims. Here are the resolutions passed at the meeting which, it will be seen, were moved and seconded by many leading men:—

I. That this meeting beg to express their sincere gratitude to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for the regard for injured innocence which His Honour's Government have shown in the release of the three men Banamali, Tani and Rangaya who had been sentenced to imprisonment and transportation in connection with the Mansingpatna Dacoity.

Proposed by Babu Gouri Sunkar Roy, Editor, Utkul Dipika and Hony. Secretary Orissa Association.

Seconded by Babu Biswanath Kar, Editor, Utkul Sahitya, and carried by acclamation.

II. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Private Secretary for communication to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Proposed by Babu Nimai Charan Mitra, Vice-Chairman, Cuttack Municipality, seconded by Babu Iswar Lal Parwar, Land-lord and merchant, and carried by acclamation.

III. That this meeting wish to record their sense of gratitude to Mr. A. V. Knyvett, the Inspector-General of Police for the tact, energy and ability with which he conducted the proceedings which led to the release of the innocent men who had been sentenced to imprisonment and transportation in connection with the Mansingpatna Dacoity, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. A. V. Knyvett C.I.E.

Proposed by Maulavi Sayed Khair Ali, seconded by Babu Madan Mohan Patnaik, and carried by acclamation.

IV. That a Committee of the gentlemen named herein-below be formed with a view:—

(a) To bring to the notice of the authorities cases in which investigating Police Officers fail to bring the real offenders to justice, and send up innocent men instead, and

(b) To take steps to give effect in Orissa to the intentions of the Legislature in enacting Sec. 172 of the Criminal Procedure Code, Members of the Committee.

Mr. M. S. Das, Babu Gouri Sunkar Roy, Babu Gokulanand Chaudhuri, Babu Nimai Charan Mitra, Babu Iswar Lal, Babu Durga Prasanna Das, and Munshi Nural Khan.

Proposed by Mr. S. C. Roy, Bar-at-Law, seconded by Babu Gokula Nand Chaudhuri B. L. supported by Babu Sarat Chandra Mukherjee B. L., Brajaraj Chaudhuri, B. L. and Durga Prasanna Das B. L. and carried by acclamation.

V. That Babu Gouri Sunkar Roy and Khirud Chandra Roy Chaudhuri be authorized to collect subscriptions in order to give pecuniary help to the released prisoners, one of whom had his house burnt; the second

lost his wife by cholera and his property was seized as intestate property during the period of their incarceration.

Proposed by Babu Khirud Chandra Roy Chaudhuri M.A. Seconded by the President, and carried by acclamation.

One of the convicted men was a Madras, domiciled in Cuttack, and who served as a Durwan of Rajah Boidyanath Pundit; and two others were Orya agriculturists. The fourth man was a Cubulce, who was charged with murder in another case, and sent to the gallows. The released men gave a narrative of their sufferings which was "listened to by the audience with breathless silence, broken frequently by cries of 'shame,' 'disgraceful,' and other 'cries expressive of feelings of disgust and horror,'" to quote the local paper, the "Utkul Dipika." They said that the police, after having seized them, detained them in their custody, and then tortured them, and induced one of them, on promise of money, lands, and pardon, to turn into King's evidence and make a confession!

Retributive justice has overtaken the persecutors of these innocent men. The Inspector-General of Police has suspended the Police Inspector and the Sub-Inspector, chiefly responsible for this horrible miscarriage of justice, and called upon them to show cause why they should not be dismissed or otherwise punished. This is all right, but what about Mr. Schurr, under whose direction they acted? His promotion has been stopped for the outrageous manner in which he gave his evidence before the Police Commission. Indeed he has been superseded by Mr. Tucker, his junior, who is acting as Deputy Inspector-General, N. W. Range. What a fall for him! Retributive justice has thus overtaken him also, and that very quickly.

The public meeting at Cuttack ought to have asked the Government to give adequate compensation to the three men, so grossly wronged. The Government itself, however, ought to do it of its own motion. For, that would be only an act of bare justice to the victims of its officers armed with powers for serious mischief. It should not be forgotten that Private Emerson, the Madras soldier who was brought from England for shooting a native of this country, was allowed compensation though it was very clear that he had been acquitted by a perverse jury. There is also the Claude Martin Fund which was started to start discharged prisoners in life. The three men may be compensated from this Fund also.

SHAMEFUL JOBBERY.

In those good old days, when Englishmen could make Deputy Magistrates of the sons of their Khansamas—the good old days to which Lord Curzon would lead India again—many incompetent and corrupt Indians found their way into the services open to them. The Government saw that the administration could not be carried on with such men. To do the work of administration, the co-operation of the natives of the soil was absolutely necessary. Equally necessary was it that Government servants should be fit for the appointments they held. But how could the Government secure such men when big officials had opportunities of patronizing their unworthy pets, and did utilize them freely? This patronage in the hands of Englishmen here threatened to undermine the administration itself. It happened in this wise. The form of Government that obtains in India is unique—it may be called "Official Republicism." The country is, in fact, in the hands of officials, almost independent of each other. So it was often the case that if one Englishman patronized his Kherani Babu, another secured a fat berth for his Mussulman Moonshi. And, thus, gradually, even sons of "barbarians," "khansamas," "barbarians," "barbarians" entered into the Government service.

It was, in this manner, a good many Indian officials came from the ranks of the low classes, who led or rather misled their superiors, all Europeans, ignorant of the condition of the country they ruled, to commit ugly blunders. Fancy such men in office in the days of "half decrees and half dismissals!"

Lord Curzon, however, had no mind to disturb the present arrangement: when he proposed the abolition of service competitive examinations, his object was, we believe, to make the entry of "Poor Whites" and Eurasians into the public service without being required to pass any intellectual test. But though Lord Curzon had no mind to disturb the present arrangement, it would practically come to that—the entry of incompetent men in the service—if the system of competitive examination is withdrawn.

One story will explain the situation described above. When jobberies are committed they are done in secret, and they rarely come to light, but the following incident is to be found in the "Cornwallis Correspondence." George III was verging upon insanity, and the Prince of Wales was borrowing money, having quarrelled with his father, and Pitt Treves was a money-lender, from whom H.R.H. had borrowed money, and not being able to pay the debt, had promised him a fat berth for his son in India. Treves suggested that he would be satisfied if the Criminal Judge-ship of Benares was given to his son.

There were however difficulties in the way. First there was already a Judge who had to be removed for no fault of his own; and secondly, the son of the money-lender was not competent to be able to discharge the duties of a Judge, being only the son of a money-lender and nothing more. But the Prince of Wales could not pay the debt and he wrote to Lord Cornwallis requesting him to displace "a black named Ali Cann" and appoint Pelligrine Treves, the son of the money-lender, in his place.

Lord Cornwallis could not commit such a dishonorable act, especially as the Prince of Wales was an object of contempt all over England, and so he wrote in reply to His Royal Highness that "Ali Ibrahim Khan, though a native, was one of the most able and respected public servants in India, and that it would be a most difficult and unpopular step to remove him; and that even if his post were vacant the youth and inexperience of Master Treves rendered him utterly ineligible for such an important trust."

How H.R.H. paid his debts we know not, but we fear we are again drifting to the policy of displacing the "Blacks" for the benefit of the "Poor Whites" and Eurasians.

This was the way the early rulers of India gained in ascendancy in this country. They came to be respected as men of honour, and patriots here did not hesitate to deliver the destinies of their country into their hands. The Court of Directors honestly intended to do justice to the claims of the natives of the soil in regard to their employment in their own country. So did the statesmen who ruled the Empire in 1858. And so have the English people, generally speaking, always desired in the same way.

But those who directly ruled the affairs of India, generally speaking, never intended to give effect to this wish of the people and Government at home. But they could do so openly with the Queen's Proclamation and other similar documents ensuring justice to the natives of the soil. They had therefore to adopt underhand means—they made their appointments secretly, and they also sent secret circulars. They had to adopt underhand means for another reason. They did not dare to face "native" clamour, nay, they did not like it to be known to the outside world, that they had no objection to commit jobberies. In short, they were careful of their reputation.

Thus when we brought to light the "Westland Circular," which disclosed the utmost meanness on the part of the authorities, the Government dared not admit the document to be a genuine one. It was in this manner, when such jobberies were exposed, they felt humiliated; but repetition hardened their hearts, and now Lord Curzon proclaims without shame or remorse that competitive examination is not suited to India.

THE PEGU MURDER CASE AND
MR. PENNELL.

We have received a copy of a long judgment of the Chief Court of Burmah relating to a murder case, which is interesting and instructive for more than one reason. Two men were sent up to take their trial before Mr. D. Wilson, J. C. S., Additional Sessions Judge of the Pegu Division (the Presidency Division of Burmah), one charged with having murdered a man in broad day light, and the other with having failed to give information of the alleged murder to the authorities. Both accused had been discharged by the Magistrate at the preliminary enquiry; but, a fresh enquiry was held and they were committed. At the Sessions trial both the assessors were for acquittal, although the Judge sided strongly with the prosecution throughout and summed up for conviction. Disagreeing with the opinion of the assessors, Mr. Wilson convicted both, sentencing one to be hanged and the other to be flogged. He got the latter flogged immediately, and it transpired afterwards that his action was wholly illegal.

But what interested the case with special interest is the appearance on the field of a person well-known in India and who gave a right to Indian officials about four years ago. And need we say who he is? Well, Mr. A. P. Pennell, who, as the reader knows, is now an Advocate of the Rangoon Chief Court, conducted the defence with special ability and had many a passage-at-arms with the Sessions Judge. Indeed, the latter, we are told, went so far as to write several angry letters officially to Mr. Pennell, one during the pendency of the case in the Chief Court, and two since the judgment was given. These communications may develop into another interesting case afterwards, but, to-day we shall confine ourselves only to the salient features of the murder case.

Both the prisoners appealed before the Chief Court, and the Chief Judge, with the help of Mr. Pennell, who appeared on their behalf, was able to go to the bottom of the whole affair, and acquit them. The case was a simple one. Two eye-witnesses came forward to testify that, in their presence the murder was committed; and that it was the appellant Nga Sai, with the help of three other men, who had perpetrated it. One of the witnesses, a woman, however, said one thing before the committing Magistrate, and quite another thing before the Sessions Judge. Yet her evidence was accepted as gospel truth by the Sessions Judge. The other witness did not deliberately make any false statement; but, his story was utterly improbable on the face of it. Yet, upon this so-called evidence, the Judge did not hesitate to sentence a fellow-being to death and another to receive 30 stripes as a juvenile offender for intentionally omitting to give information of an offence which he was legally bound to do. The Chief Judge disposes of the whole prosecution case in the following words:—

"It is pertinently suggested in the petition of appeal that the force of the identification in Court on which the Judge seems to have laid much stress is also weakened by these incidents. In order to come to the conclusion that the accused, Nga Sai, is guilty of murder of Peo in the manner described by Mi Tha, we must believe that these four men deliberately committed a murderous assault on the deceased, in broad daylight, in the sight of at least two witnesses and in the neighbourhood of other huts, perhaps 150 or 200 yards off; that they did this after having immediately before informed four people where they lived and after ascertaining that they were known by sight and residence to one of these people; that they were not in their hut and stayed there quietly; that they made an effort to abscond or to hide or destroy the weapons with which they had committed the assault; and that they were found in this hut some 42 hours later with these weapons conspicuously deposited in or near the hut. This seems to us almost incredible. The learned Additional Sessions Judge says that the men may have been stupid or drunk when they committed the murder. Mi Tha explicitly says that they were not drunk. But even if they were so, this would not account for their subsequent conduct. The learned Assistant Government Advocate suggests that if they had absconded they would practically have admitted their guilt and that the assault was not premeditated. These considerations would be of force if the persons who committed the assault had not been capable of identification and if there were no eye-witnesses of the assault. They do not apply when the accused are supposed to have committed the

murder in the presence of witnesses and when they knew that they could be at once identified."

Fancy the way the case was argued by the Sessions Judge. The man, having murdered a fellow-being in broad day light, in the presence of eye-witnesses, and having told them who he and his accomplices were and where they lived, waited quietly the whole of the next day, with their weapons, in their hut, which was not far from the place of occurrence, so that the police might come and catch him almost red-handed! A child could see the absurdity of "story" but Mr. Wilson did not. Of course the Chief Court subsequently acquitted these men, but this does not always happen. The so-called Cuttack dacoits, who were sentenced to transportation for life, but now released on being found innocent, had the sentence passed upon them confirmed by the Calcutta High Court. Indeed, these Cuttack men escaped only by the merest chance.

The decision of the Chief Judge, with regard to the whipping sentence passed upon the other prisoner by name Po On, is also interesting. Mr. Pennell took special care to show that, not only was the sentence illegal, but the Judge should have known that he was committing a gross illegality. Says the Chief Judge:—

"As to Po On, we agree with the learned Counsel, who has argued his case, that his conviction cannot be sustained. In order that there may be a conviction under section 202 Indian Penal Code the accused must know or have reason to believe that an offence of which he is bound to give information has been committed. Even on the facts, as found by the learned Additional Sessions Judge, it was not shown that Po On knew or had reason to believe that a murder had been committed. He might have thought it very probable. But the section requires more than that. We also think that the application of section 5 of the Whipping Act was incorrect. That section can apply only to persons who are juvenile offenders at the time of sentence. Any other construction would lead us to inextricable absurdities. The learned Judge should have stated his opinion that the accused was under 16 years of age, if he really thought so. The fact that the accused said that he was under 16 was not sufficient unless the Judge believed him. We reverse the conviction of Po On."

If the Sessions Judge had no excuse for committing such a gross illegality, his conduct was simply outrageous in having the sentence carried out as soon as he had passed it. This impudence on the part of many members of the Indian Civil Service, to have their whipping orders carried out immediately, shows an amount of demoralization on their part, which ought to draw the serious attention of the Government. This demoralization amongst the members of the ablest service in the world is not confined to Burmah only, as we all know to our cost here. In the present case, as in many others, the victim, though acquitted afterwards, suffered the wrong all the same, he having been already whipped and indelibly disgraced for ever.

Mr. Pennell—the "traitor to the Civil Service"—has done one public service in connection with this case. He pointed out to the Chief Judge of the Rangoon Chief Court, in a petition on behalf of the prisoners, several irregularities committed by the Sessions Judge, and sought redress. The Chief Judge took the matter seriously into his consideration, and has laid down certain rules of conduct for Sessions Judges which ought to be adopted everywhere, either in Burmah or India, or the proper discharge of their judicial duties. One of the charges against the Pegu Judge was that he did not give his undivided attention to the murder case he was trying. Another charge against him was that he did not record the evidence in its entirety. The remarks of the Chief Judge on these and some other points, which are published in another column in extenso, will, we doubt not, be read with interest and profit by all Sessions Judges as well as the general public.

If Police rule prevails all over India, it does so in a more pronounced form in the United Provinces. The vagaries of the U. P. Police received a considerable check when Sir A. P. MacDonnell was at the head of the Local Government; under the weak administration of Sir James La Touche they are again having everything in their own way. Just take the case of Mitu Khan or Mirzapur reported in these columns by our special correspondent. He was arrested by warrant under section 110 of the C.P.C., which provides for security for good behaviour. This dangerous power, given to the Magistrates, should be used with great caution. But see how things are done in this country. Mitu Khan was arrested, and forthwith sent to najat, though nothing had been proved against him when he appeared for bail. The Magistrate refused at once to grant bail, as it is alleged, Mitu was a dangerous man, therefore he should not be set free lest he used his liberty for the purpose of intimidating witnesses. So, because, "it is alleged," that is enough for the Magistrate to keep a man in jail. In other words, the Magistrate, who has to satisfy himself by legal evidence that the man is dangerous, takes it for granted that he is such, without holding any trial whatever and takes away his liberty! And does it not betray the utter incapacity of the police if they cannot prevent a man from intimidating others? The Sessions Judge was next moved; he too rejected the application for bail, without however giving any ground. This is the general rule; for, the Sessions Judges dare not always go against the executive. If this is true of India generally, it is particularly so of the United Provinces. The accused Mitu ultimately sought the help of the High Court, which ordered his release. But, that order was made ineffective, the Magistrate having refused to accept the sureties brought forward by the accused as men of no respectability! The man has thus been rotting in jail since 29th May last! Where is the liberty of the subject—the boasted liberty which, we are assured, British rule has secured to the people of India? So Mitu is yet in jail though the High Court had ordered his release! And any Magistrate can thus circumvent the High Court and keep a man in jail as long as he likes! If one Dreyfus case convulsed the whole of Europe, such cases are of almost daily occurrence in this country.

The most important question before the Burdwan Conference was the Bill introduced into the Local Council to amend the Local Self-Government Act. The resolution relating to this subject was unfortunately neither happy nor exhaustively worded; but the speech which Babu Nalinakshya Bose, Raj Bahadur delivered in this connection was a very able and practical one. The framer of the resolution says that "the true remedy against the financial embarrassments of the District Boards is to be found in the relief being afforded by grants from the Provincial funds." No, the true remedy lies in allowing the Road Cess Fund, which is being diverted to various illegitimate objects, to be applied only to purposes for which it was created. It is a pity that Babu Nalinakshya, who appears to be intimately acquainted with the history of the Road Cess, should have permitted the Conference to have taken such a mistaken view of the situation. The District Boards want no grant or charity from the Government; what they demand is the restitution of the crores of Rupees which have been taken out of the Road Cess Funds and expended upon works which ought to have been done or maintained by the Provincial exchequer. What, we believe, the Conference really meant by their resolution was that the Government should grant money for Provincial works unjustly forced upon the District Boards; but, this has not been clearly expressed. We shall dwell in some detail upon this phase of the question when we commence our series of articles on the Road Cess. In the meantime, we must thank Babu Nalinakshya for pointing out, at a public meeting, some of the gross diversions of the money, and also one of the ways by which the Road Cess Fund can be increased, which have several times been discussed in these columns. We dare say, an agitation will be started against the proposed Bill which threatens to empower the District Boards to tax the poor agriculturists and create an amount of oppression and discontent of which the Government have yet no conception; and we trust, men like Babu Nalinakshya will take a most prominent part in such a movement and help it with their advice and experience.

The "Guzrattee," whom we heartily congratulate on its prosperity, celebrated its "Silver Jubilee" the other day in the City of Bombay, where many leading Hindu, Parsee and Mahomedan gentlemen were present. There were Messrs. Mehta and Wacha, the Hon.ble Messrs. Gokhale, P. R. D. Khit, Khare, Thakare, Seshiwad, Rahmatullah, Chingor, and a host of other celebrities. Speeches were delivered and small prizes were made to the "Guzrattee." It is the second anniversary of its kind in India, the jubilee of the "Hindu" being the first, it was nevertheless a very successful one. But in this ceremony one of the many attractive features of the proceedings is an expression of our distinguished countryman, Mr. Mehta, now Sir Pherosha Mehta, who presided on the occasion and said that, the "Guzrattee" was characterized by its "loyal patriotism." We believe that this is the first time that the feeling of patriotism has been so classed. Since this has been done, let us try to develop the idea. If there is loyal patriotism, there must be a sort of patriotism which is disloyal, or Mr. Mehta's expression has no meaning. In the same manner, patriotism can be classified in other ways, as for instance, "interested," "indifferent," and "simple" patriotism. Interested patriots are those who make a trade of this sacred feeling. Indifferent patriots are those who, though they love their country, never move a finger to help it. The simple patriots are those whose love is confined to the country alone. A loyal patriot is therefore one who not only loves his country, but also loves the powers that be. Whether the qualifying word strengthens the expression or destroys it is a point, which need not be discussed. Sir Pherosha, as the world knows, is, however, not the man who would feel himself particularly honoured by the distinction, which he seems to confer upon his hosts or his hosts. When Sir Pherosha praises the "Guzrattee" for its loyal patriotism, he thereby insinuates that that newspaper is a little singular in its patriotism, and that the vast majority of its contemporaries are not like it. For, if loyal patriotism had been a common enough commodity, the speaker would have never specially selected the "Guzrattee" for the merit he attributes to it. But, we fancy, Sir Pherosha by praising the "Guzrattee" in that way, never meant to cast a slur upon others. He knew, the quality of patriotism is not very much encouraged by the rulers of the land generally. It is generally believed that Mr. Tilak suffered, mainly, for his "simple patriotism," not strengthened by the additional merit of loyalty. So when he wanted to praise the patriotism of the "Guzrattee," he possibly felt that, by praising his host in that way, he might do more harm than good. Therefore, after praising the patriotism of the "Guzrattee," he hastily qualified his encomium in a way so as to make it innocuous to his proteges. In short, the rulers of the land love manliness, but, not the natives of India. They love patriotism, but not in the Indian. Is not that a fact? The British Government in India is almost perfect; its only defect is that it does not encourage manliness and patriotism among the people here.

It was by a chance that we came to know that Mahamahopadhyaya Chandra Shekhar Singh, alias Pathana Samanta, of Orissa, is dead. If an ordinary man, who had acquired some reputation, had died here, the country would have regretted his departure to the other world. But Chandra Shekhar, that man of genius—the astronomer who had acquired a European reputation, who constructed his own rough instruments and made his observations more accurate than those of the European scientists—this Chandra Shekhar is dead and we came to know of it by a pure accident. This shows how utterly is the country demoralized. This must be the case with every country which has no hope, no future. Prof. Lancaster Ray calls him the "Tycho" of India. "Nature," however, says that he is greater than Tycho. "Knowledge" says that Chandra Shekhar reminds it of the astronomer.



mers of hoary antiquity actually at his work before us to-day." Chandra Shekhar was a brother of the Rajah of Khumpara, a Tributary State of Orissa.

POLITICAL Agitation in India does not succeed, for it is generally feeble. But whenever it has been carried on with earnestness it has never failed. We believe, nay, there is no doubt of it that the rulers of the Empire are disposed to pay greater regard to Indian agitation than to that of their own countrymen. Or, in other words, to be successful, people in England have to carry on their agitation with greater vigour than the Indians need have to do to gain their end. This is because they have more faith in the patience and forbearance of their own countrymen than in that of the Indians. Just see how vigorously they do such things in England. Readers of English History know Wilkes. Though a man of no worth, he somehow or other won the good will of the lower classes. He preached sedition, and was banished and out-lawed. The people in return elected him. Dr. Franklin was then (1768) in England, and he describes how the agitation was carried on in his favour in these words:—

"It is really an extraordinary event, to see an outlaw and exile, of bad personal character, not worth a farthing, come over from France, set himself up as candidate for the capital of the kingdom, miss his election only by being too late in his application, and immediately carrying it for the principal county. The mob, spirited up by numbers of different ballets, sung or roared in every street, requiring gentlemen and ladies of all ranks, as they passed in their carriages, to shout for Wilkes and Liberty, marking the same words on all their coaches with chalk, and No. 45 on every door; which extends a vast way along the roads into the country. I went last week to Winchester, and observed that for fifteen miles out of town, there was scarce a door or window-shutter next the road unmarked; and this continued here and there quite to Winchester, which is 64 miles."

With only one-third of the energy which the agitation, described above, cost, we can secure many of our points. With slight efforts, because they were sincere, we succeeded in arresting the hands of a strong man like Lord Curzon, who was determined to partition Bengal. So determined was Lord Curzon that, forgetting his exalted position, in his zeal for the unholy cause, he flung himself into the fray like an ordinary man.

BABU Ambika Charan Mazumdar, the well-known pleader of Faridpur, has captured the Dacca Division seat in the Local Council. He has the credit of being a public man of great energy and activity, and as such, his election will give universal satisfaction. As a public man of ripe experience, he will be of great service to the Government, if the latter will utilise it. We do not much mind the disappointment of Kumar Manamatha Nath of Santosh who too was a candidate; for he is quite a young man and he can wait. But, we are exceedingly sorry for Roy Sitanath Rai Bahadur. He too is a public man of sound education, and well acquainted with the state of things in the maffasil. But there was a single seat vacant, and that is the only consolation that we can offer to him. Besides, he may rest assured that a seat in the Council would have neither increased his usefulness nor the estimation in which he is already held by the public. Now that Babu Ambika Charan is elected—and we sincerely congratulate him—he will, we trust, give his whole-hearted attention to the Bill introduced in the Local Council for amending the Local-Self-Government Act. A more important measure than this was perhaps never before brought forward in the Council. For it threatens the millions of Bengal with a system of the most vexatious kind of taxation.

The Irrigation Conference at Simla will last from the 5th to the 8th September. The papers for discussion will be printed and circulated in advance among the delegates from the various Provinces.

The Government of India have sanctioned a refund of the Customs duty paid by any recognised merchant or trader in respect of articles subsequently sold to persons entitled to import them duty free. Such articles may be, for example, for the use of a battalion or regiment or may form part of the equipment which an officer is required under regulations to maintain for the performance of his military duty.

Wires a Lahore correspondent:—In an interesting interview with Mr. Greensill, one of the pioneer traders of the Seistan route, who has had the opportunity of forming a deliberate judgment, he said he was of opinion that India's commercial relations with Persia are susceptible of considerable development. He says there is a great prospect ahead for tea, indigo, glassware, and piece-goods, if energetically pushed from India by traders who make a point of studying the requirements of the Persian markets. As for the idea that the land route into Persia is unsafe, Mr. Greensill humorously states that he started armed with a rifle, gun and revolver, but sold out his armoury at high prices, and completed his adventurous journey with a walking-stick.

The correspondent of the "Russkoe Slovo" telegraphs from Laiu-yang:—The Japanese Artillery have the advantage over us in the quickness with which they find the range. Since their war with China the Japanese have made a minute study of this country. They have measured all the distances, and know every fold of the ground, and hence can be certain of their aim from the beginning of a fight. All the positions have been divided by them into squares, so that they can shell the exact section where the enemy are located. The batteries are so skillfully masked that they cannot be detected; and, in fact, in the battle of June 15 the position of three of their batteries could not be ascertained. They send picked marksmen to occupy heights which appear to be inaccessible. These men are followed by others, who scramble down the mountain side and appear where they are least expected. No stage of the fight is missed by them, for their batteries are connected by telephone and wireless telegraphy.

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GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Babu Ramesh Chandra Sinha, substantive pro tempore Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Tippera district, on being relieved of his present appointment under the Howrah Municipality.

Mr. W. H. Buchan, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Backergunge, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Saran district. Babu Gopi Krishna Lal, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Snaabhad district, on being relieved of his cess revaluation work in that district.

Babu Promotho Nath Dutt, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Backergunge, is appointed to have charge of the Patuakhali subdivision of that district.

Mr. J. V. Ryan, District Superintendent of Police, is posted to Burdwan.

Mr. A. Macdonell, Officiating Principal, Patna College, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Principal of the civil Engineering College, Sibpur, vice Mr. B. Heaton.

Mr. H. R. James, Professor, Patna College, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Principal, Patna College vice Mr. A. Macdonell.

Mr. Devendra Nath Mallik, Senior Professor of the Provincial Educational Service, Patna College, is appointed to act as a Professor of the Indian Educational Service, during the deputation of Mr. H. R. James, or until further orders.

Babu Syama Das Mukherjee, Professor, Bethune College, is appointed to act, until further orders, as a Professor in the Patna College.

Babu Bijay Gopal Mukerjee, Professor, Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, is appointed to act as a Professor in the Bethune College, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Syama Das Mukherjee, or until further orders.

Babu Gopal Chandra Ganguli, M.A., is appointed to act as a Professor in the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Bijay Gopal Mukerjee, or until further orders.

The following acting promotions are sanctioned in the grades of Magistrates and Collectors until further orders:—

To act in the first grade.

Mr. F. N. Fisher, vice Mr. Brajendra Nath De, on privilege leave.

Mr. A. G. Hallifax, vice Mr. H. Luson, on deputation.

Mr. J. G. Cumming, vice Mr. W. Maude, on deputation.

Mr. L. F. Morshead, on privilege leave, vice Mr. H. C. Streetfield, on deputation.

Mr. C. A. Radice, vice Mr. L. F. Morshead on combined leave.

To act in the second grade.

Mr. Kiran Chandra De, vice Mr. F. N. Fisher.

Mr. Jnanendra Nath Gupta, vice Mr. A. G. Hallifax.

Mr. F. F. Lyall, vice Mr. C. H. Bompass, on combined leave.

Mr. Birendra Chandra Sen, vice Mr. J. G. Cumming.

Mr. B. Foley, vice Mr. L. F. Morshead, on combined leave.

Mr. J. H. Kerr.

The following confirmations are sanctioned in the Provincial Educational Service:—

Confirmed in class VIII.

Babu Raj Kumar Das, vice Babu Bhuvan Mohan Sen, retired.

Babu Syama Das Mukherjee, vice Babu Aditya Kumar Chatterji, deceased.

Babu Ambika Charan Mitra, vice Babu Pramatha Nath Mukherjee, deceased.

Mr. R. L. Ross Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is allowed combined leave for six months, viz.

Babu Gopal Chunder Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24-Parganas, is allowed leave for three months.

Babu Monmohan Chakravarti, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hooghly, is allowed leave for one month and twenty days.

Babu Nobin Chandra Kar, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is allowed leave for three months, in extension of the leave already granted to him.

Babu Kali Coomar Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Patuakhali, Backergunge, is allowed leave for three months.

Babu Bhabani Prosad Neogi, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Backergunge, is allowed leave for one week.

Mr. H. T. S. Forrest, I.C.S., has been granted by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India an extension of furlough for fourteen days.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Babu Satish Chandra Biswas, Munsif of Jalpaiguri, in the district of Rangpur, on leave, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Jessore, to be ordinarily stationed at Magura.

Babu Charu Chandra Mitter, Munsif of Magura, in the district of Jessore, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Rangpur, to be ordinarily stationed at Jalpaiguri.

Babu Uma Charan Kar, Munsif of Dacca, is appointed to act as Small Cause Court Judge of Dacca and Munshiganj, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Srigopal Chatterji.

Babu Mohendra Nath Mukhoti, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Dacca, to be ordinarily stationed at the Sadar station, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Uma Charan Kar.

Babu Hemendra Lal Singh, Munsif of Nilphamari, in the district of Rangpur, is allowed leave for two months, under article 336 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Phonindra Mohun Chatterjee, Munsif of Patiya, in the district of Chittagong, is allowed extension of leave for fifteen days, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Haripada Bandopadhyay, Munsif of Basirhat, in the district of the 24-Parganas, is allowed leave for one month, viz., four days under article 274 of the Civil Service Regulations, and the remaining period under article 271 of the same Regulations.

Babu Nando Lal Dey, Subordinate Judge, Midnapore, is allowed extension of leave on private affairs for one month and twenty-seven days, under article 337 of the Civil Service Regulations.

SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICE.

Babu Karali Charan Ganguli, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Pabna, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Rajshahi district.

Babu Rash Behary Mukherjee, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Arambagh, Hooghly, is transferred temporarily to the head-quarters station of that district.

THE PEGU MURDER CASE (I.)

The following are the remarks made by the Chief Judge of the Burma Chief Court in the above case in which their Lordships set aside the conviction and sentence passed on the accused by the Sessions Judge of Pegu.

"It remains for us to notice as briefly as possible some matters which were alleged in the petition of appeal and pressed at the hearing concerning the conduct of the trial. It is stated in the petition of appeal that the learned Additional Sessions Judge did not give his undivided attention to the case, he learned counsel for the appellant has since explained by affidavit that during part of Mr. Thak's examination and cross-examination the Judge appeared to be engaged in reading and signing or altering papers and letters which were constantly being brought to him. The Judge has not had an opportunity of answering this specific allegation which refers at most to a space of an hour and twenty minutes. But he has explicitly stated that except during certain temporary interruptions which are explained, he gave his exclusive attention to the case. We can only conclude that Mr. Pennell is mistaken in supposing that the Judge was engaged in other business during the trial and that if he was signing other papers they did not divert his attention from the conduct of the case. It is no doubt contrary to the rule laid down in section 37 of the Criminal Procedure Code for a Judge to be engaged in any other business while an examination of witnesses is going on. But we accept the learned Judge's assurance that he gave his exclusive attention to the case. Again it is said that the learned Judge did not record all the evidence that was given and certain specific instances have been stated since that allegation was communicated to the learned Additional Sessions Judge and answered by him. We have disposed of the case on other grounds and we do not think it necessary or desirable to institute any further enquiry on this point. It is probable that the learned Judge and the learned Counsel are merely regarding the same facts from different points of view though their recollection of specific incidents may not be precisely in accord. But we think it may be convenient to lay down some general rules as to the recording of evidence in criminal trials. By a notification issued by the Local Government under section 357 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a Judge is bound to take down the evidence of each witness. The intention is that the evidence shall be recorded in full; a memorandum of the substance of the evidence is not sufficient in any case before a Court of Session. Section 359 of the Code of Criminal Procedure directs that the evidence shall ordinarily be taken down in the form of a narrative. It is clear therefore that it cannot always be taken down in the exact words of the witness. But as far as possible judges should adhere to the words actually used either in the question or in the answer. It is not a compliance with the law to record a more or less accurate paraphrase of the evidence. The words used, or a sound translation of them should be recorded as far as possible. But the proposition put forward, as we understand, by the learned Counsel for the appellant, that the Court must record everything that a witness says, whether relevant or not, and that the Judge is not to decide on the relevancy of a statement, is quite unsustainable. What the Judge has to take down is the 'evidence' of each witness, not any statement he may choose to make. 'Evidence' is defined in section 3 of the Evidence Act, as all statements which the Court permits or requires to be made before it by witnesses, in relation to matters of fact under enquiry. And section 5 of the Evidence Act further limits the facts in respect of which evidence may be given. It is for the Judge to decide what statements made by a witness come within the definition of evidence; and to record those statements and no others. We do not think that a Judge should take exception to an application by Counsel to have a certain statement taken down; or that the making of such application should be regarded as an attempt to dictate to the Judge the form of the record. A Counsel is within his rights in making reasonable applications of this kind; and in asking the Court to note his objection to the recording or omission of a statement, if his objection is overruled. The Court is also bound to give the accused or his pleader, of his pleader, (section 360 Code of Criminal Procedure) the law prescribes that this is to be done by having the deposition of each witness read over when complete in the presence of the accused or, if he appears by pleader, of his pleader, (section 360 Code of Criminal Procedure). It is not a sufficient compliance with the law to have this done while the evidence of another witness is being recorded, unless the accused, or his pleader, if he so desires, has had a full opportunity of knowing substantially what is recorded as the examination proceeds. As regards other matters mentioned in paragraph 19 of the petition of appeal namely, the demeanour of the witness Mr. Tha and the knowledge of Burmese possessed by her and her daughter we think too much stress has been laid on the former point both by the learned Judge in his judgment and by the learned Counsel in his argument. It is after all to a great extent a matter of impression. We draw attention to section 363 of the Code of Criminal Procedure which requires the Judge to record remarks as to the demeanour of a witness on the completion of the record of his evidence. The question of the witnesses' knowledge of Burmese is also to some extent a matter of opinion. We merely remark that if the learned Judge thought that the witnesses understood Karen and did not thoroughly understand Burmese, he should have required the prosecution to arrange for their examination in their own language. It is also a subject of complaint that the learned Judge suggested explanations to the witnesses and examined them on points material to the defence instead of allowing the accused's Counsel to cross-examine them thereon. The record shows that there is some foundation for this complaint. Questions by the Court

are constantly interpolated in the course of cross-examination. The Judge has, no doubt, the right to ask any question within limits, at any time, (section 165 of the Evidence Act). But this right should be exercised with discretion. It is unfair to the accused to anticipate or break the thread of cross-examination. On this point we adopt, for the guidance of the Additional Sessions Judge, the words of Garth C. J. in *Noor Bux Kazi vs. The Empress* (1880) L.L.R. 6 Cal. 279, which are as follows:—"We think it right to point out to the Sessions Judge that the course which he adopted in the examination of the witnesses from the prosecution was irregular, opposed to the provisions of section 138 of the Evidence Act, and not fair to the prisoners. We find that, on the examination-in-chief being finished the Judge questioned almost all the witnesses at considerable length upon the very points to which he must have known that the cross-examination would certainly and properly be directed. The result of this, of course, was to render the cross-examination by the prisoner's pleaders to a great extent ineffective, by assisting the witnesses to explain away, in anticipation, the points which might have afforded proper ground for useful cross-examination. 'It is not the province of the Court to examine the witnesses unless the pleaders on either side have omitted to put some material questions, and the Court should, as a general rule, leave the witnesses to the pleaders to be dealt with as laid down in section 138 of the act. The Judge's power to put questions under section 165 is certainly not intended to be used in the manner which we have had occasion to notice in the present case."

(Sd.) H. THIRKELL WHITE,
25-5-04. Chief Judge.

(Sd.) W. Bigge,
Judge.

Varieties.

HOW SILKWORMS PRODUCE COLOURED COCOONS.

Experiments in colouring silk by feeding dyes for the silkworms date back sixty years or more. In the first trials greenish-blue and rose-tinted cocoons resulted from feeding indigo and madder, and many other colouring matters have been tried since—mostly with unsatisfactory results. Late attempts by Mons. C. de Labonnefont and others prove that this method of colouring silk is quite possible, perhaps even commercially practicable though not with all colours or with all kinds of worms.

ANTS AND THE COTTON BOLL WEEVIL.

The search for a reliable and effective enemy to the dreaded cotton boll weevil is still going on in the cotton growing districts of the United States. Great interest and fervent hope now centres round the statement recently made by Mr. Cook, botanist to the United States Department of Agriculture, that he has at last discovered an ant which he believes to be a very effective enemy to the boll weevil. This ant was discovered during the botanist's travels through Guatemala, Alta, and Verapaz, and it is stated that the little "pest-killer" will be introduced into the cotton fields at once.

NOVEL JAP USE OF AN EARTHQUAKE MEASURER.

The Japanese Imperial Earthquake Investigation Committee has recently published a pamphlet entitled "Application of Seismographs to the Measurement of the Vibration of Railway Carriages." It is with only a moderate degree of surprise that the public will learn of the value of instruments designed to measure earthquakes, for determining the vibrations of railway cars. Most of us have held the opinion that the jolts and shakes felt in railway travelling were perhaps somewhat mental as well as physical, and the fact that we expected to be shaken about may have produced those sensations to a certain extent. Now this Japanese scientist tells us that the sensations are very real, after all, and that the instrument that detects the tremor of earthquakes is also useful in measuring those awkward leaps of the dining-car, which guide the fork of the unwary traveller into his eye and deposit his coffee equally over his chin and necktie.

"MERCIFUL" MURDER.

Euthanasia, or the hastening of death in certain cases of "incurable" diseases, has recently been exploited by a contemporary. Several medical men in the United States openly advocate the view that in the circumstances referred to it is permissible to hasten the patient's death if he expresses a wish to that effect. It is also stated that "the private conviction of English doctors that such measures would in reality be desirable and humane seems to be gaining ground." This fact is vigorously combated by the "British Medical Journal," which has no hesitation in saying that the idea is absolutely opposed to the general sentiment and conviction of the medical profession not only in Great Britain, but throughout the civilised world.

"PRACTICAL" PERPETUAL MOTION.

The radium clock of Mr. Harrison Martin-dale practically gives perpetual motion through the dissipation of negatively-charged rays. A small quantity of radium, supported in an exhausted glass vessel by a quartz rod, is placed in a small tube, to the lower end of which is attached an electroscope of two long strips of silver. The activity of the radium causes an electric current of "minus beta" rays to be transmitted to the silver strips, which expand until they touch the sides of the vessel, when earth-conducting wires instantly discharge them and they fall together. This is repeated every two minutes marking time in beats of that duration, and theoretically the action will continue until exhaustion of the radium—in this case computed to be 30,000 years in the future.

Abel Nathaniel and Sunthoo were charged before the Joint Magistrate of Allahabad under Section 332 for voluntarily causing hurt to deter a public servant from the execution of his duty at Colonelgang. Previous convictions having been proved against Nathaniel, he was convicted and sentenced to suffer six months' rigorous imprisonment and to furnish a bond to keep the peace for one year. Sunthoo received the same punishment. Mr. Sorabjee defended Nathaniel and Mr. P. K. Roy appeared on behalf of Sunthoo.

High Court—July 19

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justices Pratt and Handley).

A CASE OF FORGERY.

The gun-makers of Monghyr have some reputation in outlying Districts and they supply their goods not only to dealers in places as far distant as Simla but have also customers in Tirhoot and Bengal. In the Purainganj Mahalla there were two gun-makers, one Babu Lal Mistri and another Lalji Mistri, son of Bhola Nath Mistri. They were ordinary gun-makers. It was alleged that two guns were ordered by customers in Tirhoot last August from Babu Lal Mistri. The letters and post cards containing those orders were taken by one Jogu Lal, a postal peon, who had connection with one Dano Nath Ghose, Manager of Lalji Mistri. This came to the knowledge of Lalji. Lalji and Dano Nath intercepted the orders of Babu Lal, and despatched two guns fraudulently and dishonestly to the purchaser by V. P. P. forging a name in the V. P. form to induce the vendee to think that the guns were sent by Babu Lal. On those allegations charges of forgery, breach of the provisions of the Post Office Act, Arms Act were framed against Lalji, Dano Nath, and Joy Gopal. They were placed on their trial before the Sessions Judge of Monghyr. The trial was held with the aid of Assessors. The learned Sessions Judge agreeing with the Assessors convicted Lalji and Dano Nath and sentenced them to eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment each. Joy Gopal was acquitted.

Babu Dasarathi Sanyal moved on behalf of Dano Nath Ghose for the admission of the appeal. A similar application was made on behalf of Lalji by Babu Jogesh Chandra De. Their Lordships admitted the appeal.

BLAKE VS. MURRAY.

On the 29th March last the Sub-divisional Officer of Batia, in the district of Champaran, drew up a proceeding under section 145 Cr. P.C., in respect of six plots of land in village Malparwa, making Mr. Blake as first party and Mr. Murray as second party. The Sub-divisional Officer, from the report of the Sub-Inspector of Bogalia and letters of Messrs. Blake and Murray, directed the parties to appear before him with all papers showing there respective claims, as he thought that there was likelihood of a breach of the peace. The case was tried and on the 16th May the Magistrate declared Mr. Murray to be in possession of the disputed land. Aggrieved by the said order, Mr. Blake moved his Court.

Babu Dasarathi Sanyal appeared on behalf of the petitioner and obtained a rule on the District Magistrate of Champaran and on the opposite party to show cause why the order of the Magistrate should not be set aside.

THE KALLACHERRA DACOITY CASE.

Moulvi Syed Shamsul Huda, with Moulvi Syed Mohamud Shamsi appeared for the accused. Mr. Douglas White, Deputy Legal Remembrancer, with Babu Kamini Kumar Chanda, appeared for the Crown.

In opening the case Moulvi Syed Shamsul Huda said that in this case there were 23 accused persons, who were appellants before their Lordships. Their names were: (1) Dost Mohamud, (2) Ear Mohamud, (3) Doulat Khan, (4) Allah Nur, (5) Khodai Nur alias Mir Afzal, (6) Babrai, (7) Pit alias Bajil, (8) Amir Mohomed, (9) Bahram Khan, (10) Asef Khan alias Mir Agai, (11) Asad Karim alias Adam Khan, (12) Lauddin alias Gafur, (13) Chapai, (14) Nadir alias Mohamud Azim, (15) Eaknan alias Jaman, (16) Taj Mohamud, (17) Warak alias Mahomed Jan, (18) Karim alias Nur Mahomud, (19) Majid alias Amir Mahomud II, (20) Khan, (21) Tarabaz Khan, (22) Sher Khan alias Mahomud Khan, and (23) Abdul Hakim. They were tried with the aid of two Assessors, one of whom was for acquitting all the accused. The learned Sessions Judge of Cachar (Mr. B. B. Newbould) disapproved with that Assessor and agreeing with the other Assessor, Babu Loke Nath Doss, convicted all the accused of an offence under section 395 I.P.C.—dacoity—and sentenced two of them No. 6 (Babrai) and No. 23 (Abdul Hakim) to transportation for life. Two others No. 3 (Doulat Khan) and No. 13 (Chapai) were sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment; the remaining thirteen being sentenced to ten years' transportation. Against that order all the accused persons appealed.

Learned Vakils then read the opinion of Babu Loke Nath Doss, one of the Assessors, which ran as follows:—"All the accused were together as dacoits. They did not come for trade. They came for dacoity. I therefore believe they all belong to one gang and are guilty." The opinion of the other Assessor, Munsif Mahomed Abdul Rahman Chowdhury, was as follows: "The accused who came with Bajid are not here. All the accused are not guilty." The Vakils submitted that pardon was tendered to Bajid under section 338 Cr. P. C. The conditions of the pardon was explained to him and he accepted them on the understanding of his making a full and true disclosure of the whole of the circumstances within his knowledge relative to the offence.

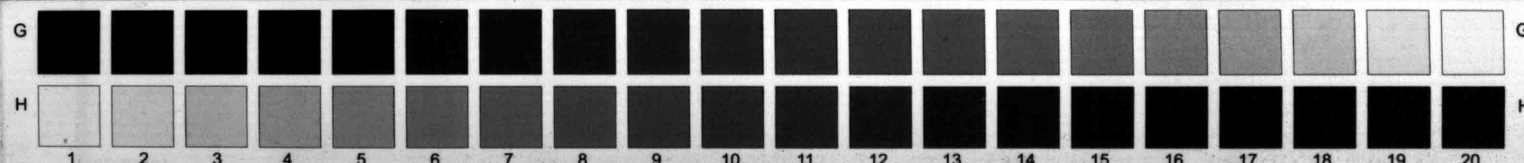
Mr. Justice Pratt:—Is he brother-in-law of Abdul Hakim?

The vakil:—Yes, his lord.

Learned Vakils then began to read the judgment delivered by the Sessions Judge, a portion of which already appeared in the "Patrika." He then began to read the evidences, commenting as he went on.

Trials is proceeding.

The Amir, as was stated a few days ago, contemplates an electric installation in Kabul, which will give both power and light. This is as much a matter of economy as of anything else, for the fuel bill for his factories is enormous. Last year it was said to have been eight lakhs of Kabul rupees, or upwards of four lakhs calculated in Indian currency. The manufacture of arms and ammunition is evidently a very extensive business, for to the above amount has to be added the cost of materials, labour, supervision and the wear-and-tear of machinery. It would be interesting to know what each rifle and each round of ammunition really represents in hard cash. They could certainly be imported from Europe much more cheaply than they are made in Kabul, but then there are difficulties in the way which needed not be specified.



Calcutta and Mofussil.

Lord Curzon's Return to India.—It is understood that Lord Curzon will hold office on return to India up to the end of March, 1906.

Postal.—The annual statement showing the numbers of letters and postcards given out for delivery at the Indian post offices and the number of parcels posted shows that the total rose from 589,268,000 to 601,903,000 an increase of 7.61 per cent.

Maharaja of Darbhanga.—H. H. the Maharaja of Darbhanga, who arrived in Calcutta on the 18th instant, will, after a week's stay, start on a pilgrimage tour to Gaya, Benares, Vindhayachal and Allahabad returning to Darbhanga within a week or so.

Legislative.—The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to nominate Mr. Krishna Govinda Gupta, Officiating Member, Board of Revenue Lower Provinces, to be a Member of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Board of Revenue.—Mr. H. Wheeler, Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, in addition to his own duties, vice Mr. H. LeMesurier, C.I.E., on deputation.

A Man-eating Dog.—The "Murshidabad Hetaishi" is responsible for the following:—A dog-like animal has made its appearance at villages Jaggram, Keshgram etc., within the jurisdiction of Bhagwan Gola Thana, who has accounted for 6 or 7 little children within a few days. The animal looks like a dog but has a bigger tail.

Electric Transporters at Shalimar.—In consequence of the coolie labour difficulty which has been experienced at Shalimar in connection with the transhipment of goods and coal for the Kidderpore Docks and Bengal Nagpur Railway the authorities have decided to adopt electric transporters at the Shalimar river-side station.

Theft by Soldiers.—Inspector Ballantyne charged before Calcutta Police Court on Saturday last Privates Anderson and Hartington, of the King's Own Regiment, with the theft each of a pair of boots from a shoe shop at 20, Bentinck Street. One man was arrested in Bentinck Street, the other in Mangoe Lane. The trial is proceeding.

Mr. C. T. Beckett.—The Agent and Chief Engineer of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway has, we understand, proceeded to Simla to discuss with the authorities there various questions of importance. One of these should be the Shalimar "pontoon question," which the Calcutta Port Trust with all their dredging have not improved the position of.—"Indian Engineering."

Supreme Legislative Council.—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. The Stores Bill, the Artillery Ranges Bill, and the Stamp Bill will be further advanced during the Simla season. The opinions by the Local Governments upon these measures are now reaching the Government of India.

Ranaghat-Katihar Railway Survey.—"Indian Engineering" understands that orders will shortly be issued to Mr. Nathan, Engineer-in-Chief of this Survey, to expedite submission of his project and to make over the camp equipment, tools, etc., to the Chief Storekeeper, E. B. S. R., for custody. It is more than probable that Mr. Nathan will take the project to Simla in order to explain it to Government.

Public Works Department.—Mr. R. Roy, Assistant Engineer, third grade, was attached to the office of the Chief Engineer, Bengal, from the 21st September to the 26th October 1903, and to that of the Superintendent Engineer, South-Western Circle, from the 27th October to the November 1903. Babu Priya Nath Chuckerbutty, Overseer, is vested with the powers of a Canal Officer under Act III (B.C.) of 1876, to be exercised only when in charge of an Irrigation subdivision in one of the districts of Bengal to which the Act has been extended.

Charitable Endowments.—Samaras Rajnarayan Das, Radhachurn Das and Radhagobind Das, Zemindars of Balasore, have offered eight-anna shares to two taluqs in Midnapore, yielding an annual income of Rs. 360 and Rs. 320 respectively for charitable purposes. They intend to set apart Rs. 300 yearly for the maintenance of a charitable dispensary at Balaipali, in the district of Balasore and the yearly income of Rs. 320 for the excavation of new tanks and sinking of wells or reclamation of old ones in the districts of Cuttack, Puri and Balasore.

Alleged Insult to a Eurasian Lady.—The case against Babu Monoranjan Banerjee, who stands charged with having insulted the modesty of Miss Mary O'Sullivan by putting his arms round her and asking her for a kiss in the street, was resumed on Saturday afternoon before the third Presidency Magistrate. Mr. N. L. Dey appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Buckland, instructed by Babu Keshub Chunder Gupta, for the defence. Messrs. Andrews and Melius, Mohendra Nath Dass, a little boy named Eric O'Sullivan, and Inspectors Carroll and Ballantyne were cross-examined, after which the case was adjourned to the 23rd instant.

A Nose-Cutting Case.—Our Hooghly correspondent writes:—One Nirada, a young woman living in the Bali quarter of the town of Hooghly, had the tip of her nose cut off, it is alleged, by her lover, one Atal, on the night of Friday last. It is said, she had a quarrel with her paramour over some money which she wanted to spend merrily on the occasion of the last Rath Jatra festival in feasting and drinking. Her lover could not meet her demands. She threatened him that she would transfer her affection and love to another man. As usual the couple retired to rest at night. When the woman fell asleep the man rose from his bed and in a fit of jealousy cut off the tip of her nose with a razor and made good his escape. Her cries of agony reached some people who appeared on the scene. The Police came and had the woman removed to the Hooghly Imbarah Hospital for treatment. The Police are on the look out of the supposed assailant who is now at large.

Supreme Legislative Council.—The first meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council will be held at the Viceregal Lodge Simla on the 12th August. No Legislative measures of any great importance will be dealt with.

Second Presidency Magistrate.—Mr. W. A. Bonnaud, Second Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, is invested with the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of the said section. He is also vested with powers under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Smoke Nuisance.—Since the last cold weather Mr. Frederick Grover's report on the abatement of smoke nuisance in Calcutta has been under consideration of the Government of Bengal, but so far nothing has transpired as to what extent his recommendations will be acted upon. The Local Government's action on the report is of great consequence to the mill industry in and around Calcutta, and doubtless the commercial community will be given a chance for the discussion of the draft proposals before any scheme or legislation is accepted by the Government.

The Bhagore Tragedy.—The case in which one Golam Rohoman Mondal, a young Mohammedan of Bhagore was charged with having murdered his girl wife by hacking him into pieces with a sharp tapping "dao" under circumstances already reported was concluded at the Alipore Criminal Sessions before Mr. Harward, the Additional District and Sessions Judge. The prisoner pleaded not guilty and took the plea of "alibi." The jury returned on unanimous verdict of "not guilty." The Judge however disagreeing with the verdict referred the case to the High Court.

All about a Tree.—Says the "Behar Herald":—The other day a Hindu lodged an information against a Mohammedan neighbour before the Police in Patna city under Section 295 I. P. C. for defiling a place of worship. It is alleged that a peepul tree belonging to the complainant had its branches overhanging the house of the accused who cut down a large number of its branches nearly severing the tree from the ground. The accused claims the tree as having been acquired by purchase. The Police has reported the case as false and recommended a prosecution under Section 182 I. P. C. The matter has been made over to Babu Gopi Nath Mathy Honorary Magistrate for judicial enquiry.

Opium Department Examination.—The following notification was published in the "Calcutta Gazette":—It is hereby declared that a competitive examination for two appointments in the Opium Department will be held in February 1905. At this examination only such European and Eurasian candidates as have been nominated by the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal and the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, each of whom is authorised to make as many nominations as he considers necessary or desirable, subject to ultimate approval by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, will be permitted to present themselves.

Civil Medical Department.—Third grade Assistant Surgeon Dhiraaj Mohan Sen is appointed, to train the policemen in Calcutta in First Aid to the Injured and Ambulance work with effect from the date he assumed charge. Third grade Assistant Surgeon Nani Lal Pan is appointed as an Additional Demonstrator of Anatomy, Medical College, Calcutta. Third grade Assistant Surgeon Gopal Chandra Mitra is appointed temporarily as Resident Assistant Surgeon, Howrah General Hospital. The following fourth-year students passed the final examination for Hospital Assistants from the Cuttack Medical School, and are qualified in medico-legal work:—Devendra Narayan Acharji and Brojo Mohan Das.

Alipore Criminal Sessions.—At the Alipore Criminal Sessions, before Mr. Harward, the Additional District and Sessions Judge, one Rokit Mondal and his brother, Narain Mondal notorious "budmash" and terrors of the locality were charged with having in a broad day light looted some paddy from the barns of one of their neighbours at Diamond Harbour. The brothers were in the habit of extorting money and grain from their neighbours and on the day of occurrence they demanded some paddy from the complainant and on his refusal they committed the above offence. The jury unanimously found the accused guilty and the Judge sentenced the first accused to four years and his brother to two years rigorous imprisonment.

Weather and Crops in Assam.—The following report on the state of the season and prospects of the crops in Assam for the week ending the 12th July 1904, states:—Heavy rain in the Surma valley, light to moderate elsewhere. More rain wanted in Upper Assam. Ploughing for and sowing of late rice, reaping of early rice, and plucking and manufacture of tea in progress. Transplanting of late rice commenced in places. Prospects of tea, sugarcane and cotton fair. Cutting of jute commenced in Sylhet. Prospects of jute fair in Sylhet and Garo Hills; poor in Goalpara. Early rice promises a fair outcome in all districts, except Goalpara, Kamrup, and Jowong. Cattle disease prevalent in six districts. Prices of common rice—Silchar 17, Sylhet and Dhubri 16, Tezpur 15, Gauhati, and Sibsagar 14, and Nowgong and Dibrugarh 13 seers per rupee.

Medical Department.—Captain R. P. Wilson, I.M.S., Officiating Second Surgeon, Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta, is appointed to act as First Surgeon of that institution. Captain E. O. Thurston, I. M. S. is appointed to act as Second Surgeon, Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta. Captain J. J. Urwin, I.M.S., is appointed, on being relieved of his present duties as Officiating Civil Surgeon of Tippera, to act as Resident Surgeon, Medical College Hospital, Calcutta. Major H. J. Dyson, I.M.S., Officiating Civil Surgeon of Bhagalpur, is appointed, to act as a Civil Surgeon or the first class. Major H. J. Dyson, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon of Jessore, is appointed, to act as Civil Surgeon of Bhagalpur. Captain M. H. Thornley, I.M.S., Officiating Civil Surgeon of Bhagalpur, is appointed, to act as Civil Surgeon of Rangpur. Senior Assistant Surgeon Debendra Nath Dey, Officiating Civil Surgeon of Rangpur, is appointed, to act as Civil Surgeon of Khulna. Captain J. Grech, R.A.M.C., Regimental Medical Officer, Dinapore, is appointed to have medical charge of the civil station of Dinapore, in addition to his own duties.

The Banka Scandal.—We are glad to hear that Babu Kaliprosad Sinha, Zeminder of Bankapur, who was sent up by the Dy. Magistrate of Banka under section 103 I.P.C. has been honorably discharged by the trying Magistrate, Rai B.K. Bose Bahadur of Bhagalpur. Babu Kali Prosad Sinha, in his turn, brought a counter charge on the said Dy. Magistrate of Banka. But the petition has been rejected and he is now, we hear, consulting his legal advisers, as to moving the higher court. Babu Kaliprosad Sinha has further brought a suit of damages in the Civil Court which is pending. Great sensation prevails.—"Behar News."

An Amorous Teacher Convicted.—On Tuesday before Babu G.N. Paul, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore one Rakhal Chander Ghose of Korupore was charged with having enticed away a married young Hindu woman from the lawful custody of her husband. The accused who was a private village teacher used to visit occasionally the house of the complainant as his younger brother was his student and availing himself of this opportunity induced the woman to leave the protection of her husband. He took her to his native village Chakdah where he represented her as his married wife to his neighbours and relations and lived there for some days as man and wife. The accused pleaded not guilty and stated in his defence that the woman left her husband's protection of her own accord and she also supported his plea. The court however found the accused guilty and sentenced him to six months' rigorous imprisonment.

Shri Vishuddhananda Saraswati Vidyalya.—By the exertion of some of the leading and influential Marwari gentlemen of Calcutta, an Institution for the education of the Marwari and other up-country boys was opened here a little over two years ago, after the name of the late revered sage, Swami Vishuddhananda Saraswati, of Benares. The School has progressed favourably since its starting. Appreciating the advantages of having an educational institution of their own, the Marwaris are taking great interest in the welfare of the institution and have given a hearty response to the call of the Managing Committee for a permanent fund which has been started with a view to ensure the stability of the institution and to conduct it on the improved method of the modern days. The amount subscribed in aid of the above fund has already reached the handsome figure of Rs. 1,40,221.

Supply Of Silver Coinage.—In reply to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the subject of an adequate supply of silver coinage, the Government of India state that arrangements have been made by which the Currency Department will now be able to meet any demands for rupees which may be made upon it. The Committee of the Chamber in reply to this letter, state that they are glad to see that Government have adopted the suggestion to hold a certain amount of uncoined bars of silver prepared for immediate coinage in the event of extra demands for rupees during the export season; and they are also pleased to note from the published accounts of the Paper Currency Department, that, in practice, the minimum silver reserve of twelve crores of rupees urged by the Chamber has been recently maintained, and they trust it will continue to be so. Under these circumstances, the Committee feel that they have no further criticisms to offer.

Revenue Department.—The Hon'ble Mr. A. Earle, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General and Revenue Departments, is allowed leave for six weeks. Mr. H. LeMesurier, C.I.E., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, is appointed to act as Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General and Revenue Departments, during the absence, on leave, of the Hon'ble Mr. A. Earle. Roughly Handling A Policeman. On Tuesday, before Babu Krishen Kali Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore one Gopi Nath Basak of Radhanagore was charged with having assaulted and obstructed a Policeman in the discharge of his public duty. The complainant arrested a cousin of the accused on a charge of theft and while taking him to the Thanna, the accused along with others fell upon him and after seriously assaulting, rescued the prisoner from his custody. The accused pleaded not guilty and took the plea of alibi. The charge having been satisfactorily proved against the accused, he was convicted and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment.

A Building Prosecution.—A case of some interest in which the Calcutta Municipal Corporation charged one Ahsan Karim with having built a room in No. 271, Bow Bazar Street without sanction, was decided on Saturday last by Mr. P. N. Mookerjee, Municipal Magistrate, Town Hall. The defendant, however, pleaded that he had the verbal sanction of Mr. Bromley, the City Architect, and produced a chit with the words "3, Harrington Street, 7-30" written therein by the City Architect, stating that he had been asked by the latter to see him at that place and hour on the evening named therein. Mr. Bromley appeared and said that the defendant called at his office and was told to put in plans, and that on his requesting to see him at his house he gave him the chit which he admitted to be in his own handwriting. The defendant called and introduced his business, asked some peculiar questions, and Mr. Bromley cut short the interview. The chits which were put in since the case was sanctioned within a week of their date. The Court while expressing its surprise to place the fairest construction on Mr. Bromley's statements, considered it was indiscreet for Mr. Bromley to have granted a private interview to a person in defendant's position, who came to his office on business and had no interest in common. The Court very pertinently added that public officers in responsible positions should do nothing which would be liable to misinterpretation, and should not place themselves in situations where appearances would be against them. They must do right and let others see that they do right. The defendant's building having already been sanctioned, he was warned and discharged.

General Oku reports that 1,854 Russians have been buried at Telissu. No more dead are reported. The Japanese captured 16 guns, 46 waggons, and 958 rifles, as well as other stores.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, July 15. General Sakharoff reports that General Rennenkampf was wounded in the leg near Simatse during a fight which resulted in the repulse of a Japanese attack and the occupation of the Pass by the Russians. Telegrams from Russian and French correspondents concur that there was severe fighting in the environs of Port Arthur on the night of the 10th instant, when the Japanese suffered the heaviest losses and the Russians lost a thousand.

London, July 16. A telegram from Perim states that the steamer "Dragoman," from Batoum to China, signalled when passing that she had been delayed by a Russian cruiser in the Red Sea. A "Morning Post" telegram from Shanghai, dated the 16th, says that the Russians have seized the American Press steamer "Fawan," and towed her into Port Arthur. There was a naval engagement off Port Arthur to-day.

Japanese headquarters officially absolutely contradict the reports of the battle of Port Arthur on the 10th instant in which the Japanese lost 25,000 men.

Two Russian volunteer cruisers and one torpedo boat are cruising in the Red Sea, and it is believed that they are looking for a particular steamer bound for Japan. The newspapers are raising an outcry against the double character of these cruisers which passed Dardanelles under the commercial flag, and are now flying the Naval flag, and stopping the British vessels.

Russian despatches indicate that the Japanese have halted and are entrenching south of Tashichiao, while transferring the bulk of the southern armies to the right flank. In pursuance of General Kuroki's enveloping tactics, two Japanese divisions have landed at Dally.

The Russian volunteer cruiser "St. Petersburg" seized the Peninsular and Oriental steamer "Malacca" bound for Yokohama in the Red Sea, and is now conveying her back to Suva.

The volunteer cruiser "Smolensk" has boarded the German Mail Steamer "Prinz Heinrich" and compelled her to surrender 3 sacks of letters and 24 sacks of parcels for Japan.

Admiral Alexieff reports that a fight took place on the 3rd and 4th instant for positions at Lunvantan near Port Arthur. The Japanese were repulsed by the aid of the Russian fleet, and lost a number of fortifications which the Russians occupied. The Japanese losses are estimated at 2,000 men and the Russians at 288. The Japanese have landed an additional twenty thousand men and fifty guns at Dally on the 2nd instant.

Reuter from General Kuroki's headquarters wires that the rains have ceased, and the country has dried rapidly. The army is living largely on fresh vegetables.

London, July 17. Admiral Alexieff reports that the Japanese on the 9th suspended their advance, and entrenched the positions they were then occupying. The Japanese are repairing the docks at Dally.

Reuter's Tientsin correspondent says:—The Chinese Minister at Tokio has telegraphed to the Chinese Foreign Office that the Japanese have presented a scheme for the administration of Manchuria and I am informed, that unless China suppresses the rebellion in Kwangsi bordering on Tongking, the French Government threatens to land troops. The Chinese Government at is much perturbed in consequence.

London, July 18. The Peninsular and Oriental steamer "Peria," with the mails for Bombay, was forcibly detained for an hour in the Red Sea by a Russian Volunteer cruiser "Smolensk" which transferred the Japanese mails taken from the "Prinz Heinrich." The "Smolensk" confiscated two bags of mails for Nagasaki. Germany has protested at St. Petersburg with reference to the seizure of the mails from the "Prinz Heinrich."

The Peninsular and Oriental Company deny that the "Malacca" had any arms or munitions for Japan. She carried the usual Government stores for Hongkong.

In the Commons Earl Percy replying to Mr. Laurie, in reference to the status of the Russian Volunteer cruisers, said the question was of the utmost importance and the Government was giving its most earnest attention to it, but the information was not complete.

Reuter's Correspondent at Tokio says that the torpedo boat destroyer "Hayatori" seized a junk conveying a mail to Port Arthur from Onifu and obtained much valuable military and naval information therefrom.

General Kuroki reports that General Keller yesterday morning in a fog desperately assaulted the Japanese positions around Motienling but was repulsed.

The Vico-Governor of Elizabethpol was hit by six bullets in a frequent thoroughfare. The murderer who is believed to be an Armenian has escaped. The crime is supposed to be the outcome of the Russian Police confiscating Armenian church property.

Reuter at Tientsin says the Manchuria Scheme provides that the Japanese shall govern the country with the assistance of a number of Chinese troops.

The British steamer Waipara which has arrived at Aden was detained by the cruiser Petersburg yesterday for four hours, and was informed that the Malacca was seized on the 14th instant because she was carrying arms and ammunition for Japan.

Telegrams from Neuchwang (Yinkow) show that the report of the occupation there was premature. The pause in the Japanese advance since the Kaiping fight still continues. The Russian gunboat Sivouch has ascended the river Liao to within forty miles of Liaoyang.

Nineteen Foreign correspondents at Tokio have been permitted to sail on the 25th instant to join the Port Arthur army.

A Daily Mail telegram from Singapore says a large armoured cruiser accompanied by two colliers was sighted near the Malacca Straits on Thursday going westward. It is supposed to be a Japanese warship en route to capture the Russian Volunteer ships in the Red Sea.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, July 19. A Daily Mail telegram from Aden states that the British steamers Woodcock and Dalmatia were detained three hours by the Russians in the Red Sea.

The Daily Mail correspondent at Aden states that the Captain of the Russian Volunteer cruiser Petersburg has notified to the British Resident at Aden that he intends to seize British steamers bound to the Far East if contents of their packages are not clearly shown in the manifests. The German protest to St. Petersburg regarding the Prinz Heinrich incident does not raise the question of the status of the Volunteer cruisers, but merely demands the return of mail bags. The British press insists upon the investigation of the status of these cruisers.

The Daily Graphic says that we might as well send a warship to the Red Sea to enquire of the cruiser Petersburg by what right it detained the Malacca.

The Standard says the Government must refuse to all Volunteer fleets the benefits of merchant vessels and that the Sultan might be called to order under our treaty with Japan.

The British Mediterranean fleet left Malta yesterday for Alexandria, Smyrna, and Syria in accordance with arrangements made prior to the recent seizures by the Russian Volunteer Cruisers in the Red Sea. This however is exciting sensational rumours of international complications and sent consuls down one one-sixteen in the last three days. These rumours are unfounded but it is understood that Great Britain has approached the Signatories of the Treaty of Paris, with a view to insisting on Russia defining the status of the Volunteer Cruisers still in the Black Sea, and may claim demurrage compensation for seizures hitherto made but will confine action chiefly to the future.

The Japanese have seized the British Steamer "Peiping," bound from Shanghai to Nuchwang.

Kuropatkin confirms the news of Keller's defeat at the Motienling Pass and says that the Russian force consisted of eighteen battalions exclusive of troops held in reserve. They attacked in three columns but finding the enemy in overwhelmingly superior force they retired. The Japanese then attacked them. The fighting began at eleven on the night of the 16th instant and lasted till three in the afternoon of the next day. The Russian casualties were at least one thousand men.

GENERAL.

London, July 17. The German Government is awaiting explanations from Russia regarding the "Prinz Heinrich" incident, but the Government press is already minimising the matter.

London, July 18. Mr. Brodrick, in the Commons replying to a long question from Mr. McNeill, said that Russia was informed at the beginning of June that Great Britain adhered to the policy enunciated in the despatch dated 6th November last, but obviously her action must depend to some extent upon the attitude of the Tibetans, and the Government declined to undertake now to depart from its policy in any eventuality. So long, however, as no Power endeavoured to intervene in the affairs of Tibet, Britain would not attempt to annex, establish a protectorate, or control the internal administration of Tibet.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

PARS FROM THE "PIONEER."

Allahabad, July 17. The "Pioneer's" London correspondent wires under date July 17:—

General Kuropatkin's retreat from Ta-Shih-Chiao is reported to be already unsate. The Russians claim that he is aware of this and is unperturbed being prepared to defend Liao-Kang and to take the offensive. The Japanese are attempting to unplace heavy guns on the heights near Ta-Shih-Chiao under the Russian fire. General Kuropatkin is fortifying other heights. The pass where General Rennenkampf was wounded is apparently between Samatse and Liao-Yang. General Sokharoff reports that the Russian mounted troops fell upon the flank and rear of the force attacking the pass which retreated precipitately.

SIR JOHN LATOUCHE.

Yesterday afternoon Sir John Latouche was out inspecting the city. His Honor leaves this by special train to-night for Agra forth where he reaches on the 20th morning as he will have halts on the road.

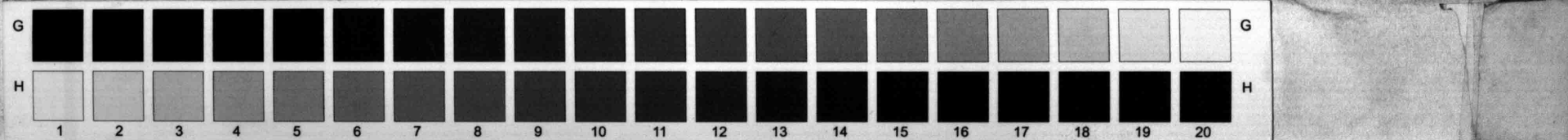
ATTACK AT MOTIENLING.

Bombay, July 19. General Kuroki reports that under cover of thick fog at 3 a.m. on the 17th instant, General Keller commanding the Russian army corps with about two divisions commenced a fierce attack at Motienling and adjacent positions occupied by a part of our army. The latter made a stubborn resistance, repulsing the enemy all sides, and pursued them as far as Kunkiapotzu. Our casualties are under investigation.

The Tibet Mission.

THE MARCH.

Gyantse, July 17. The force has entered a region of tumultuous mountains wreathed in clouds. We are marching in rain and camping in wet. Peace Delegates were reported at first at Goshi and then at Ralung. They have retired before our approach, an indication that the Tibetans intend opposing our advance. Mounted scouts watched our march on the 15th. The Mounted Infantry captured a prisoner who states that at Karola the wall which Colonel Brander took in May, has been strengthened, and another wall is built behind it. The prisoner adds in addition to one thousand men holding position, 800 Kham warriors are expected as reinforcements.—"Englishman."



Corporation of Calcutta.

A special meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday at 4 p.m. The Hon. C. G. H. Allen acting chairman of the corporation presided and there were about twenty commissioners present.

MR. MAC CABE'S APPLICATION.

The item of business was to consider an application from Mr. W. B. Mac Cabe Chief Engineer of the corporation, for leave on medical certificate from 17th June to 23rd July inclusive and to make arrangements for carrying on the duties of his office during his absence.

The Chairman said that Mr. Mac Cabe fell ill about the 17th June and he was unable to attend office. His application was supported by medical certificate. As regards the carrying out of the work of the corporation would not have any difficulty as Mr. Ball-Hill, who was working for Mr. Mac Cabe, would do the work in addition to his own. The question for consideration was whether he would get full pay or half pay as in ordinary cases. Mr. Mac Cabe had stated in his letter that he contracted his illness while in the discharge of his duties at the Palmers Bridge Pumping station. He appealed to the corporation, to give him during his absence on leave, his full pay. It seemed that the application was not an unreasonable one. The Chairman therefore supported the motion and said that one reason for his support was that the corporation would not incur any extra expenditure.

Mr. Valentine supported the motion. Mr. Braumfeld said that there was a rule laid down which permitted Mr. Mac Cabe to draw his half pay only. If the rule was observed in other cases he could not see any reason why that rule should not be observed in this case.

Mr. Apcar supported Mr. Braumfeld's amendment, which was put to the vote and lost. Six voted for the amendment and six voted against it. The chairman's vote was given against the amendment. The motion was carried.

At the close of the special meeting the second adjourned fourth ordinary monthly meeting of the corporation was held.

INTERPELLATIONS.

Babu Priya Nath Mallik asked the following questions:—

- (1) What was the amount of realisations on account of the general fund, including current warrant collections only (excluding old arrears)?
- (a) For the year 1889-90 ... 1889-90
- (b) Ditto 1890-91 ... 1890-91
- (c) Ditto 1891-92 ... 1891-92
- (d) Ditto 1892-93 ... 1892-93
- (e) Ditto 1893-94 ... 1893-94
- (f) Ditto 1894-95 ... 1894-95
- (g) Ditto 1895-96 ... 1895-96
- (h) Ditto 1896-97 ... 1896-97
- (i) Ditto 1897-98 ... 1897-98
- (j) Ditto 1898-99 ... 1898-99
- (k) Ditto 1899-00 ... 1899-00
- (l) Ditto 1900-01 ... 1900-01
- (m) Ditto 1901-02 ... 1901-02
- (n) Ditto 1902-03 ... 1902-03
- (o) Ditto 1903-04 ... 1903-04
- (p) Budget estimate for 1904-05 ... 1904-05

- (2) What is the amount of old arrears of the Warrant Department realised during the year?
- (a) The year 1889-90 ... 1889-90
- (b) Ditto 1890-91 ... 1890-91
- (c) Ditto 1891-92 ... 1891-92
- (d) Ditto 1892-93 ... 1892-93
- (e) Ditto 1893-94 ... 1893-94
- (f) Ditto 1894-95 ... 1894-95
- (g) Ditto 1895-96 ... 1895-96
- (h) Ditto 1896-97 ... 1896-97
- (i) Ditto 1897-98 ... 1897-98
- (j) Ditto 1898-99 ... 1898-99
- (k) Ditto 1899-00 ... 1899-00
- (l) Ditto 1900-01 ... 1900-01
- (m) Ditto 1901-02 ... 1901-02
- (n) Ditto 1902-03 ... 1902-03
- (o) Ditto 1903-04 ... 1903-04
- (p) Budget estimate for 1904-05 ... 1904-05

- (3) What was the amount of a 1 per cent. rate during each of the years mentioned in question (1)?
- (4) What was the amount of expenditure debited to the General Fund on account of interest charges during the years mentioned in question (1)?
- (5) What was the amount of loan realised in each of the years mentioned in question (1)?
- (6) What was the amount of Capital Fund expenditure in each of those years?
- (7) What was the amount of expenditure debitable to the General Fund in each of those years?
- (8) What was the amount credited to the General Fund under Section 105, Clause 2 (vi), Section 106, Clause 2 (v) and Section 107, Clause 2 (iv) in the year 1889-90, and how long was this continued without variation?
- (9) When was the first variation made? If there was an increase state the amount of increase in each year.
- (10) In view of the large surplus in the Water-supply Fund (before the advance to the General Fund was sanctioned by a majority of the Commissioners) has any payment been ever made as suggested under Section 105, Clause 2 (ii), which says "that the Water-supply Fund shall be debited with the annual expenditure requisite for the repayment of money borrowed for extension of the Water-supply," as contradistinguished from "or for the maintenance of Sinking Funds under Chapter X?"
- (11) What would have been the deficit in the years commencing from 1st April, 1900 to 31st March, 1904 (separate figures wanted for each year) if the old arrears had not been realised?
- (12) Is it not a fact that last year the income was short by about 4 lakhs, and if so, the reason for the same?
- (13) Is it not a fact that at a meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on the 26th September, 1903, it was pointed out that at the end of the year the balances of the different Funds will stand thus:—

General Fund ... -70,602
Water-supply Fund ... +34,652
Sewage fund ... +2,01,000 (about)

and is it not a fact that the real balances are about the same?

- (14) Is it not a fact that at that time certain remedies were suggested to balance the different Funds and were those suggestions placed before the General Committee and the Corporation? If so, with what result?
- (15) Was Resolution No. 4 of the Finance Sub-Committee, dated 17th September, 1903, relating to the proper distribution of the consolidated rate placed before the General Committee and the Corporation, and if so with what result?
- (16) Is it not a fact that rate bills with different percentages (than what they are now) for the different Funds were printed before the 31st March, 1904, and what was the cost of those bills and under whose orders were they printed?

(17) Is there any chance of their being within any reasonable time?

(18) What was the total cost of ordinary establishment.—

(a) In the year 1888-89 ... 1888-89
(b) Ditto 1889-90 ... 1889-90
(c) Ditto 1890-91 ... 1890-91
(d) Ditto 1891-92 ... 1891-92
(e) Ditto 1892-93 ... 1892-93
(f) Ditto 1893-94 ... 1893-94
(g) Ditto 1894-95 ... 1894-95
(h) Ditto 1895-96 ... 1895-96
(i) Ditto 1896-97 ... 1896-97
(j) Ditto 1897-98 ... 1897-98
(k) Ditto 1898-99 ... 1898-99
(l) Ditto 1899-00 ... 1899-00
(m) Ditto 1900-01 ... 1900-01
(n) Ditto 1901-02 ... 1901-02
(o) Ditto 1902-03 ... 1902-03
(p) Ditto 1903-04 ... 1903-04
(q) Ditto 1904-05 ... 1904-05

(19) Proposed expenditure for ... 1904-05

(20) What is the total amount of appropriations under Section 126 (Revenue Funds) from 1st April, 1904 to 31st July last?

(21) Is there any authority in the Calcutta Municipal Act III (B.C.) of 1889 to authorise the transfer of any account from the Funds (other than the General Fund) to the General Fund except as provided in sections and clauses mentioned in question (8)?

(22) Is the Chairman prepared to take the opinion of the Advocate-General or any other senior Counsel upon the point in view of the fact that the Corporation has already authorised certain advances or transfers from the minor Funds to the General Fund?

The chairman replied:—

(1) and (2). The figures so far as they are available are under compilation.

(3) A statement is laid on the table.

(4) do.

(5) do.

(6) do.

(7) do.

(8) Under the corresponding sections of the former Act the credits to the General Fund in 1889-90 were Rs. 1,02,402-12-5. The latter portion of the question is not understood.

(9) This question is not understood. The credits to the General Fund under these sections and the corresponding sections of former Acts are shown in the statement laid on the table.

(10) Yes. This is done.

(11) The question is not understood. As will be explained later the realisations of old arrears during 1900-01 cannot be stated.

A statement showing how the accounts for the three following years would have closed if no old arrears had been realised, is under preparation.

(12) The question is not understood.

(13) Yes it is a fact the real balances at the end of the year 1903-04 were General Fund Rs. 59,558-4-8 (deficit) Water Supply Fund Rs. 3,75,635-7-5 (surplus) Sewage Fund Rs. 3,07,152-2-10 (surplus).

(14) and (15). The Finance Sub-Committee proposed a redistribution of the rates for 1904-05. This proposal was at first accepted by the General Committee, but was abandoned later during the discussions upon the Chairman's estimate of Receipts and Expenditure. This proposal was not placed before the Corporation.

(16) Yes. Rs. 800 They were printed by order of the General Committee.

(17) They have been used with manuscript alterations.

(18) The statement is under preparation.

(19) Rs. 57,781.

(20) Yes. This is explained in the Vice-Chairman's note dated the 3rd June, 1904, which was laid before the Corporation.

(21) No. I consider this would be a waste of ratepayers' money.

Statement No. 3.

1889-90 1,63,710.

1890-91 1,73,597.

1891-92 1,74,582.

1892-93 1,81,751.

1893-94 1,88,732.

1894-95 1,92,898.

1895-96 1,96,653.

1896-97 1,98,764.

1897-98 2,02,186.

1898-99 2,07,139.

1899-00 2,13,408.

1900-01 2,18,154.

1901-02 2,26,730.

1902-03 2,35,310.

1903-04 2,43,928.

1904-05 2,48,770. (Estimated.)

Statement No. 4.

1889-90 4,25,237-4-5.

1890-91 4,66,277-2-11.

1891-92 4,47,191-10-11.

1892-93 4,54,350-15-6.

1893-94 5,40,261-13-10.

1894-95 5,35,716-9-5.

1895-96 5,45,760-11-3.

1896-97 5,72,648-8-9.

1897-98 5,99,208-13-2.

1898-99 6,43,270-1-5.

1899-00 7,19,960-1-6.

1900-01 7,41,532-4-7.

1901-02 6,81,259-8-7.

1902-03 8,52,398-0-9.

1903-04 8,68,451-15-1.

1904-05 10,14,051-0-0.

Statement No. 5.

1889-90 19,00,000.

1890-91 30,00,000.

1891-92 20,00,000.

1892-93

1893-94

1894-95 18,00,000.

1895-96 20,00,000.

1896-97 15,54,700.

1897-98 34,00,000.

1898-99 8,70,900.

1899-00 2,25,000.

1900-01 21,00,000.

1901-02 15,00,000.

1902-03 45,00,000.

1903-04 35,00,000.

1904-05

Statement No. 6.

1889-90 25,21,667-7-2.

1890-91 27,79,559-15-3.

1891-92 15,01,990-14-6.

1892-93 16,34,300-18-0.

1893-94 8,20,750-6-10.

1894-95 9,48,089-11-2.

1895-96 17,74,868-7-10.

1896-97 10,19,243-6-10.

1897-98 23,36,587-12-7.

1898-99 25,51,499-15-2.

1899-00 18,67,639-10-3.

1900-01 12,19,884-7-0.

1901-02 18,92,769-10-5.

1902-03 20,91,753-0-10.

1903-04 37,91,248-11-6.

1904-05 41,60,231-0-0.

Statement No. 7.

1889-90 25,99,242-2-10.

1890-91 27,78,761-6-7.

1891-92 26,67,793-13-7.

1892-93 26,81,553-8-6.

1893-94 26,89,240-8-4.

1894-95 28,03,458-0-1.

1895-96 30,76,280-6-3.

The Tibet Expedition.

THE ASSAULT ON THE JONG.

Mr. Henry Newman, special correspondent of the "Englishman," writes in his paper from Gyantse camp, under date the 8th July:—

Even a whole day after the event one writes under stress of a deep emotion. As on the triumphant evening so now so many hours after the brain finds some difficulty in tracing incidents in their proper sequence. Our troops rolled out to the attack at two in the morning, and when the sun was setting blazing red against a dust storm gathering in the east, the jong was won. Gurkhas and Fusiliers were cheering on the topmost tower. That is the supreme and ultimate fact which emerges out of the excitement of the day. Then wondering how the feat was accomplished, the picture of Grant and his Gurkhas, with our British Tommies hard at their heels, flashes vivid into the memory. From towers on right and left and beyond Tibetan bullets were hailed into the cleft up which our soldiers were clinging and climbing. A persistent avalanche of stones was poured down upon them. Men swept off their feet were caught and held up by their comrades and so the sinuous Khaki line, won its stubborn way to the breach and up to the tower on the pinnacle. And when the fight was won and we counted our losses another wonder! Only 37 men hit! There were numbers of others with bruises, with blood streaming over their faces and clothes from cuts with stones and scrapes from bullets, but only 37 are shown in the hospital returns. One can only conceive that the sheer luck which has ever followed the British arms was with us in the taking of the jong.

For two months the jong has dominated all our thoughts. It is correct to say that we never feared it as an instrument of offence. Its cannon balls and bullets rattled harmlessly though persistently against our traverses and covered ways. We always felt that the real menace of the jong was directed towards that day when we should come to take it by assault. The Tibetans, like us, even in the days of armistice and talk of instant peace, knew that the time must surely come when our columns would advance to the assault and against that hour they built and built with a patient and tireless majesty. Some fire brands and young bloods amongst us looked forward to the fighting that must ensue with undisguised eagerness, but to-day there is not a sober minded man in the force who is not glad and relieved that the whole business is over.

I have already telegraphed the circumstances under which the Armistice was declared. It was to be continued provided the jong was surrendered to us by noon on the 5th. At noon on Tuesday we fired a gun to indicate that hostilities had recommenced. Later on the General made a demonstration towards the town behind the jong which was kept up till after dark. The jingals on the monastery wall were immediately manned. The fire from them seriously wounded one sepoy. The demonstration was a ruse to induce the enemy to believe that we intended to attack from that side. As a matter of fact our main assault when it did come off was almost frontal, and was delivered up one of the steepest portions of the cliff, examination having shown that the towers and sangars on the front face were so placed as to a large extent mask each other's fire. Besides the fringe of villages below is most thin on the front face. Whereas, had we gone round to the flanks where the rock shelved more gradually we would first have had to fight our way through a mass of closely packed houses, and then ascend an open glacis upon which a murderous fire could have been brought to bear.

The troops were stirring at midnight. By half past two they were moving across the bridge, and before daylight the three columns mentioned in my telegram were launched on the attack. The left column under Major Murray, 8th Gurkhas, was able to get straight home into the fringe of houses assigned to it under the base of the cliff. It was about this time that that brave soldier, Lieutenant Gordon, 32nd Pioneers, was killed. Shortly afterwards a walled garden on the extreme right was also in our possession. It was quite dark when the firing began. One could see nothing beyond flashes of flame, and it is difficult to understand how the enemy knew exactly where our troops were. But the direction of the bullets showed that they did know where we were. When daylight dawned a certain number of our soldiers had reached the walls of a large house into which they gained an entry through a breach gallantly made by the sappers and miners.

About seven one of the striking incidents of the fight took place. The native field hospital left Paria outpost and struck across the plain under an extraordinary fire from the jong. Any press correspondent, in describing a battle must hesitate before mentioning for fear of making distinctions which might be thought biased, but it is only fair to say right here that the I.M.S. men more than sustained that reputation for gallantry which their corps has won on so many fields. The houses and garden taken were roughly fortified, and then for several hours an interchange of musketry fire was kept up, the Tibetans doing their best to overpower our right. In the meanwhile our ten-pounders and seven-pounders fired shrapnel into towers and sangars, whilst the maxims rattled continuously.

It was not till past three in the afternoon that preparations could be made for the final assault. The attention of the general had been caught by the cleft or rather wide scar in the hill side of which I have spoken, but the top of it was barred by a high wall flanked by two towers. The ten-pounders were directed to turn their attention to the wall. Then we saw with what accuracy our gunners can work. Also we saw the value of common shell. Twelve rounds were planted one behind the other on the wall and then Colonel Campbell 40th Pathans who was commanding the assault reported the breach practicable. In the meanwhile the companies of Gurkhas and Fusiliers held in reserve for the assault rushed across to the base of the rock in great style. Bullets spattered the dust all round them, but only one man was hit. The assaulting party was given twenty minutes breathing space under cover of the villages we held, and then that grim climb against death began. We could see the Tibetans running down from the upper towers and manning the sangars below. One of their chief powder magazines had blown up a short

time before, but they were not dismayed. Our guns poured shrapnel into them over the heads of the climbing troops, but their rifle-men stuck persistently to their loopholes whilst a special party rolled stones down the cleft, nor did the general bolt begin till the heroic Grant had scrambled over the breach. It was thus we won the jong.

NOTES ON THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

("Japan Times," June 11.)

LATEST NEWS FROM PORT ARTHUR.

According to the Chefoo correspondent of the "Nichi Nichi," one of the Chinese who arrived there from Port Arthur on the 9th instant, states that more than 2,000 Russians were killed during the engagements at Kichow and Nanshan, while the wounded, who were sent back to Port Arthur, were very numerous. Four or five thousand Chinese are still at Port Arthur. Stocks of fodder, provisions, and coal are rapidly diminishing.

THE SECOND ISSUE OF WAR LOAN.

The subscriptions to the second issue of the war loan reached on Friday, the first day of subscription, to 99,174,950 yen, of which the sum of 2,619,425 yen represents offers above the issue price. The amount of the loan is 100,000,000 yen. The amount subscribed by Tokyo was 61,722,875 yen and that of Osaka 22,453,225 yen.

Many of the subscribers have specified the denominations of the bonds which they would like to receive. But in view of the fact that the bonds are all printed before they are handed over to the Bank of Japan, the latter will be unable to fully satisfy the wishes of the subscribers in this connection.

THE CLEARANCE OF DALNY.

A report from Vice-Admiral Kataoka, Commander-in-Chief of the Third Squadron, received at the Imperial Headquarters on June 10, 7 a.m., is in substance as follows:—

Our detachment engaged in dragging for mines in Talien-wan discovered and destroyed 16 mines on the 8th and 9th. We sustained no loss.

In Take-kow, there are four water reservoirs, one 100 tsubo long and three 30 tsubo long, constructed by the Russians. All these reservoirs are six feet deep. There is a jetty with a system of iron pipes for the conveyance of water which has been partially destroyed and needs some repairs.

Regarding the alleged poisoning of the wells by the Russians, the Chinese who furnished the news has absconded, and it is surmised that his object was to prevent the Japanese from utilizing the water. The matter is now being strictly investigated and the water subjected to chemical analysis.

HARBIN AT WAR TIME.

A correspondent en route to the front, writing from Harbin, describes the scene there as he observed it. From all sides soldiers were pouring into Harbin, the uncompleted railroad station being transformed into a barracks and almost every house in the town being occupied by soldiers. Pristan, a short distance away, which until recently had been a small village on the bank of the Sungari River, had become a city with temporary buildings, which were being used by the troops and with stores and restaurants. The streets of the two cities were thronged with picturesque Cossacks, bearded Siberians, sharpshooters and galloping orderlies, all imbued with the fever to get to the front. Merchants and restaurateurs, the correspondent adds, were accused of extortion.

FRENCH ACTIVITY.

A Shanghai despatch, dated the 8th inst., states that, according to a telegram received by the "Shanghai Mercury" from Hongkong on that date, a large French force from Annam has been concentrated on the Annam boundary. This intelligence having been forwarded to the Peking Government by the Viceroy of Kwang-si, the former has instructed the Viceroy to prepare for any emergency that may arise. The French authorities state that they have been compelled to take the above step in order to protect the French trade in the Chinese interior, the Peking authorities being utterly unable to do so.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE "HATSUSE" DISASTER.

A press despatch from Sasebo, dated the 7th instant, gives the following further particulars regarding the sinking of the battleship "Hatsuse," told by Captain Nakao and other officers of the battleship who were rescued:—

By order of Admiral Togo, Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Fleet, the ill-fated battleship "Hatsuse," together with the "Shikishima," "Yashima," "Kasagi" and "Tatsuta," was keeping watch off Port Arthur on the morning of May

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London July 1.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

"Once again I see with regret that unfortunate tendency of Indian administrators to be satisfied with a low and obsolete standard of comparison with the past, and to resent the setting up of higher and better modern standards of comparison."

—J.E.O'Conor, late Director of Statistics, India.

MR. J.E.O'CONOR BLASPHEMES.

A few weeks ago this Letter contained lengthy extracts from Mr. J.E.O'Conor's momentous lecture upon the condition of India, which he delivered before the Indian—or, rather, Anglo-Indian—Section of the Society of Arts. The Society has now republished the lecture in its Journal, and the publication is of especial interest since there appears with it Mr. O'Conor's reply to certain objections raised by his critics during the discussion which followed the lecture. On the whole, it may be said that the criticism was of the shallowest description. In particular, it ignored the chief points of Mr. O'Conor's indictment against the present Government. He declared that the reduction of Land Revenue by 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. would do more good than all the possible minor aids that the Government of India could give to agriculture and even than a wide scheme of irrigation extension; he maintained that the life of a workhouse inhabitant in England would be a dream of the wildest luxury to the Indian peasant or artisan; and, finally, that the elementary education of the masses had been reprehensibly neglected. To these and other ominous remarks little reference was made in the discussion. The Anglo-Indian ex-officials present sought chiefly to quiet their uneasy consciences by suggesting that a comparison between the comfort of the people of England and the destitution of the people of India was fallacious and unreasonable. Like Sir Lepel Griffin, who last week strove to argue that poverty was "merely a relative term," and that the "poor of India are not actually as poor as the poor of England," they showed an apparent belief in the theory that starvation and hunger-diseases are less terrible and demoralising to Indians than they are to Englishmen. Such a line of argument carries its own refutation: it is the last desperate effort of a defeated controversialist. In his reply, Mr. O'Conor makes short work of it in a passage of cogent reasoning and restrained indignation.

"I must entirely decline," he writes, "to accept the view that it is not fair to compare India with Western countries, and that a fair comparison would only be with such a country as China. As an indication of the advance that has been made in India, a comparison with China, or Persia, or Siam, has its use, and that comparison can be said to have been made by me. I stated at considerable length the difference between the India of to-day and the India of the pre-Mutiny period, and we may take it that the comparison holds equally good for the countries mentioned, which may be said to be to-day in an economic condition as little advanced as was that of India fifty years ago. But this is only part of the enquiry. We have not only to measure the progress made from the starting point by comparing present conditions with pre-existing conditions; we have also to measure the present conditions by the test of modern efficiency, and when we do this we must necessarily take an other standard."

This should be fairly obvious to anyone who is not defending his own life's work against a logic of results which is already demonstrating how pitifully his deeds have lagged behind his good intentions. But in order to make the matter clearer to official and ex-official intelligence, Mr. O'Conor proceeds to a well chosen simile which vividly illustrates his meaning.

"As a matter of history," he continues, "it is interesting to note the difference between a modern rifle and the musketoon of Cromwellian days, but if we wish to test the practical efficiency of our rifle we take an entirely different standard of comparison, and judge of the article by similar articles used by modern armies. In the same way, while pointing to the great progress made since India was in a rudimentary economic condition, I maintain that I am right in pointing out how many more stages must be travelled before India can come near even a backward Western country."

Then, for a few sentences, Mr. O'Conor gives rein to an irritation abundantly justifiable. He has been reproached with making a comparison humiliating to the bureaucracy, and he girds at the measureless vanity of the ruling class which spurns deprecating praise or blame and will only acknowledge slavish and extravagant adulation. Others may worship before the shrine at Simla: he will not. So he continues:

"Such a comparison should be welcomed as a stimulus to activity, and I confess I see with regret once again that unfortunate tendency of Indian administrators to be satisfied with a low and obsolete standard of comparison with the past, and to resent the setting up of higher and better modern standards of comparison. I call that tendency unfortunate because I believe that it generates a sluggish self-complacency fatal to the development of active endeavour and, therefore, injurious to the country we administer."

It is all very well that Mr. O'Conor should have disclaimed any sympathy with the "bawling judgments" of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" or of the National Congress. That will not save him. In these sentences he has treated Anglo-Indian administrators as men prone to the temptations and failings of common mortals. Such a sin is the rankest blasphemy. To talk of Simla and sluggish self-complacency marks one as an individual no more than ordinary discernment. Nevertheless, it is a sin against the Providence that rules India, and should relegate him in the end, if not to Hades, at least to a lengthened sojourn in Purgatory in order that he may expiate his sin. East of Suez,

so Rudyard Kipling tells us, "there ain't no Ten Commandments." This is not true. In India there is a Great Commandment which outgrows the Ten. And already, careless of the future or of his reputation, Mr. O'Conor has ruthlessly broken it. I am sure no Anglo-Indian official would greatly blame the skies if they were to fall upon him and crush him one afternoon as he is entering the Society of Arts. He deserves some original and terrible chastisement. For, is he not almost as bad as a session of the Indian National Congress? Once he was Director-General of Statistics in India! Even now-a-days it seems that Paradise has need to mourn its Fallen Angels!

LAND REVENUE AND EDUCATION.

After dealing with the main objection against his method of comparison, Mr. O'Conor demolishes a few isolated criticisms. In the discussion which followed the reading of the paper Sir William Lee-Warner admitted that the land revenue was probably too high all over India except in Bengal where it was too low. Mr. O'Conor recommends Sir William to study the land question a little more thoroughly before he delivers positive judgments upon the subject.

"If Sir William Lee-Warner had gone a little deeper into this question," says Mr. O'Conor, "he would not have failed. I am sure, to recognise that though the Government revenue from the land in Bengal is low, it allows the zemindar to take a competition rent from the cultivator, a rent which is certainly at least as high in proportion as that which is taken in provinces where the Government assesses the cultivator direct. Whether an unduly high rent is taken direct by the Government or by the middleman with the sanction of Government does not matter. My argument is that the cultivator should be protected against excessive enhancements of his payments whether they are made to the State or to the middleman created by the State."

Mr. O'Conor, it will be noted, does not withdraw an inch from the position he originally took up. In conclusion, he returns to the enormous need for the elementary education of the Indian peasantry, and he quietly deplores the fact that his critics have ignored his statement on the matter.

"I wish," he remarks, "that the gentlemen who took part in the discussion—to all of whom I am obliged for their courteous reception of my paper—had expressed their views on the need of a much closer and earnest effort in the diffusion of primary education, especially of such education as fits a boy to follow with trained intelligence and acquired skill, the calling to which he belongs, whether he is an agriculturist or an artisan. Herein lies our primary duty to India, and I trust it may very soon become impossible to say with truth that it is still neglected."

It would be well if Sir Mancherjee Bhownagare were to ponder these words. He is doing excellent service by urging upon British audiences the great need for technical education in India. It would add to the value of his service if he were to urge also the equal need for elementary education. A farmer can get good return by caring for the crop already above ground; but he can look forward to bigger yields by sowing his seed over wider areas of hitherto barren land. As with the farmer, so with the statesman. Technical and elementary education are necessary to India. Both of them. Not one without the other.

MR. PENNINGTON ON THE SALT TAX: A CRITICISM.

When a man has a good cause to put before an audience—an audience hostile probably so far as half the number was concerned—it is always a little tragic to see him spoil it. And certainly Mr. J. B. Pennington spoils his own cause when he delivered his lecture on the Salt Tax before the East India Association last week. The substance both of the paper and of the discussion have already appeared in these columns, but comment was reserved until to-day. If Mr. Pennington's afternoon with the Association has done anything to aid the Salt reform movement, it has done so more by affording a peg for Dr. Hutchinson's weighty remarks than by an irresistible appeal made by the lecturer. This may seem a harsh judgment, but if it would spur Mr. Pennington to build his agitation on a plan that is likely to ensure success, the criticism will not have been wasted. In the first place, Mr. Pennington weakened the force and continuity of his argument by several immaterial asides. When only half through his paper he paused for some minutes to argue with Professor Gokhale's statement that the abkari, forest, and other revenues are compulsory upon the general mass of the people. Now, whatever be the rights of that question, clearly it is immaterial to the salt issue. To raise the point merely detracted the attention of the audience and gave them a hazy feeling of distrust either of Mr. Pennington or of Professor Gokhale, thus blurring the clear-cut impression which they ought presumably to have been forming upon the Salt Duty. This pernicious habit—I hope Mr. Pennington will pardon the adjective—of drawing a red herring across the trail he is trying to follow was again shown at the end of the lecture. In a postscript he declared, "much as I object to the tax itself, it is a mistake to exaggerate its incidence as some of the newspapers do when they say it amounts to 4,000 per cent. on the cost price. This is certainly not true of the whole of India." What was the reason for giving this disclaimer the prominence of a postscript? Mr. Pennington had already stated that what he opposed was not the amount of the tax but the fact that there should be a tax at all. Clearly, then, it was immaterial to his issue whether "some of the papers" announced the tax to be 4,000 or 40,000 per cent. on the cost price. "For the want of salt," he declared earlier in his paper, "I believe many of the people die literally die." If he truly believes this, it becomes unnecessary for him to expose the merely arithmetical exaggerations of his fellow reformers. To do it in the manner that he has done simply throws a suspicion of exaggeration upon "some of the papers;" and, since he is advocating the views of these newspapers, it also throws a suspicion of exaggeration upon his own statements—a suspicion, of course, which is altogether unfounded. In view of the strength of his previous arguments the postscript is nothing more than a quibble which is unnecessary. Besides, it does not appear altogether accurate. In some parts of India the incidence is not forty times the cost, perhaps; but in others it is at least as high, and in the salt districts and by the sea shore salt which could be had for nothing becomes a luxury practically out of the reach of the unfortunate peasant. If salt, which would normally cost no annas at all is subjected to the customary tax, its price is not raised forty times, but by an amount infinitely larger. And what applies on an exaggerated scale in this extreme—but not uncommon—instance, applies to a greater or less extent all over India. The salt tax ought to be altogether abolished. Why, then, does Mr. Pennington, in the face of the enemy, challenge a fight with fellow reformers upon what is after all a side issue of no vital importance? He damages the impression he evidently intended to make by subsiding into this terminal anti-climax. But another and more fundamental miscalculation spoiled the effect of his appeal. In the financial alternative to the salt tax suggested by him, he laid himself open to a dangerously effective attack from the ex-officials present. At the forefront of his argument he declared that the amount of the salt revenue might easily be saved by the reduction of expenditure, especially on the army, or, by debiting to the Home Government a reasonable share of the cost of the Indian army. This position, however, he temporarily abandoned to describe a fantastic scheme of universal income tax which would be graduated upwards from a six anna poll tax upon the peasantry. It was easy for Sir Lepel Griffin and Mr. J. D. Rees to pull the scheme to pieces, for, if it be in any way possible to judge the future from the past, then it is evident that an income tax of this nature would be not only exceedingly unpopular, but also extremely expensive to collect. In military language, he flung his fighting line too far in advance of his supports and the line would have disappeared if it had not been for Dr. Hutchinson and Mr. E. J. Sewell, who rightly concentrated their attention upon the salt tax and upon the salt tax alone. If Mr. Pennington had not suggested another source of revenue, he would have laid himself open to the gibe of the official that it is easy to assail a tax but how can the money be otherwise obtained? He might have ignored this point. In attacking so grave and terrible an evil as the salt tax, it is no part of the non-official to suggest an alternative means of raising revenue. To discover that alternative is the proper work of the financial experts attached to the Government. Presumably it is to solve such problems that they are paid at a rate which does not err upon the side of parsimony. The attitude the non-official takes is this: The Salt Tax is so destructive of the health and stamina of the people that it must be repealed immediately at any cost to the Government. The physical damage done by it to the people is immensely out of all proportion to the benefit the Bureaucracy derives from the revenue or the harm that would happen to the Bureaucracy if that revenue ceased. The role of the non-official, therefore, is to agitate in season and out of season for the repeal of the duty. To the official falls the duty of devising a substitute. Let this question be put to Mr. Pennington: Would it have been any reply to those Englishmen who urged the repeal of the paper duties or the window duties half a century ago to have declared that since they suggested no alternative taxation their agitation was altogether out of count? Why, therefore, need he lay himself open to the facile sneers of the official and the ex-official by putting forward an amateurish scheme of universal income tax? It is his part to agitate for removal: let him leave the financial rearrangements to those who have an inner knowledge of the revenue "machine." To provide alternative taxation is his duty. I hope I shall not be misunderstood by Mr. Pennington in dealing thus frankly with his lecture. We are so completely in agreement with one another upon the question of the Salt Tax that we should be able to say a word or two of criticism upon each other's actions without misunderstanding. We are fighting the same battle and on the same side; but now and then I have an uneasy lack of confidence in the wisdom of Mr. Pennington's strategy.

POVERTY IN ENGLAND—A MISLEADING COMPARISON.

Miss Olive Christian Malvery, the young Indian reciter and singer who has made a name for herself in London, has been visiting the slums of the great city, working and leading with the most degraded of the population. In the "Daily News" this week she describes her experiences and the opinions she has formed. For the most part her views are sane and trustworthy, but at one point she has permitted herself an unfortunate comparison between the poverty in England and in India. She was asked if poverty in India were not more terrible than poverty in London, and she replied: "No! No! A thousand times, No! Exclude our dreadful periods of famine, of the causes of which I will not stop to speak, and take our normal condition. Though we are frightfully poor, abjectly poor, we have not the hopeless misery, the brutality, the utter destitution that you have here." As regards the brutality, this may, perhaps, be true; but it cannot be right with respect to the misery and destitution. Miss Malvery is evidently speaking fresh from her experiences in the East End of London, when the impression was sharp and clear upon her mind of the squalor and vice of her surroundings. From certain remarks she made early in the interview, it would seem that she has never investigated the slums in the manner in which I have examined those of the British Metropolis. She was therefore comparing the vivid painfulness of her recent experiences with the impressions of some little time ago—for Miss Malvery has been for a number of years in England—gathered in her Indian home. The day following the appearance of Miss Malvery's views on the poverty of England and of India, there appeared in the "Daily News" a protest against her deductions from a correspondent whose pseudonym is given as "Leonis." "I have no desire," wrote "Leonis," "to defend our British Babylon, and I know much of the terrible conditions which, unhappily, prevail in many of its mean streets; but surely Miss Malvery has not compared the death rate of London with that of India. She actually rules out the periods of Indian famine; but misery in London is no more chronic than famine in India. In the last quarter of a century deaths from famine in India have been counted by 'tens of millions.' Can Miss Malvery allege that deaths from starvation

in this country is anything but an exceptional occurrence?" This is well put, and pertinent to the issue. In a private letter on this point, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji points out that "on account of the severity of the weather in London, the suffering here (which is bad, indeed,) cries 'loud' and shocks. The misery in India is quiet—starvation throughout the year to scores of millions. It is not 'loud,' and cannot be realised unless one starves through the year and feels what it is." India is too far away for even an Indian lady to compare the slums of Bombay or Calcutta with those of London. But if Miss Malvery were to read the descriptions which appeared in the "Times of India" some eighteen months ago of the terrible poverty and destitution which exists in Bombay, she would have paused before she made her confident comparisons. According to the latest reports, the Indian plague mortality stood at thirty thousand a week in April. It is centuries since plague last visited England. It is nearly half a century since cholera caused high death rates in England. The disappearance of the two diseases is due to the fact that the conditions of life in England to-day are infinitely better than they were in those bygone times of plague and scourging disease. The Indian of to-day is in a condition less favourable than were those of the English men of plague and cholera days. Yet Miss Malvery declares that they are less miserable, less destitute. It is a pity that so earnest a worker for reform and so keen a patriot should allow such a misleading statement to gain circulation.

MIRZAPUR SENSATION.

Mirzapur, July 15.

KING-EMPEROR VS. MITHU KHAN.

A good deal of local interest has been created at the present moment over the case of the King-Emperor vrs. Mithu Khan, under section 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

On or about the 22nd May last, Mr. R. C. Tute, C.S., Joint Magistrate of Mirzapur, issued a warrant on Mithu Khan, a broker of this place, under the above section, which provides for "security for good behaviour from habitual offenders." In execution of the warrant, Mithu Khan was arrested on the 29th May. On the 31st May, an application was made for the release of Mithu Khan, which was rejected by Mr. Tute with the following order:—

"Refused as the accused is said to be a dangerous and violent man who might use his liberty for the purpose of intimidating witnesses."

It should be noted that the accused is not charged with the commission of any non-bailable offence; and that whether the accused as "a dangerous or violent man" or not is the very point at issue; but to reject bail to an accused charged with a bailable offence on the ground which is based on no evidence that the accused "might use his liberty for the purpose of intimidating witnesses" is no doubt something extraordinary.

Though the accused was and is in the lock-up, Mr. Tute did not take up the case earlier than the 14th June. On that day, eleven prosecution witnesses were examined, among whom, it appears, the cross-examination of nine witnesses were either "reserved" or "deferred." Of these eleven witnesses, five belonged to the Police Force of the Mirzapur district comprising of Mr. R. T. Adams, the Acting District Superintendent of Police, the Circle Inspector and three Sub-Inspectors. The last four Police Officers were in succession in charge of the Kotwali from February 1901 to 6th June 1904. Of the remaining six witnesses, one was a dismissed Municipal chaukidar, one a female charcoal-seller, one a corn-percher, one a wood-seller, one a carpet-maker and one a cultivator.

Of the prosecution witnesses, I would only give here in extenso the evidence of Mr. Adams, to show what the prosecution story is. Mr. Adams in his examination-in-chief said as follows:—

"I came here about two months ago. On my arrival in the district, I found that the police were most unsuccessful in dealing with serious crime in the city. I ascertained that this was due to the fact that the city is full of dangerous characters, who prevented people from giving evidence by methods of bullying. Even when obtained, they were often threatened and found to retract what they intended to say. In illustration of this I can cite four important cases which have occurred within the last 2 or 3 months. They are (1) a robbery, register as crime 64. Four men were challenged and eventually with great difficulty one of them was convicted. (2) A very serious case of robbery with hurt under section 394. The man was convicted under 307 L.P.C. (3) A murder case—crime 167. This has also been convicted. (4) A case of attempted murder (No. 210). In the last-named case, no evidence was found at all, and though the complainant knew the man who did it, he was afraid to name him. In the other cases evidence was only obtained with the utmost difficulty. To further illustrate the state of the city, I may mention that over 30 cognizable cases of violence were reported and investigated by the city police. During 1904 to the present date, there have been no less than 20 such crimes. There is practically a reign of terror in the city before which the police are practically helpless. Things are so bad that the more important mahajans of the city have to maintain gangs of bullies who parade the city armed with lathis. To prove the helplessness of the Police, a warrant under 110 Cr.P.C. was issued against one Padam, last month. The Police did not dare to arrest him. I found him living openly at his house and had him arrested through the armed police. In view of the above facts, I made careful inquiries as to the actual bad characters. This case is the outcome of my investigation. These enquiries were made from registers and from people residing in the city. I found that the accused is an extortioner, a thief and a bully."

In cross-examination Mr. Adams said:—"The registers I chiefly refer to are the daily and special diary. I did not consult the bad-mashi register in this case. My enquiries covered about four years over. I think only one of the complaints against accused which I came across in this way was made by Ahmad Ali Q.—From whom did you ask? A.—I would rather not answer this question as it may injure the persons concerned. There is not the slightest doubt that the accused is regarded by all persons in the city as a badmash, but very few persons dare to say

so openly. People who keep gangs of bad-mashes are Hanuman Das and Gajadhar Khandawals of Mahalla Dakkhin-phatak. So does Kolai Ram and Mahadeo Kalwars of Laldiggi. So does Persotam Kalwar of the same Mahalla; so does one Cheddi Lal, a Kalwar, whose residence I forget."

The other witnesses in some shape or other repeated the prosecution story, and it is needless to quote their evidence. Among other things, Sub-Inspector Chummi Lal said:—"The only member of the gang who has been captured is Mithu Khan. The rest are in hiding. I file this report of mine dated 3rd June about this gang (Ex.G.)." This part of his evidence is important to understand what has followed. According to the witnesses the alleged gang is composed of—(1) Bachao Khan (the leader), (2) Mithu Khan (the second man and the accused in this case), (3) Fazal, (4) Hussaini, (5) Bakal alias Bhangar, (6) Algu, (7) Ismail, (8) Padam, (9) Maddar, (10) Ashraf Darzi, (11) Chiragan, (12) Kallu, (13) Ram Charan, (14) Mata Prasad, (15) Matoli, and (16) Mata Saran. And at least some of these persons, if not all, were named as extortioners, thieves, assaulters on women, and as the most dangerous characters, to deal with whom according to law, the police, in spite of its immense power and extensive protection, pleaded its utter inability. Such is said to be the state of Mirzapur in 1904. But we do not know what the story of the defence will be; and we must not form any opinion until the case is finally decided.

As I stated Mithu Khan is in the lock-up. On the 14th June, an oral application was made to Mr. Tute, the trying Magistrate, for his release on bail, which was again refused. On the 16th June, Rai Kishen Lal, B.A., the officiating Sessions Judge of Mirzapur, disposed of the application of the accused for release on bail and passed an order in these few words giving no reason for it:—"The application is rejected." On the 17th June the Allahabad High Court allowed the bail. In pursuance of this order of the High Court, Mr. Wyndham, the District Magistrate was moved, and he passed the following order on the 28th June:—

"Seen the proposed sureties and questioned them and read the application and this report. I want two zemindars of respectability. Neither of these persons, who have applied, are in my opinion fit persons whose security for prisoner's appearance I can accept. I refuse these persons' offers."

"This report" referred to in the District Magistrate's order is said to be the report of the Tahsildar. His report was called for by the Magistrate to ascertain if each of the two persons who wanted to stand as surety for the accused had sufficient landed property amounting to the value of Rs 500, for which each of the two sureties were demanded. It is believed that the Tahsildar cannot say "no." Whatever may be the report of Tahsildar, it is treated as a confidential document, and the application for a certified copy was rejected. Thus the order of the High Court allowing bail remained ineffective.

An application under section 526, Cr.P.C., was made to the High Court on behalf of the accused for the transfer of the case from the Court of Mr. Tute to the court of any other competent Magistrate in the same or any other district. This application was supported by an affidavit, from which I quote the following:—

"5. That so far as the deponent is aware, the Joint Magistrate had no official information in this case prior to the 3rd June 1904 when the police report was made."

"6. That the Joint Magistrate's order issuing the warrant about the 22nd May 1904, and refusing bail with the remarks quoted above on 31st May 1904 are based on information other than that received from the police report dated 3rd June 1904."

"7. That under the above circumstances the deponent believes that the Magistrate has acted on information received informally and unofficially prior to the report of the 3rd June and the accused does not therefore expect a fair and impartial trial in that Court."

On this application of the accused, Rule was issued on the 20th June. The further hearing of the case is adjourned pending the disposal of the application by the High Court, which is expected every day. This is how the case stands at the present moment.

VORACIOUS PLANTS.

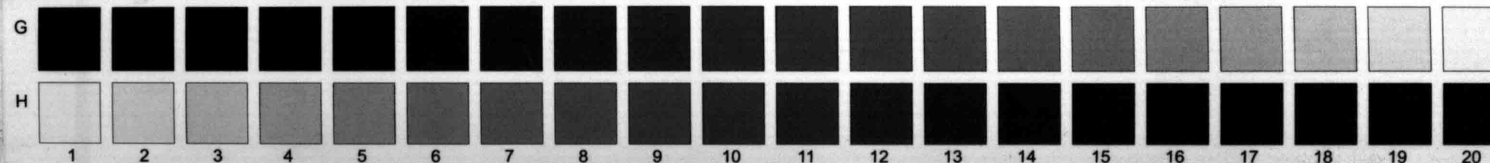
(By C. J. L.)

The vegetable kingdom is ordinarily associated with the idea that all its members, with the exception of a few parasitic plants, derive their sole sustenance from the earth and from the atmosphere. A considerable number of plants, however, are carnivorous, and require a diet of animal food, literally devouring any living creatures of appropriate size which come within the reach of their tentacles or other weapons of capture.

The most common, though not the most notable, of these flesh-eating plants is the humble sun-dew of the marshes, a diminutive plant with circular leaves, from each of which project a number of prehensile tentacles. If a small fly or gnat settles on these leaves the tentacles sharply close upon it, the pores rapidly absorbing the greater portion of the slaughtered insect, the refuse being thrown out. If an artificial fly be offered to the plant, by some unexplained means it detects the fraud and makes not the slightest movement to capture the counterfeit. Small pieces of meat however are readily devoured.

The trumpet flower, a native of North America, is another example of these carnivorous plants. The mode of capture is however altogether different, the interior surface of the flower—really, however, a leaf—being provided with honey glands which attract the insects, which, half stupefied by the liquid, are then entangled among a network of hairy spikes, and are soon devoured at leisure.

The most notable and marvellous, however, of these flesh-eating plants is the beautiful pitcher plant of the tropics. This strange specimen of the floral world bears a remarkably handsome pendent flower, several inches in length, shaped exactly like an ordinary pitcher, with a lid automatically opening and closing, and provided, in some species, with rows of sharp spines projecting from the inner surface of the lid. The glands of the flower continuously secrete a sweet liquid, which accumulates at the bottom of the pitcher. Its inner surface is so smooth that it is impossible for an imprisoned insect to secure a foothold.



Many various genera appear to be the prey of these voracious plants; even humming birds, it is stated, having been known to fall a prey to their greedy appetite.

The unwary victim, attracted by the delicious sweetness of the aroma of the luscious nectar in the beautiful, many-hued receptacle, rashly ventures into the deadly trap, and soon is entangled in the pleasures of the honied, intoxicating repast. And, now, satiated and drowsy, it essays to quit the lethal chamber. But too late; the lid has closed tightly down, the sharp spiny thorns are used in position to bar any egress, and the poor crapulous dissolute, now hopelessly enclerated, sinks down helpless into the deadly fluid, and is soon absorbed by the beautiful devourer.

And how often do many imitate the example of that silly butterfly or moth, and in the pursuit of fabled pleasures which have gripped them tight in their fascinations, find that they are immersed in the waters of despair. But if they cry unto God for help, He will not only rescue them from the cruel fetters of their sins, but will give them the inestimable boon of eternal life.

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Dr. K. P. CHAKRABARTY, M. B., Late, Superintendent, Lewis Sanitarium, Darjeeling, writes:—"I have tried your specific, 'Santan Rakshak,' in several cases of tedious labour and threatened abortion. I am glad to tell you that the results have been very satisfactory. I would like to recommend it to all females who are in the state of pregnancy."

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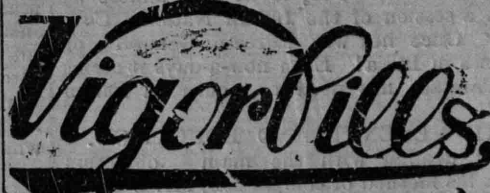
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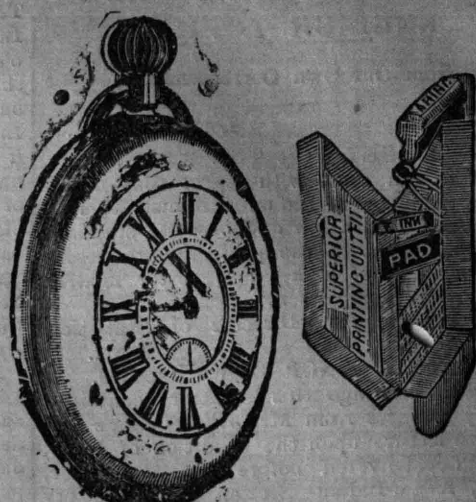


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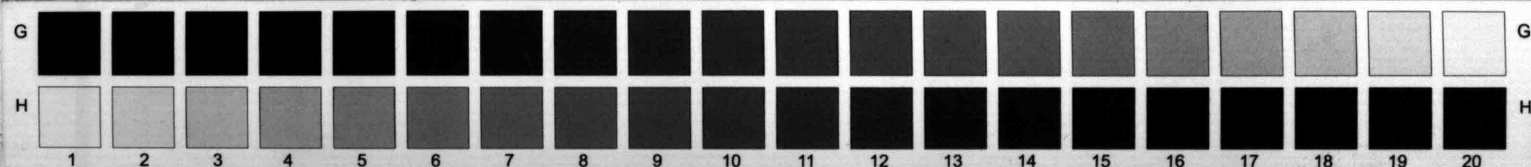
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NEWS LATER THAN THE MAIL.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

A DIARY OF EVENTS.

London, July 3.

Russian despatches admit that heavy fighting occurred near Port Arthur on Sunday last, and that the Russians were forced to retire on their main position after losing seven officers and 200 men killed.

It is stated that the losses of the Japanese, who had to cross a mined field, were even greater.

Another report states that desperate fighting occurred ten miles north of Port Arthur, where the Japanese occupied Wolf Mountain.

General Zilinsky reports that the Russian riflemen holding two heights near Saosungtu, fourteen miles east of Port Arthur, on Sunday last repelled three attacks delivered by a Japanese detachment, which had landed for the purpose. "But," adds General Zilinsky, "the Russians, sustaining heavy losses, took refuge in the heights of Lungwangtang, where a Japanese division unsuccessfully attacked the defenders."

In the afternoon the Japanese appeared in great strength on the central Port Arthur road.

They attacked the Hwingshan height, which was held by Cuirassiers and two battalions of infantry, who retired, as their position was turned from the rear causing heavy losses.

Russian destroyers bombarded the Lungwangtang coast, which was occupied by Japanese.

The mined field across which the Japanese had to cross on Sunday was the cause of fifty being killed.

General Zilinsky adds: "A large column of Japanese from Dalny is marching on Shwang-shan-kow (perhaps Shwang-taku) and Hwingshan, two positions which help to command the approaches to Port Arthur."

He also states that the Japanese are now mounting batteries on the summit of Lungwangtang Mountain.

General Kuropatkin telegraphs, stating that General Kuroki's advance on Haicheng and Tshiachao has been suspended.

The Japanese south of Haicheng have, he states, placed strong infantry advance posts over 200 kilometres (124 miles) and along the roads leading to the passes.

Continuing, General Kuropatkin mentions that the Japanese advance from Fenghuangcheng has ceased.

He adds, the Russian cavalry, operating near Semucheng, have been repulsed, and are retreating northward.

Admiral Alexieff has transmitted the following telegram to St. Petersburg respecting the naval engagement on the 24th ultimo:—

"Port Arthur squadron commanders report that on June 24th at 8 o'clock in the morning, the warships Novik, Diana, Askold, Sebastopol, Potava, Odesa, and others, were engaged in the roadstead."

"At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, preceded by mine dredgers, they steamed out to the open sea."

"A Japanese squadron of five battleships, sixteen cruisers, and thirty torpedo-boats, was sighted when twenty miles out. It was preparing to place a division of cruisers and torpedo-boats, in order that night torpedo attacks might break up the Russian formation prior to an engagement on the following morning."

"Considering that the Japanese force was greatly superior, the Russian fleet returned to the roadstead, where the rearmost Russian warships repulsed two torpedo-boat attacks."

"Notwithstanding it was moonlight, these attacks were continued until the morning, when twelve Whitehead torpedoes were discovered."

"At least two Japanese torpedo-boats were sunk."

"The Russian warships entered port in the morning."

A German steamer, which has arrived at Chifu, reports that it was yesterday fifteen miles off two Japanese battleships, three cruisers and several torpedo craft, which were engaged in fighting 40 miles northwards of Chifu.

The Russian ships were not sighted, but their firing was visible.

A terrific explosion was heard.

A Chinaman who has arrived at Chifu declares that on Thursday night there were only four cruisers and battleships in the harbor, and none outside.

Reuter's correspondent at General Kuroki's headquarters says that the Russians have retreated all along the line before the Japanese northern advance.

He declares that the country is almost clear to the north-west, and that General Kuropatkin is afraid of being surrounded if he remains at Liaoyang.

According to French advices, General Kuropatkin has only 70,000 men at his disposal, while according to British calculations the Russian army in the Far East numbers 500,000 men, exclusive of those guarding the railway.

Reuter's correspondent at Chifu declares there are 180,000 Japanese in the field, and that no portion of Japan's fourth army has yet landed.

The Vladivostok squadron, after bombarding Gensan, disappeared in the rain.

Reports from Tokio state that Admiral Kamimura forced the Vladivostok squadron through the Tsu Shima Straits and attacked it with torpedo boats on Friday night.

Heavy firing was heard from Iki Shima and Goto islands, in the Straits of Corea.

The Japanese authorities suggest as an explanation of the recent movements of the Vladivostok and Port Arthur squadrons, that an endeavour was contemplated to reach and take refuge in a neutral Chinese port such as Kiaochow or Chifu.

Torrential rains have fallen over Southern Manchuria. All the roads south of Haicheng are flooded, many of them to a depth of ft.

Several Russians have been drowned.

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.; Abdul Kader, Abdul Kader, Calcutta.

COUNT TOLSTOY ON THE WAR.

AN OUTSPOKEN PROTEST.

Count Tolstoy's article on the war takes up 9 columns of the "Times" of June 27. It is very heated, and concludes as follows:—

It is as if there never had existed the Christian and Buddhist teaching about the unity of the human spirit, the brotherhood of men, love, compassion, the sacredness of human life. Men, both Japanese and Russians, already enlightened by the truth, yet like wild animals, nay, worse than wild animals, throw themselves upon each other with the sole desire to destroy as many lives as possible. Thousands of unfortunates groan and writhe in cruel sufferings and die in agony in Japanese and Russian field hospitals, asking themselves in bewilderment why this fearful thing was done with them, while other thousands are already rotting in the earth or on the earth or floating in the sea, in swollen decomposition. And scores of thousands of wives, fathers, mothers, children are bemoaning their bread-winners, uselessly destroyed. Yet all this is still too little, new and newer victims are being prepared. The chief concern of the Russian organizers of slaughter is that on the Russian side the stream of food for cannon—three thousand men per day doomed to destruction—should not be interrupted for one minute. The Japanese are preoccupied with the same thing. The locusts are incessantly being driven down into the river in order that the rows behind may pass over the bodies.

When will this cease, and the deceived people at last recover themselves and say: "Well, go you yourselves, you heartless Tsars, Mikados, Ministers, Bishops, priests, generals, editors, speculators, or however you may be called, go you yourselves under these shells and bullets, but we do not wish to go and we will not go."

"Leave us in peace; to plough, and sow, and build, and also feed you, you sluggards!" It would be so natural to say this now, when amongst us in Russia resounds the weeping and wailing of hundreds of thousands of mothers, wives, and children, from whom are being snatched away their bread-earners, the so-called reserve. These same men, the majority of the reserve, are able to read; they know what the Far East is, they know that war is going on, not for anything which is in the least necessary to Russia; but for some dealings in strange land, leased lands, as they themselves call them, on which it seemed advantageous to some corrupt speculators to build railways and so gain profit; also they know, or might know, that they will be killed like sheep in a slaughter-house, since the Japanese possess the latest improvements in tools of murder which we do not, as the Russian authorities who are sending these people to death had not thought in time of furnishing themselves with the same weapons as the Japanese. Knowing all this, it would indeed be so natural to say, "Go you, those who have brought on this work, all you to whom war is necessary, and who justify it; go you, and face the Japanese bullets and mines, but we will not go, because we not only do not need to do this, but we cannot understand how it can be necessary to any one."

But no, they do not say this; they go, and they will continue to go; they cannot but go as long as they fear that which ruins the body and not that which ruins both the body and the soul.

"Whether we shall be killed," they argue, "or maimed in these chinnampos, or whatever they are called, whether we are driven, we do not know; it yet may happen that we shall get through safely, and moreover, with rewards and glory like those sailors who are now being feasted all over Russia because the Japanese bombs and bullets did not hit them but somebody else; whereas should we refuse we should be certainly sent to prison, starved, beaten, exiled to the province of Yakutsk, perhaps even killed immediately." So with despair in their hearts, leaving behind a good rational life, leaving their wives and their children—they go.

Yesterday I met a Reservist soldier accompanied by his mother and wife. All three were riding in a cart; he had had a drop too much; his wife's face was swollen with tears. He turned to me:—

"Good-bye to thee! Lyof Nikolaevitch, off to the Far East."

"Well, art thou going to fight?"

"Well, some one has to fight!"

"No one need fight!"

He reflected for a moment. "But what is one to do, where can one escape?"

I saw that he had understood me, had understood that the work to which he was being sent was an evil work.

"Where can one escape?" That is the precise expression of that mental condition, which in the official and journalistic world is translated into the words—"For the Faith, the Tsar, and the Fatherland." Those who are abandoning their hungry families, go to suffering, to death, say as they feel:—"Where can one escape?" Whereas those who sit in safety in their luxurious palaces say that all Russian men are ready to sacrifice their lives for their adored Monarch, and for the glory and greatness of Russia.

Yesterday, from a peasant I know, I received two letters, one after the other.

This is the first:—

"Dear Lyof Nikolaevitch,—Well, to-day I have received the official announcement of my call to the Service, to-morrow I must present myself at the headquarters. That is all. And after that—to the Far East to meet the Japanese bullets."

"About my own, and my household's grief I will not tell you; it is not you who will fail to understand all the horror my position and the horrors of war, all this you have long ago painfully realized, and you understand it all. How I have longed to visit you, to have a talk with you. I had written to you a long letter in which I described the torments of my soul; but I had not had time to copy it, when I received my summons. What is my wife to do now with her four children? As an old man, of course, you cannot do anything yourself for my folks, but you might ask some of your friends in their leisure to visit my orphaned family. I beg you earnestly that if my wife proves unable to bear the agony of her helplessness with her burden of children and makes up her mind to go to you for help and counsel, you will receive and console her. Although she does not know you personally she believes in your word, and that means much."

"I was not able to resist the summons, but I say beforehand that through me not one Japanese family shall be orphaned. My God! how dreadful is all this—how distressing and painful to abandon all by which one lives and in which one is concerned."

The second letter is as follows:—

"Kindest Lyof Nikolaevitch,

Only one day of actual service has passed, and I have already lived through an eternity of most desperate torments. From 8 o'clock in the morning till 9 in the evening we have been crowded and knocked about to and fro in the barrack yard, like a herd of cattle, the comedy of medical examination was three times repeated, and those who had reported themselves ill did not receive even ten minutes attention before they were marked 'Satisfactory.' When we, these two thousand 'satisfactory' individuals, were driven from the military commander to the barracks, along the road spread out for almost a veritable crowd of relatives, mothers, and wives with infants in arms, and if you had only heard and seen how they clasped their fathers, husbands, sons, and hanging round their necks wailed hopelessly! Generally I behave in a reserved way and can restrain my feelings, but I could not hold out, and I also wept." (In journalistic language this same is expressed thus: "The upheaval of patriotic feeling is immense.")

"Where is the standard that can measure all this immensity of woe now spreading itself over almost one-third of the world? And we, we are now that food for cannon, which in the near future will be offered as sacrifice to the God of vengeance and horror."

"I cannot manage to establish my inner balance. Oh! how I execrate myself for this double-mindedness which prevents my serving one Master and God!"

This man does not yet sufficiently believe that what destroys the body is not dreadful, but that which destroys the body and soul, therefore he cannot refuse to go, yet while leaving his own family he promises beforehand that through him not one Japanese family shall be orphaned; he believes in the chief law of God, the law of all religions—to act towards others as one wishes others to act towards one's self. Of such men more or less consciously recognizing this law, there are in our time, not in the Christian world alone, but in the Buddhist, Mahomedan, Confucian, and Brahminic world, not only thousands but millions.

There exist two heroes, not those who are now being fêted because, having wished to kill others, they were not killed themselves, but true heroes who are now confined in prisons and in the province of Yakutsk for having categorically refused to enter the ranks of murderers, and who have preferred martyrdom to this departure from the law of Jesus. There are also such as he who writes to me, who go, but who will not kill. But also that majority which goes without thinking, and endeavours not to think of what it is doing, still in the depth of its soul, does now already feel that it is doing an evil deed by obeying authorities who tear men from labour and from their families, and send them to needless slaughter of men, repugnant to their soul and their faith; and they go only because they are so entangled on all sides that—"Where can one escape?"

Meanwhile those who remain at home not only feel this but know and express it. Yesterday in the high road I met some peasants returning from Toula. One of them was reading a leaflet as he walked by the side of his cart.

I asked, "What is that? a telegram?"

"This is yesterday's, but here is one of to-day."

He took another out of his pocket. We stopped. I read it.

"You should have seen what took place yesterday at the station," he said, "it was dreadful."

"Wives, children more than a thousand of them, weeping. They surrounded the train, but were allowed no further. Strangers wept, looking on. One woman from Toula gasped and fell down dead; five children. They have since been placed in various institutions, but the father was driven away all the same."

What do we want with this Manchuria, or whatever it is called. There is sufficient land here. And what a lot of people and of property have been destroyed."

Yes, the relation of men to war is now quite different from that which formerly existed even so lately as the year '77. That which is now taking place never took place before.

The papers set forth that, during the receptions of the Tsar, who is travelling about Russia for the purpose of hypnotizing the men who are being sent to murder, indescribable enthusiasm is manifested amongst the people. As a matter of fact something quite different is being manifested. From all sides one hears reports that in one place three Reservists have hanged themselves; in another spot two more; in yet another about a woman whose husband had been taken away bringing her children to the conscription committee-room and leaving them there; while another hanged herself in the yard of the military commander. All are dissatisfied, gloomy, exasperated. The words, "For the Faith, the King, and the Fatherland," the National Anthem, and shout of "Hurrah" no longer act upon people as they once did. Another warfare of a different kind—the struggling consciousness of the deceit and sinfulness of the work to which people are being called is more and more taking possession of the people.

Yes, the great strife of our time is not that now taking place between the Japanese and the Russian, but that which may blaze up between the white and yellow races, not that strife, which is kindled on by mines, bombs, bullets, but that spiritual strife, which without ceasing has gone on and is now going on between the enlightened consciousness of mankind now waiting for manifestation and that darkness and that burden which surrounds and oppresses mankind.

In His own time Jesus yearned in expectation, and said:—

"I came to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish that it were already kindled." Luke xii, 49.

That which Jesus longed for is being accomplished, the fire is being kindled. Then do not let us check it, but let us spread and serve it.

13 May, 1904.

I should never finish this article if I were to continue to add to it all that corroborates its essential idea. Yesterday the news came in of the sinking of the Japanese ironclads, and in the so-called higher circles of Russian fashionable, rich, intellectual society they are, without the slightest conscientious scruples,

rejoicing at the destruction of a thousand human lives. Yet to-day I have received from a simple seaman, a man standing on the lowest plane of society, the following letter:—

Letter from sailor (there follows his Christian name, father's name and surname).

"Much respected Lyof Nikolaevitch I greet you with a low bow, with love, much respected Lyof Nikolaevitch."

"I have read your book. It was very pleasant reading for me. I have been a great lover of reading your works. Well, Nikolaevitch, we are now in a state of war, please write to me whether it is agreeable to God or not that our commanders compel us to kill. I beg you, Lyof Nikolaevitch, write to me please whether or not the truth now exists on earth. Tell me, Lyof Nikolaevitch. In church here a prayer is being read, the priest mentions the Christ-loving army. Is it true or not that God loves war? I pray you, Lyof Nikolaevitch, have you got any books from which I could see whether truth exists on earth or not. Send me such books. What they cost, I will pay. I beg you, Lyof Nikolaevitch, do not neglect my request. If there are no books then send me a letter. I will be very glad when I receive a letter from you. I will await your letter with impatience. Goodbye for the present. I remain alive and well and wish the same to you from the Lord God. Good health and good success in your work."

There follows the address:—Port Arthur, the name of the ship on which the correspondent serves, his rank, and his name.

In a direct way, in words, I cannot answer this dear, serious, and truly enlightened man. He is in Port Arthur with which there no longer is any communication either by letter or telegraph. But we still have a mutual means of communication. This means is that God in whom we both believe and concerning whom we both know that war is not according to His will. The doubt which has arisen in his soul contains at the same time its own solution. And this doubt has now arisen and is living in the souls of thousands and thousands of men, not only Russians and not only Japanese, but all those unfortunate people who are compelled by violence to fulfil the act most repellant to human nature.

The hypnotism by which people have been stupefied and by which Government still endeavours to stupefy them soon passes off, and its effect is becoming weaker and weaker; whereas the doubt as to "whether or not it is agreeable to God that our commanders compel us to kill" grows stronger and stronger cannot in any way be extinguished, and keeps spreading further and further.

The doubt as to "whether or not it is agreeable to God that our commanders compel us to kill"—this is a spark of that fire which Jesus kindled upon earth and which is beginning to spread. To know and feel this is a great joy.

LEO TOLSTOY.

Yasnaya Poliana, May 21, 1904.

The letter is written in a most illiterate way, filled with mistakes in orthography and punctuation. (Trans.)

A BEAUTIFUL EMPRESS.

THE EMPRESS OF RUSSIA.

The thoughts of Europe are inevitably much with Russia at the moment, and to think of Russia is almost surely sooner or later to recall the figure of the woman whom an eyewitness at the great Russian Coronation, a few years ago, described as looking, in the dazzling spirituality of her beauty, more like an angel than an ordinary human being.

The burden and misfortune of this war fall heavily upon the Empress of Russia. Sensitive and tender to an acute degree, all the bereavements of her subjects will come home to her. Each fresh widowhood for Russia's sake will pierce her with understanding, each fresh parent robbed of a son will add a drop of sorrow to a cup brimming already. In addition to the political gravity of the situation, the Empress as a woman, endures a sharpened realization of the horrors of war, and more especially when that war takes the form of a naval contest. Few princesses, however, have been more prepared by early upbringing for a strenuous life than the former Princess Alice of Hesse. Her mother, daughter of our own Queen, was herself a very serious woman and inculcated in her children, says an article in "La Vie Heureuse," the fact that duty and not happiness was the destiny of each of us. Of the life of most princesses she was inclined to speak tersely. "Illusion, disillusion and resignation" summed up, she said the whole business.

THE DAYS ROUTINE.

The education of the young princess was however, more severe than that of an ordinary girl. She and her sisters had to be up punctually every morning at seven, and, having had breakfast, at once set to work upon their lessons. With intervals for exercise, work continued all day long, and it is with real regret that we learn that dolls were not allowed, though more instructive amusements, such as magic-lanterns, phonographs and photograph taking seem to have been permitted. In the case of the Princess Alice, however, there was not a long period for childish games of any kind. After her mother's tragic death—death through the irresistible kiss to a child in pain—the Princess Alice rapidly had to become a responsible person. After the marriage of her three sisters she was for years hostess at the Palace of Darmstadt for her brother.

Then came her marriage, and "apropos" of it, the writer was told a few years ago many charming little details of the Emperor's extreme devotion to his lovely bride. According to the teller whose husband had a post at the Russian Court, he could hardly in the presence of the suite refrain from showing his feelings, while there was a story current at that time of an official, entering the private apartments to find the Emperor chasing his wife down a corridor—like any other couple might do—for a kiss, and both laughing heartily at the expression of the official, whose discomfort at his own unprecedented position was palpable.

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.; Abdul Kader, Abdul Kader, Calcutta.

THE WIRELESS WIZARD.

A CHAT WITH MARCONI ON HIS RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS.

Marconi had only recently landed from his trip eastward, and was full of the success he had accomplished with his new instruments on board the "Campania".

"All the way across," he said, "we were in touch either with England or America. When distant 1,700 miles from British shores we were receiving messages from Poldhu, after which we dropped that station and picked up the American stations without the slightest difficulty. Had the latter been equipped with instruments like the new ones I brought over with me on the "Campania" the operators in Cornwall would have been able to communicate direct with the States. During the entire voyage we never had any trouble either in transmitting or receiving messages."

"I made my last voyage from Liverpool to New York for the purpose of proving the possibility of publishing on Atlantic liners a daily newspaper containing the most important events happening in any part of the world. The Cunard people were somewhat sceptical about the matter, and asked me to make a personal test. I did so, with the most perfect success, and the first ocean newspapers will be published before you can publish any account of our chat in "Tit-Bits."

"The "Campania" left Liverpool on Saturday, May 14th, and as soon as we got under way Poldhu began sending code letters and signals. These were varied after a while by messages, but when we were fairly out to sea code letters were again used. When we dropped Poldhu we got Cape Breton with marvellous ease, and then Siasconset. We had two operators on board, while I also occasionally took the keys. We learned from Press messages received of the British victory over the Tibetans at Karo Pass, the landing of the Japanese near Port Arthur, the death of Stanley, the calling out of 100,000 men to Kuropatkin's aid, together with the latest stock-market reports and an account of the large gold shipments to Europe."

"On my return voyage next month," continued Mr. Marconi, "I shall make further experiments with my new apparatus, but shall not touch the instruments myself, allowing the ship's operators to do the work in order to accustom themselves to the new service. I have lately contracted to equip twenty new passenger ships with my latest apparatus, and have also arranged with your Government to connect our shore stations with the postal service. My long-distance wireless experiments, by which I shall succeed in encircling the globe, will be tried in about three months' time by a special apparatus installed on British warships stationed in different parts of the world."

"The two most improvements I have made recently consist of a new transformer at Poldhu and a more sensitive receiver. By the former the power and range of the impulses sent from Cornwall are increased, while the latter is an invention for more quickly detecting magnetic waves. By this latest apparatus forty words a minute may be received and dispatched, which is an increase of twenty-five words over the old system. My endeavours to overcome interference of messages by atmospheric or static electricity have been entirely successful."

The new mid-Atlantic newspaper, which will no doubt develop into a highly successful ocean journal, will be published simultaneously on all vessels furnished with the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy—ships in dock, of course, being excepted. Each ship will receive 200 words of news per diem, sent direct to them from the Marconi stations in Europe and America. Should anything of a particularly startling nature occur on shore then these 200 words may be increased, but for ordinary occasions, and under present conditions, this will be the limit. It has not yet been decided whether a special newspaper staff will be necessary to "make-up" the paper on board each vessel, or whether the editor and his assistants, as heretofore, will be chosen from those connected with the ship. It has been estimated that the cost to each vessel adopting the new system and issuing the daily paper will be about £10 per day.

I asked Mr. Marconi what his opinion was regarding the Russian notification respecting the wireless news service in the Far East, but he politely intimated that he would prefer not to discuss the question, and contented himself with the remark that he did not think the Russian Government would persist in its objection to wireless telegraphy for any length of time. In reply to another question the inventor said:—"We have a wireless station at Peking and another at Tientsin, but both, of course, are far distant from the seat of war."

Marconi speaks English perfectly, and in appearance might pass for a Britisher rather than an Italian. He is of medium height, of fair complexion, has extremely clear-cut features and large grey eyes, is very quiet in his manner, and extremely modest regarding his own achievements. He has considerable sympathy with reporters, knowing that strenuousness is part of their profession, and so, when he has anything new to impart, he is not averse to seeing them; on other occasions he shuts himself up and devotes himself to his work.

Before parting he gave me a bit of journalistic information. He declared that the keenest reporters in the world were those in—

not New York, but Liverpool, while those in Queenstown came a good second. They were conscientious, too, he declared, and were, unlike the Yankees, more keen to get hold of reliable facts than of a startling story. This is a testimonial for British newspaper men which they should value.

The Government of Madras has now under construction an important irrigation work, namely, the extension of Sir Arthur Cotton's scheme of irrigating the island of Coringa, ten miles south of Cocanada, with water from the Godavary canals. The island of Coringa is separated from the mainland by an arm of the Godavary which, owing to the sea-tides, cannot be used for irrigation. The present scheme is to take the canal water to the island by means of a masonry tunnel under the Godavary. It is calculated that this will bring fifty thousand acres under irrigation.



THE LATE OOM PAUL.

DIES IN EXILE.

DESCRIBED IN STATE HISTORY.

It may fittingly be said that the curtain has been rung down on the great drama which has been enacted in South Africa during the past five years with the death of the ex-President of the Transvaal Republic, Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger, on whom it is not so long ago the attention of practically the whole world was turned, by his threat "to stagger humanity." Like Napoleon, he overtaxed his strength in his ambitious enterprise, and has ended his days in exile, a broken and disappointed man. He died, Reuters states, at Clarens, in Switzerland, from pneumonia.

The complaint is made by the Boers that most of the published descriptions of President Kruger are full of mistakes either intentional or otherwise. It will, therefore, be of interest to have a sketch of the ex-Transvaal ruler, on his death, which is drawn altogether from the history of the Transvaal, published sometime by Mr. Van Cordt, the State Historian. According to that authority, which we quote throughout, Mr. Kruger was BY DESCENT A GERMAN.

The founder of his family, so far as South Africa is concerned, was a certain Jacob Kruger, who, in 1713, arrived in Capetown as a Dutch East India Company. Casper Kruger, a descendant of his, married and settled down on the farm Bulhoek, near Colesburg in the Cape Colony, and here it was that Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger first saw the light on Oct. 10th, 1825. Even as a child he had to help his parents. In his ninth year he served as shepherd, and even at times helped to lead the oxen yoked in the wagon. While he was too small to hold the great gun then in use, he handled a bow and arrow, and often made hares and partridges his prey. In his tenth year he went out into the wilderness to begin a life of toil, care, and danger. That was the school he was reared in and by training made him what he was. He had his baptism of fire at the fight with the Matabele before the occupation of Vetchkop, and he took part in the repulse of the Zulus in the attack on the laager which followed the massacre of Weenen. At 18 years old he became assistant field cornet, and two years later attained full rank. He served his country as commandant and commandant-general, became one of the Triumvirate at the time of the War of Independence, and had been President of the Transvaal since its retrocession. The following account which is practically a translation of the official history, was written before the War, and the views are those of Mr. van Cordt.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE.

Mr. Kruger is a strongly built man, he looks shorter than he really is owing to his breadth of shoulders. His face is broad and somewhat high-cheeked; the eyelids are swollen, and since the heavy cares of his life have drawn his eyebrows together, and drawn wrinkles on his brow, his eyes are contracted, and this gives his face a peculiar expression. A rather large nose stands over a very sharply-marked mouth, the underlip hangs somewhat, probably from years of holding the beloved pipe; but the corners of the mouth are fast closed and increase the strong expression characteristic of the President. A straggling beard surrounds his face, for in ancestral fashion he wears no moustache. His great physique is shown by a pair of huge hands in which the visitors seem to disappear as the President greets him.

HIS DAILY LIFE.

is simple and orderly. He rises at break of day in old Boer fashion, and, after dressing, begins his day with Bible reading. Then comes his early coffee and his pipe, when he betakes himself to the stoep. Here, as a rule, are folk waiting to see him, friends or sometimes petitioners. He listens to them all. To some requests he promises attention; others, if unimportant or ill-advised, he meets with a joke, some times with sharp rebuke. Through this custom he knows nearly every one in the Transvaal. But whether his request be granted or not each visitor goes away contented in the thought that "Oom Paul is certain to be right." The stoep is especially patronised during the Volksraad session, when Raad members have to be talked over. Thus though an unlearned man, his arguments prevail, arguments founded on experience, the principles of statecraft and Bible texts. Nor should it be forgotten that Paul Kruger is stiff-necked—some call him obstinate—and it is utterly false to say that he is led by Dr. Leyds. Shortly before eight the President takes the simple breakfast in vogue among the Boers, and then prepares for his visit to the Government Buildings, which he reaches sharp at nine. Of late he has been escorted by six mounted policemen, and even inside the building has a guard of two with drawn swords. In the Government offices he is employed for three hours.

A CENTRALISED GOVERNMENT.

So great is the centralisation in the South African Republic that nothing can be done without the consent of the Executive Council. The President himself has great powers of work, but for all that business is often months in arrears. Mr. Van Cordt admits that the contention of the Volksraad is correct, and that more power should be delegated to officials; but he says: "It is, however, well known that President Kruger is most strongly opposed to this. It is said that this is because the President fears that in this way his power and influence would be lost. This may have some truth in it, since Paul Kruger understands how much personal influence counts with Afrikaners. The President knows what he is doing, and he knows how dangerous it is, in a young State circumstanced as is the Transvaal, to entrust the Government wholly to officials. Be trust-worthy, but trust no one," is Paul Kruger's life motto. He often quotes this motto, and we know from the testimony of friends that this is the simple wisdom of the Transvaal President. It is a pessimistic view of life and of manhood: it is the philosophy of a man who himself shrinks from no duty, but only fears and doubts whether others will do theirs. Shortly after 12 the President takes a simple dinner, at which he usually drinks a glass of milk. For he never takes strong drink, though he has been heard to say that he believes that God gave man

strong drink to use, and that there is no harm in its moderate use. At two the President returns to his office for two hours or two hours and a half, after which he finally returns home. Coffee and pipes and the reception of visitors fill up his time till he retires to rest. The President understands English fairly well, but does not speak it, though occasionally in a joke he employs an English expression.

MR. KRUGER'S WEALTH.

There is no doubt that his Excellency is very well off. He owns a large number of farms in the Transvaal, and has also much money invested. Indeed, in the course of a debate on helping poor burghers, the President casually mentioned that he had lent money to the burghers without security since he knew that his burghers were honourable. That the President saves much from his ample salary of £7,000 a year and £300 for house rent is well known. He gives no dinners, dances, or such entertainments as are usually given by the Head of a State, since these are not customary with Transvaalers. Any well-behaved person may pay the President a visit, but he is not given to festivities, and lives the usual life of a well-to-do Afrikaner. His Excellency is saving in a good sense, since it is a South African virtue, and fortunately prodigality has not become a national vice. But the charge of miserliness brought against him by his enemies is false.

HARDIHOOD AND HUNTING PROWESS. In both senses of the word he is full of hardihood. During the War of Independence with but a very small escort, he rode to the kraal of a recalcitrant Kaffir chief, and though he ran great risk of being attacked, for he seized the chief by the neck and would have made him prisoner in the midst of his tribe, he got out of the difficulty, and the chief remained quiet during the war.

"When still a youth he was out hunting, and, being anxious to get a rhinoceros, loaded with more powder than usual, and fired. The gun unfortunately burst, and shattered the top joint of his left thumb. He had far to go with the shattered and bleeding thumb before he could get help. He bound up his thumb as well as he could but unfortunately it began festering, and threatened to mortify, so that the worst must be feared. Where so the youth, with amazing courage and incredible toughness, cut off the top joint of his thumb with his pocket knife. The evil had gone too far, and the operation was of no avail. Quite coolly, Paul Kruger then cut off the second joint, and the thumb then fortunately healed. The man who could do this is not the man to be easily frightened. He possesses a strength of will almost bordering on the incredible, and it is no wonder that the thumb-amputator has become so hard a nut for the officials of Downing-street to crack. Much might be written of his hunting skill and feats of strength and activity. He beat a Kaffir in a whole day's race, though he stopped to fight a lion on the way. He seized a buffalo by the horns, a buffalo which had fallen into a water pit and lay it on its side, until he drowned it. These, and many other such stories, are recorded in this official history.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

A new small planet was discovered photographically by Mr. G. H. Peters, of the Naval Observatory, Washington, on May 11. Another (the latest discovery) was found by Professor Max Wolf two days afterwards (May 13) at the Konigstuhl Observatory, Heidelberg.

A new variable star, 113, 1904, Ursae Minoris, has been detected by Mme. Ceraski while examining the photographs taken by Mr. Blajko at the Moscow Observatory; this object is of the 8.5 magnitude at the maximum, and about the twelfth when at its minimum.

Blondlot, the discoverer of the N-rays, announces that certain bodies, for instance, silver, spontaneously emit, or project, corpuscles having a certain weight. The emanation is not to be confounded with N-rays, but it can be reflected. Is this the source of odours? We know that metals, for example, zinc, have odours.

CENTRAL ASIAN NOTES.

THE TURKESTAN RAILWAY.

A St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Times" writes:—

The war in the Far East, to judge from the items of information which come to hand from time to time from Turkestan, has in no way diminished Russian military and railway activity in the latter quarter. The Government "retrenchment" scheme, recently applied to the Russian Budget drawn up before the war began, cut down Imperial expenditure for the current year under, among others, the heading of railway construction. The "strategical" line through Turkestan, the necessity of completing which with the minimum of delay was so strongly urged by the late Governor of Turkestan and Commander-in-Chief of the Turkestan forces, Lieut.-Gen. Ivanoff, in order to secure a double base of operations against Afghanistan, appears to have escaped the operation of the provisions, for retrenchment. Work on the Turkestan line is still being pushed forward with vigour; and the latest telegram from Orenburg states that the nerving work on the section of the line linking the northern and southern stretches is approaching completion. With a view to laying the entire line with all possible despatch, work was begun almost simultaneously from both ends. The telegram adds that 900 versts of the line have already been successfully laid from the Orenburg end, while 540 have been laid from the Tashkent end. Three hundred versts remain to be laid. The gap is expected to be bridged "towards the autumn." The opening of the line to Tashkent is anticipated for next spring. In a few days' time the railway will be opened to "commercial" traffic between Tashkent and Perovsk. The telegram adds that passenger trains run twice a week from Orenburg to Aktubinsk. The Orenburg branch of the Samara-Slatoust line from Kinel to Orenburg has already been linked up with the Tashkent line.

WAR NEWS.

A Mukden despatch to the "Warsaw Courier" states that Kuropetkin has founded a newspaper for the use of the army entitled "Voi Mandoharski Viedusk" (Manchurian Army Journal) of which he is the editor-in-chief. It appears weekly and is edited and printed in three railway cars attached to the General's train. The annual subscription is 24 shillings. Only army officers are allowed to contribute. Distribution is made by field post and the paper enjoys a big circulation.

Monday's "Times" contains a long article on the Russo-Japanese war by Count Tolstoi. It is an extraordinary jumble. It denounces the enormity of bloodshed and the evils of the existing order in Russia. It attacks the orthodox church and preaches the doctrine that it is the moral and religious duty of every Russian whether soldier or civilian to refuse to take any part in the present contest directly or indirectly. Even the Czar does not escape being described as the man who strove to maintain peace by seizing other people's land, and strengthening armies to defend what he had stolen. The whole document is an appeal to the soldiers and peasants to rise in revolt.

The Petersburg correspondent of the "Express" telegraphs on the 24:—"Events in the Far East during the past few days have wrought a great change in public opinion. The chief cause of the now general depression is the fact that important news is being withheld. Days have passed during which great events have happened yet the only news allowed to be published consists of long-winded reports which contain merely accounts of trifling skirmishes. Perhaps the best description of the general sentiment is grave anxiety and uneasiness. Owing to the Russian rule much discussion in public places is of course impossible, but everywhere about the city, there are signs of the people's anxiety."

Unofficial reports received at Tokio on Wednesday, state that the Japanese began to attack the outworks on the extreme east of Port Arthur on the forenoon of the 26th. The fight lasted till five o'clock when the Russians were driven in confusion from the heights along the Fungui River to the Chikwan forts. The Japanese advanced westward from Pintu six kilometres to Saoting hill and then assailed a line of heights. The Russian resisted strenuously. The Japanese force was composed of infantry, cavalry, artillery and mounted infantry. Their casualties were about 100. The Russians left forty dead, two machine guns, a quantity of rifles and ammunition. This places the Japanese in the rear of the Tsuchingse, thus obviating the necessity of attacking that position.

Profound depression prevails in all circles excepting the intimate advisers of the Tsar, who are determined to carry on the war so long as France is willing to lend money, says a St. Petersburg message of June 23. Already negotiations for a new loan have been begun, and efforts are credibly asserted to have been made to induce the French financiers to suggest to the Russian Government the desirability of putting an end to the useless carnage. Even among the official advisers of the Emperor two are alleged to be in favour of peace, but no one possesses the moral courage to suggest it to the Tsar, who believes that the Russian reverses are due to very exceptional conditions, which will speedily disappear. The successes scored by Admiral Skrydloff have largely contributed to raise the Emperor's hope.

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AREFRESHING DIETETIC NATURAL TABLE WATER.

Recommended by the medical profession in cases of Gout, Rheumatism, Dyspepsia, and Disorders of the Liver and Kidneys.

Rs. 12-12 per case of 48 bottles. MOLL SCHUTTE & CO., 1, Lal Baz St

Lemo Salis.

ARRESTED FROM FRESH LEMON (Citrus aurantium) WITH THE ADMIXTURE OF CERTAIN DIGESTIVE SALTS.

LEMO SALIS is a specific for Indigestion, Flatulence, Loss of Appetite and other forms of Dyspepsia.

LEMO SALIS is an excellent remedy for Diarrhoea, Vomiting, Colic and Cholera.

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LEMO SALIS is a preventive of several maladies due to mal-nutrition and poverty of blood.

LEMO SALIS checks excessive hemorrhage, is absolutely free from alcohol, palatable to the taste and a delightful beverage during the hot season.

DOSE—Two tea-spoonfuls diluted with a wineglassful of water.

PRICE—Ans 8 per four-ounce phial and Rs. 5 per dozen.

TESTIMONIALS.

"I have used it in many cases of dyspepsia and am convinced of its efficacy. I recommend it to the profession for trial."

N. Mazumdar M. B., 44, Beadon St., Calcutta.

"I have used it and have found it an excellent aperient. It has a delightful taste and serves as a nice beverage."

Amrita Krishna Mullick, B.L., Pleader, Small Cause Court, Calcutta.

To be had of N. G. Dutt, Manager, Bharat Vaisajyanilaya, 41, Bagbazar Street, Calcutta.

TRY

And you will know in 24 hours what a marvellous remedy R. LAUGIN & CO'S.

HEALING BALM

for all diseases and disorders due to dissipated habits in early life.

Excessive or scanty urination, painful urination, involuntary and putrid discharges, nocturnal emission, loss of manhood and prostration of youthful vigor and energy and all other symptoms of Gonorrhoea, Gleet, Running White, Urthritis, Cystitis, &c., disappear, as if by charm by the use of

HEALING BALM

1. Gonococci are the specific cause of this disease. These microscopic germs poison the mucus membrane and thus propagate the disease. Unless these germs are eradicated there is no radical cure. Healing Balm totally destroys these germs and so the cure effected by it is permanent and radical.

In a week the patient will be radically cured.

Indisputable evidence of its efficacy:—

1. The leading Indian Medical Journal, the "Indian Lancet" says:—"... put the Compound to a series of tests and now have much pleasure in saying that every experiment was followed by a successful result. We have no hesitation in now saying that R. Laugin & Co's Healing Balm is a safe and reliable therapeutic agent and one on which medical men and the general public may without any doubt depend (15th December, 1902, No. 24 Page 862)"

2. DR. K. P. GUPTA, Col. L. M. S., M. A., M. D., F. R. C. S. (Edin.) D. Sc. (Cambridge), F. H. D. (Cantab.), late Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal, etc., says:—"... Healing Balm is almost a specific for Gonorrhoea... and may be safely and strongly recommended for that troublesome and obstinate disease."

3. DR. B. K. BOSE, Surgeon-Major, M. D., I. M. S., etc., says:—"I have tried Healing Balm in cases of acute Gonorrhoea with success."

4. DR. U. GUPTA, M. D., C. M. (Edin.), F. C. S. (London), etc., says:—"... I tried R. Laugin & Co's Healing Balm, and found it a really very excellent medicine for both chronic and acute Gonorrhoea."

5. DR. G. C. BHZ BARUA, L. R. C. P. (Edin.), F. L. P. (Glasgow) and L. M., etc., late Civil Surgeon, British Guiana, says:—"... Healing Balm is a splendid remedy for the diseases of Genito-Urinary tract and it sets like charm."

6. DR. R. G. KAN, L. R. C. P. (Edin.), Secretary, Calcutta Medical School, says:—"... Healing Balm has given me immense satisfaction in cases of Gonorrhoea."

7. DR. T. UAHMED, M. B., C. M. L. S. A., (London), His Majesty's Vice-Consul, says:—"... I can recommend this Healing Balm highly to the suffering public."

8. DR. R. MONIER, M. B., C. M. (Edin.), Resident Surgeon, Park Street, Government Charitable Dispensary, says:—"... Healing Balm was used by me in several cases of Gonorrhoea and was found successful."

9. DR. R. A. FERRIE, L. R. C. P. & S. etc., says:—"... I used Healing Balm for Gonorrhoea in a number of my patients and found it very efficacious."

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Printed and published by T. K. Biswas, at the Patrika Press, No. 2, Ananda Chandra Chatterjee's Lane, and issued by the Patrika Press Office Calcutta.

