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NO 60

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Ranaghat
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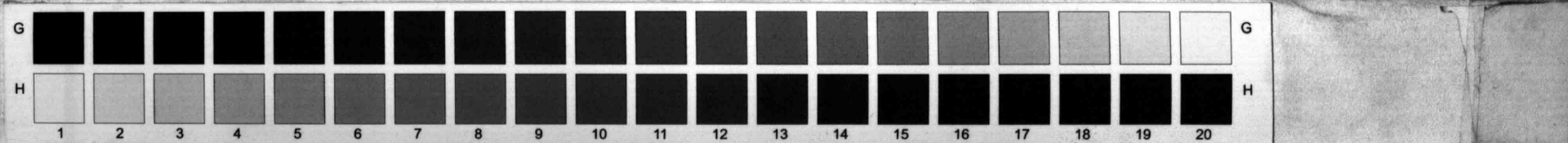
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THE DARJEELING BRIBERY CASE.

Darjeeling, July 22.
EMPEROR VERSUS CHABILAL.
This case came on for hearing before Mr. F. E. Peffard, Dy. Magistrate of Darjeeling on the 21st inst.

The case for the prosecution was finished before the written statement was filed and the case for the defence was as follows.
There were four witnesses for the accused. The first witness Babu Khiroda Ranjan Dhar Pleader on his coming in to the witness box said that before he gave any evidence his fees Rs. 16 as a special witness should be paid (he being a pleader) either by the Government or the accused.

Cross-examined witness said:—
Yes he remembered that the constable when asked by Mr. Heard, said that he took the money for the Court Babu. He latterly backed out of this statement.

The next witness examined was Babu Khetra Nath Bose. He said that one Sunday when Peary Babu was in Kalimpong and the Court Sub-Inspector went down to his house to call him up to play (Pasha) at Peary Babu's house. As they were going up to Peary Babu's house, they met one or two constables and some prisoners in front of Court Babu's house. They then went to Peary Babu's house.

Cross-examined he said:—
I don't remember what Sunday, but on all Sundays and holidays we go to play. Court Babu is my friend. I am sorry for his getting into trouble. My house is below Court Babu's house. To go up to Peary Babu's house we had to pass Court Babu's house. I do not know how long the Constables and the prisoners were standing in front of Court Babu's house. Whether he had already seen them or not I don't know.

The next witness was Babu Banamali Roy who said that while Khetra Nath and the Court Babu was going to play he joined them on the Road. He saw some prisoners and constables in front of Court Babu's house. He, Khetra Babu and the Court Babu went to Peary Babu's house.

Cross-examined he said:—
I never spoke to anyone regarding my giving evidence in this case. From the day of occurrence to this day I have never spoken about it. I was summoned. That is why I knew I was a witness in this case. I do not like or dislike the Court Babu. He is not my particular friend. Peary Babu's house is 50 paces from the Court Babu's house. I remember of other cases when prisoners were brought to Court Babu's house. I don't remember who they were. I am sorry for the Court Babu.

The next witness was Chamoo an ex-constable. He said that he and another constables had brought the prisoners to Court Babu's house. Court Babu was not at home, but he met the Court Babu afterwards. Court Babu was with two other Babus. Court Babu told him to write the Chalan and send the prisoners to jail. Court Babu then went away, and the prisoners were sent down to the jail.

Cross-examined he said:—
I was dismissed from the police office for having submitted wrong papers in a case. I was degraded 6 months ago. I was a Head Constable when I and another constable took the prisoners to Court Babu's house. I did not see Ram Lal and Basantbir the sureties for the prisoners. No question for bail was asked me by the sureties neither by the prisoners. I stood surety for Chabilal the accused in this case. I have no personal property, or anything whatsoever. I wrote the Chalan for the prisoners in Court Babu's house. Court Babu told me 3 or 4 days ago that I had to give evidence in this case. He said nothing else.

Here the evidence for the defence was finished and the case was adjourned.

ADMIRAL YAMAMOTO ON THE TRANSPORT DISASTER.

On Saturday morning last, Messrs. Masanosuke Kato, Kumakichi Oishi and Jun-ichiro Otsu, all on the standing committee of the Progressive Party, waited on Admiral Baron Yamamoto, Minister of the Navy, at the Admiralty Office, and submitted the following:—
"Your Excellency:—It was only the other day that the nation, with the Government, had to grieve over the sinking of the 'Kinshu Maru' by Russia's Vladivostok fleet. We believe that the authorities have since then been most watchful. But we have now the disaster that has befallen the 'Hitachi Maru' and other vessels; and the occasion was tantamount to allowing a defenceless fleet of ships to proceed to sea in the face of an enemy; we people, whose sons and brothers are engaged in the war, cannot obtain a day's peace of mind, as we are filled with harassing anxieties. We beseech the authorities to make public their views on the event in question, and the means they propose to take for ensuring future safety, in all frankness within the limits that the divulgence is not injurious."

In reply the Minister said: "To begin with, seeing that you have prefaced your remarks with a reference to the 'Kinshu Maru' disaster, I cannot help feeling it to be your idea that, whereas the occurrence was in the nature of a warning against the repetition of such a disaster, the one that has now taken place should be ascribed to the neglect of duty on the part of those in charge of the matter. I therefore will first speak of the 'Kinshu Maru' affair. That vessel was originally commissioned to keep the 'Kamimura' squadron supplied with drinking water and coal. Owing, however, to unfavourable weather, she was obliged to seek shelter in Gensan Bay, along with a torpedo boat. While there, she was asked by our garrison at that place to convey a party of soldiers who were to reconnoitre a certain locality. While engaged in this work, the weather became bad and the torpedo boat obliged to leave the 'Kinshu Maru' and seek safety at a certain spot. About the same time owing to dense fog the 'Kamimura' squadron missed the Vladivostok ships, and it was while thus left alone that the catastrophe occurred to the 'Kinshu Maru' she being sunk by the enemy. There were some persons taken prisoners by the enemy at the time; but as only a one-sided statement is at present obtainable, nothing definite can be said as to who should be held responsible for that unfortunate affair. Coming next to the latest occurrence, it is necessary first to speak of the attempts which have been made to block the Port Arthur channel. A section of the public seems to find fault with the attempt, as they believe a large number of lives were risked for mere spectacular effect. True, the attempts were very hazardous viewed from the point of ordinary warfare, but it should be noted that the entrance to Port Arthur is very narrow and the enemy had himself still narrowed it by sinking two of his own ships there, in addition to other lumber obstructions spread in the vicinity, and what our force did was to close the channel altogether. As Admiral Togo's report shows, it is a fact that the channel no longer admits the passage of war vessels of the size of a large cruiser. Being told that the Novik had issued from the port, some would doubt the effectiveness of the closure; but as that ship happens to be a small cruiser of less than 3,000 tons, there is no doubt whatever that even at this moment the channel remains blocked to the passage of large warships. But as the enemy is energetically engaged in the work of destroying and removing our sunken vessels, there is no knowing what he may attempt to dash out in a moment of desperation. This state of things makes it imperative that the waters in that neighbourhood should be constantly policed. The 'Kamimura' squadron has therefore been charged to guard the waters between the continent and the Japanese islands by patrolling the strait that separates Tsushima from Korea, thus keeping asunder the enemy's Port Arthur and Vladivostok fleets and preventing them from communicating with each other and becoming united. Suppose that a division is made either in the main fleet under Admiral Togo or in that of the 'Kamimura' squadron and the detachment thus obtained is detailed to convoy our transports. The result will only be to diminish the efficiency of both fleets, and will endanger the carrying out in full of the principal portion of their duties. Should such a thing happen, it may entail a result affecting the general plan of campaign and lead to grave consequences involving the nation, and for that reason the officers concerned dare not adopt that line of action. As for the decent of the Russian warships in the neighbourhood of Okinoshima, it was at about 8 o'clock on the morning of the 15th that a picket ship reported their presence there to the main body of the 'Kamimura' squadron, which forthwith in full force left its base about an hour later, at 9.25. The squadron proceeded 40 knots in the direction of the spot where the hostile ships were reported to have been sighted, but failed to come upon them. I believe that the 'Kamimura' squadron was at that time still at a distance of about 40 knots from the enemy. To make things worse, the sea about that time was enveloped in fog, which was so impenetrably heavy that even the ships of the 'Kamimura' squadron themselves could not recognize each other and the movements of each vessel could only be notified only by means of wireless telegraphy; it was not unreasonable therefore that they failed to ascertain the presence of the enemy's ships steaming 40 miles off. Had they heard the firing of guns, they would have proceeded toward the direction whence the sounds came; but it is presumable that no reports from gun-fire reached them. In the circumstance, our squadron could do nothing but steer in the direction in which the enemy's fleet was judged to be proceeding. There were two routes, either one of which the enemy might take. Our squadron, as it appears, gave chase on one of these routes, but the enemy put our vessels on a false scent as it were, and by feigning to head for Hokkaido, thence off Fukuyama, as if to make a descent on Hakodate, succeeded in reaching Vladivostok. It is extremely regrettable that, misguided in the choice of the course which it took, the 'Kamimura' squadron failed to intercept the hostile fleet."

The facts of the case are roughly as I have stated. On the occasions of the heavier transportations, we have made it a regular practice to detail adequate convoys; but the authorities have hitherto found it beyond their means to provide convoys for small parties that almost daily depart for the continent, and have had to be content at avoiding mishaps that may involve the main plan of the campaign. It goes without saying that while acting in that general rule they have done everything in their power to guard against all surprises, and it is to be greatly regretted that so deplorable a catastrophe as the last one should have been precipitated. We have matured a plan, however, of adopting a special course for all future transport, and instructions having accordingly been issued, the public may feel easier on this score in the future.—'Japan Times.'"

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

M. Fourreau has discovered fossil beds at Djoua (the Wadi Obaneet) near Timassanine in the Sahara. The fossils belong to the carboniferous and Devonian formations.

Dr. Walter Thorne, of the Royal Charite, Berlin, has invented a new apparatus for photographing the background of the eyes which is expected to be useful in eye diseases.

A Belgian journal states that patents have been taken out for a "teletypograph" which prints any telephone message as it is received, but the journal gives no particulars as to how it works.

Automobile water carts for sprinkling the streets have appeared in Paris. Each carries 1,100 gallons, is driven by steam, and a connection between the water jets and the wheels automatically regulates the output.

Professor Porchers, of the Electrometallurgical Institute, A-la-Chapelle, has announced a new process of obtaining metallic calcium by the electrolysis of the chloride of calcium in fusion.

A powerful search-light has been tried for the purpose of illuminating the active geyser of the Yellowstone National Park in Montana, United States, and the effect is said to be fine. It is expected that such "luminous fountains" will become a new and interesting attraction for visitors to the park.

Salt water stores up N-rays, but it was believed that fresh water does not, because the rays are not arrested by moist paper. M. Julien Meyer has now made special experiments by approaching a tempered steel file emitting the rays to a mass of pure water, and he finds that the water does store and emit the rays.

M. Millochau, by spectroscopic photographs of the planet Jupiter, and in its spectrum absorption bands resembling those of the spectrum of Uranus. One of the bands indicates vapour of water in the atmosphere of Jupiter. In general his results confirm the view of Janssen that the atmospheres of the principal planets of the solar system are on the whole similar to that of the earth.

Mr. Bergen Davis, of the Phoenix Physical Laboratory, Columbia University, U. S., in a paper to "Science" draws attention to a mathematical relation between gravitation and ether suggesting that matter is electrical in its constitution, and that the force of gravitation is the same in kind, if not in degree, with electrical force, and that they both act in a common medium.

A new method of using the same telegraph wire for telegrams and the telephone has been invented by professor Bruns and Signor Turchi, and tried with satisfactory results on the Rome to Venice line. It is based on a way of annulling the effect of the alternating currents used in telegraphing upon the receiving telephones, so as to leave the latter free to respond only to the telephone current.

Professor Charpentier, having shown that the nervous system emits N-rays, M. M. Mercanton and Radzikowski have tried whether N-rays could excite or modify the nerves, but in using the sciatic nerve of the frog they have not found any action of the kind. Somebody ought to try whether hypnotism has any effect on the emission of N-rays from the brain or nerves. We know that anaesthetics have.

Professor Adams found that light falling on selenium develops electricity in it, and the fact has been utilised by M. Berthier in a new device called an actino-electric transformer, by which the energy of sunlight is converted either into an alternating or a direct current of electricity. His experimental apparatus, which may yet become the source of practicable appliances, are described and illustrated by M. Guarni in the "Scientific American."

There are about 8,000 acetylene installations in Germany. The gas is now being used not only for lighting but for gas engines. Experiments on the Elbe have shown that it is good for signalling at sea and for light-houses. An American writer believes that if Japan defeats Russia in the war and holds Korea, it will become one of the best fields for electrical enterprises in the Far East. Japan itself is now a good market for American electrical plant and instruments.

Professor J. A. Fleming, of University College, has invented an apparatus for measuring the wave length of electric waves like those used in the wireless telegraph. Such waves generated by the spark of a Leyden jar or an induction coil pass through a spiral wire, and are reflected so as to cause "nodes" and "loops" at intervals corresponding to the wave lengths, and by these intervals the wave lengths can be measured. The "nodes," as in the case of musical tones, are points where the waves, direct and reflected, annihilate each other; the "loops" are places where they reinforce each other, as in the "beats" of music. A vacuum tube near a loop is observed to glow, and thus reveals it. Near a node, on the contrary, the tube remains dark. The device should be useful in wireless telegraphy.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST AN EDITOR.

The above case again came on for hearing before the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta Police Court, when the following witnesses were called and examined:—

Mr. N. L. Dey instructed by Court Inspector Mr. Abdur Rahim prosecuted Babu Monoranjan Banerjee, Editor of "Novo Protiva," for having used criminal force towards Miss Mary O'Sullivan, a young Eurasian unmarried girl calculated to insult her modesty under circumstances already reprobated. Mr. E. P. Ghosh Bar-at-law instructed by Babu Keshub Chandra Gupta defended the accused.

Inspector Madden, on being examined stated:—I saw three ladies, two gentlemen, a boy and the accused at the thana. I asked what the trouble was about. The complainant said, "This Babu insulted me by pushing me." The old lady, Mrs. O'Sullivan, then stood up and said: "No, my daughter was insulted by the Babu putting his hand round her waist." Then I asked who was the complainant. The young girl said that she was the complainant and fixed the place in Lower Chitpore Road. I then transferred the case to Bara Bazar Thana. Inspector Ballantyne had started writing when I came. To the Court.—At first the girl said "Babu had insulted me by pushing me." But after the mother had spoken I asked what the real complaint was. The complainant then said that the 'Babu had put his arm round her waist.'

Q. Did you hear anything about the attempt to kiss or the use of insulting word?
A. I did not, your Worship.

Q. Did you hear anything about her going to a shop and getting a stick?
A. No, sir.

To Counsel.—No stick was shown me. If the stick were produced at the thana, I would have sent it to the Bara Bazar Thana.

To Mr. Dey.—I cannot say how long the complainant had been with Inspector Ballantyne.

To Court.—I heard Inspector Ballantyne say—"The girl said that the Babu had pressed her heart." I said—"It is strange, she does not make this statement now."

To Mr. Dey.—I might have been 5 minutes with the complainant and the party.
Miss Mary O'Sullivan on being further cross-examined by Mr. E. P. Ghosh stated:—When I went to the thana, Inspector Ballantyne saw me first. Inspector Madden who was sent for, came down afterwards. I told Inspector Madden, "This Babu put his arm round my waist and insulted me and uttered obscene Bengali terms." It is not true that I told the Inspector that the Babu had simply pushed me. At first my mother was not there at all. She came to the thana when I had signed the charge. Inspector Madden was there at that time. No conversation took place between me and Inspector Madden in the presence of my mother. She did not say anything to any one. I showed that stick to Inspector Madden. I told him how I got it, I know a little of Bengali. I did certainly tell Inspector Madden what Bengali words were used. I am quite sure I told Inspector Madden that the accused wanted a "kiss."

To Court.—I remember when I came to the thana, I did not say that the accused had simply pushed me, and that my mother did not say the other story.
[Here the case for the prosecution closed.]

WITNESSES FOR DEFENCE.

Constable Hopkins (No. 13), examined by Mr. E. P. Ghosh, stated:—I remember the 20th June last. At about 6-30 p. m. while I was passing along Bentinck Street my attention was attracted by the accused and the complainant, I heard the Babu (in dock) saying to the complainant, "Why are you holding me I am not a prisoner." I heard the Babu say "I am not pushing you (complainant) on purpose."

To Court.—There was a Eurasian gentleman holding the accused. The man who was of a brighter complexion threatened to punish the accused. I did not hear the complainant say at that time "my modesty was outraged." I saw the complainant walking up and down Bentinck Street.

Q. Why did you not arrest him?
A. I did not think it proper to do so.

CROSS-EXAMINATION.

Cross-examined by Mr. N. L. Dey, the witness stated:—I am acquainted with the accused. I saw him about twice before the day of occurrence. I had gone to repair a ring in Hari Babu's shop where I saw him. He came over to me on the 22nd of June last and asked me "if I would come to Court as a witness as I had seen what had happened." I said "yes." The complainant was dressed in white bordered with red. She had a hat on. I did not think that the case was so serious as to take the accused to the thana. I did not go up to the accused. I was then not in uniform. I got my subpoena on Wednesday last.

Gopi Nath Das, examined by Mr. E. P. Ghosh, stated:—I have a shoe material shop. My shop is near Sooterkin's Lane. I remember the 20th June last. At about 6-30 p. m. I was seated in Harry and Co.'s shop. I went there to realise my money due. The complainant was standing there when the accused came up. She caught hold of his hand. The accused said—"Excuse me." She said—"Be silent, I will show you." I understood the girl to say first—"why have you pushed me." Then a "sahab" came up and inquired what the matter was. She said "Babu has pushed me, I want to take him to the thana." She then asked for his assistance. Then another "sahab" came up. He had a piece of wood in his hand. I don't know what conversation passed between them. Another European came up then. A Jemadar who was standing by, was asked to take the accused to thana.

To Court.—I noticed that all these "sahabs" were seated in Harry and Co.'s shop.

To Counsel.—I did not go to the thana. At this stage the case was adjourned till the 27th instans for further hearing.

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

MIRZAPUR SENSATION.

(From our Special Correspondent.)
Mirzapur, July 23.

WHY POLICE CASES FALL THROUGH.

When Mithu Khan's case will be disposed of, it will be time to discuss the theory why some of the cases sent up by the Local Police fell through. The theory of the Police to explain the circumstance is epitomized by Mr. Adams, the officiating District Superintendent of Police of Mirzapur, in his deposition before Mr. Tute, Joint Magistrate, on the 14th June last, by the following expressions:—

"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."

Circle Inspector Sajjad Hussain deposed thus:—"The police are practically powerless. Mithu Khan and other big men are in favour of the used and evidence against them (Mithu Khan and his gang of Badmashes) is for this reason difficult to procure."

Sub-Inspector Chuni Lal in his deposition, said:—"The gang enjoys immunity largely because Fajdar Khan, a pleader, is father-in-law of Mithu Khan."

Sub-Inspector Ganpat Sahai deposed:—"I know Mithu Khan. He is of bad character. His companions are Bachao and Bhangar. They are of the same family. I challenged Bhangar under section 110, Cr. P. C. Fajdar Khan had all the witnesses terrified and the case fell through."

The above depositions embody the theory of the Police, why cases sent up by them fall through. As it is, it can be taken as a part of the trying Magistrate, seems to have been so taken up by the theory that, before it was disclosed in the evidence of the said Police officers, he refused to release Mithu Khan on bail, though the offence is bailable, on the ground that the accused might not use his liberty for the purpose of intimidating witnesses."

Mahadeo Bhat had to stay in the lock-up for over a couple of months until he was acquitted by the Sessions Judge, as a victim to the above theory, though the case against Mahadeo was such as any other Magistrate than Mr. Tute would have discharged the accused forthwith. The other day bail was granted by Mr. Tute to some accused on the understanding that they would not stay at Mirzapur, and the accused went to stay at Allahabad in the compound of the lodging of their European barrister so that they might not be accused of intimidating witnesses. This is how a good many of the accused, guilty or not guilty, fare at the hand of Mr. Tute.

Sub-Inspector Ganpat Sahai mentions of Bhangar alias Bakar Khan, whom he challenged under section 110, Cr. P. C., the very section under which Mithu Khan is now challenged. This Bhangar is said to be of the family of Mithu Khan and a member of his gang. It is interesting to read the judgment though it is nearly two years old. Here is the judgment in re

KING EMPEROR VS. BAKAR KHAN

which I quote in full:—
"The Police have arrested Bakar Khan alias Bhangar and sent him for trial under section 110, Cr. P. C.

"There are seven witnesses to prove that the accused bears bad character; but their evidence is not sufficient to prove that his character is such as required by section 110, Cr. P. C.

"The statement of the Sub-Inspector Ganpat Sahai is based upon the information which is openly three months' standing. The two reports made against him on 29th July 1901 and 8th June 1902 were made by Municipal Chaukidars, and this can safely account for the proceedings against him now. Bhagwan Dass and Nageshwar as well as Khedu and Mahanand assert that the accused is a gambler and so that he keeps "naal," a bank for taking one anna out of a rupee earned by gambling; but this does not come under any of the provisions of section 110, Cr. P. C. The evidence of Dwarka Chaudhri is good for nothing. And Budri states that the accused is a Badmash, because he walks about with a Danda. In Mirzapur anyone going on streets will see many persons walking with Dandas in their hands; but they are not Badmashes. On the basis of the information collected from the above evidence, I find no necessity of binding him with cognizance or security. The accused has been a long time in Hawalat; he was let on bail after the Police could collect the evidence against him and produce it before the Court.

"I now discharge him.

(Sd.) Auled Md. Khan,

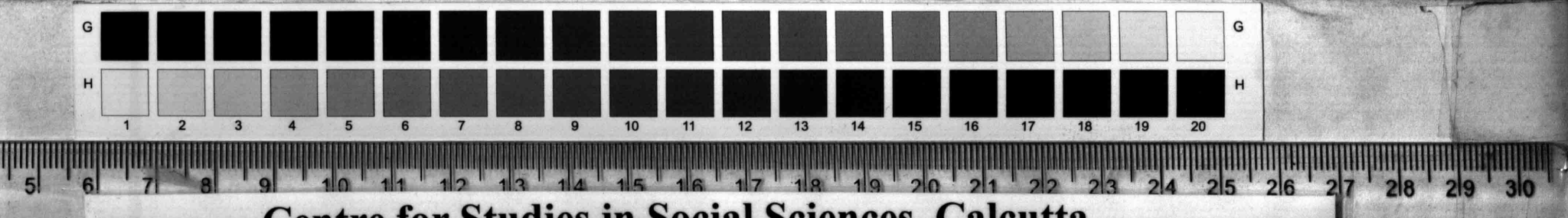
23rd Sep., 02.

Magistrate, Class I."

The learned Deputy Magistrate says that Bhangar was not released on bail before the Police could collect evidence against him and produce it before the Court. Still Bhangar was discharged. His enforced stay in the lock-up for a long time, as a victim to the theory in vogue, even when charged with the commission of a bailable offence, is the sure proof that he could not intimidate witnesses.

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

Smith Stanistreet and Co. Wholesale Agents, B.K. Paul and Co.; Abdool Raha Abdal Kareem, Calcutta.



THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JULY 28, 1904.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BILL OR THE PROSPECT OF FURTHER TAXATION.

We understand that the British Indian Association held something like a conference on Monday afternoon to consider the all-important question, which will shortly engage the attention of the entire Bengalee nation, namely, the Local Self-Government Amendment Bill, which has already been introduced into the Local Council, without inviting any public opinion on the subject.

Here are some of the main spots in the Bill. It is not only proposed to entrust the District Boards with the power of levying rates and tolls, but, under sections 46 A. and 46 B. of the Bill, they will be empowered to impose a rate on the annual value of lands, as defined in section 4 of the Cess Act, 1880. This means a tax on land and a clear violation of the terms of the Permanent Settlement. A proposal to the same effect was brought before the Police Commission to increase the pay of the village watch, but it was dropped.

In short, every District Board is proposed to be converted into a Municipality, with a standing official majority and the Collector for its Chairman as now, and empowered to impose any rate they like upon the land-holding classes and the agriculturists and their lands! Is not the measure, therefore, somewhat revolutionary in its character?

As the measure is intimately connected with the question of the Road Cess, we shall briefly describe the true position of the latter. Indeed, this proposal for new taxation is brought forward on the same ground that the Road Cess was imposed. The Cess was a violation of the terms of the Permanent Settlement; but, the land-holders of Bengal, who opposed it strongly, yielded only when the highest authorities gave an undertaking, as solemnly and clearly as it is possible for the human language to do, that the proceeds of the cess would be left entirely at the disposal of the cess-payers, and devoted to only certain specified objects.

If these pledges were fulfilled, the Government would not have been placed under the necessity of talking of fresh taxation now. Nay, if, even now, the cess funds were applied to the purposes for which they were created, the necessity for the proposed taxation would be immediately taken away. What the people of Bengal, therefore, should do is to approach the Government with the prayer that it ought to fulfil its sacred pledges with regard to the Road Cess and drop the taxation portion of the proposed Bill.

Indeed, those officials who think that the Road Cess Fund, like the virtue of a woman of ill-fame, is a bazar property, ought to read the Despatch of the Duke of Argyll and the Proclamation of Sir George Campbell carefully, and see for themselves that they cannot, on any account, make an indiscriminate use of the money. Here is a quotation from the 25th para of the Despatch:—

"That as far as possible the assent and concurrence of the rate-payers should be secured both in the levy and in the management of the rates."

What the authorities in Bengal, however, did was to impose the cess without the assent of the rate-payers, and, then to spend it at their sweet will! Here we see that no cess can be levied without the consent of the people.

In para 23 the Duke makes the following request to the Government of India:— "So much of the cess only should, in the first instance, be raised as is required for roads."

It was for the above reason that, in the first Cess Act and in his Proclamation, Sir George Campbell omitted to lay down water-supply as one of the objects of the cess, and he provided for only "village roads" and "local paths." The request of the Duke, however, was not heeded. The authorities commenced imposing the cess at the maximum rate from the very beginning, in almost all the districts of Bengal, and thus caused the good intentions of the Secretary of State in Council to be frustrated.

In para 22 of the Despatch occurs the following:—

"It is above all things requisite that the benefits to be derived from the rate should be brought home to their (cess-payers) doors—that the benefits should be palpable, direct, immediate."

The cess-payers, however, only pay the cess, and do not see the benefits, palpable or otherwise, direct or indirect, immediate or remote. What they see, however, is that, if they make one hour's delay in the payment of the cess, their properties are sold.

Here is an extract from the 23rd para of the Despatch. That besides roads, the proceeds of the cess should be devoted

"to the making and improving of wells, tanks and other works of irrigation affecting comparatively small areas of land."

The above not only establishes the purely rural character of the cess, but that it should be spent only for "village" roads, "village" tanks, "village" irrigation and such like works. This point was subsequently made clear by Sir George Campbell in his Proclamation. What the authorities have, however, been doing is to make the Cess Fund construct and maintain provincial, district or feeder roads and throw medical, educational, and other Provincial and Imperial charges upon the shoulders of the cess-payers.

In para 23, the Secretary of State says that "rates nominally levied for one

purpose" should not "afterwards be applied to another," and insists on "the necessity of maintaining perfect openness in our dealings with the people of India, especially as regards imposts which seem to be contested."

Everybody knows now that the Road Cess was imposed for some definite objects and diverted almost wholly to other purposes. In para 21 the Duke of Argyll lays down:—

"It will certainly be desirable to carry the people along with us through their natural native leaders both in the assessment and the expenditure of local rates."

Sir George Campbell reiterated the same thing in still clearer language in his Proclamation in these words:—

"The Road Cess money will be distributed and spent by local men trusted by the inhabitants who shall be selected or elected for the purpose."

What is however done is to cause the Road Cess money to be distributed and spent by a body called the District Board, which is practically an official organization with the Collector-Magistrate as its Chairman.

The reader may ask, how, in the face of such distinct declarations, could the Road Cess money be diverted to so many illegitimate purposes? It was done in the following manner. In 1880 Sir Ashley Eden and his Councillors sat together and passed a "Law" by which they provided that the objects of the Road Cess were other than those for which it was imposed. And a number of illegitimate duties were fastened upon the Cess Committees. In 1885, again, Sir Rivers Thompson and his Councillors made a further havoc upon the promises of the Secretary of State and Sir George Campbell. They converted Cess Committees into District Boards, and abolished by another "Law" the Cess Fund and called it the "District Fund." And, in 1899, Mr. Risley came forward to declare that no such thing as the Road Cess existed! If the solemn promise of the Duke of Argyll as the Indian Secretary of State can be broken so easily, what is the difficulty of doing away with the Permanent Settlement which was the gift of Lord Cornwallis?

THE PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

The "Englishman's" article of Monday last, condemning the Permanent Settlement and the Zemindars, is probably meant to help those who are after further undermining this great charter, by the introduction of the Local Self-Government Amendment Bill into the Local Council. As we pointed out the other day, one of the provisions of this Bill is to empower the District Boards to impose rates upon permanently-settled lands. Which, in plain language, means that the Magistrate-Collector of the district, who, as Chairman, is the master of the Board with the standing majority of the official and "ap-kawaste" members at his back, will be authorized, by a simple notification in the "Gazette," to tax over again the lands of those who pay the Road Cess. This is a clear infringement of the terms of the Permanent Settlement, and will naturally create a great hue and cry in the country. The writer in the "Englishman" has thus chosen this excellent opportunity to damn the Settlement and the Zemindars, who it is alleged, have immensely benefited by this beneficent measure of Lord Cornwallis.

The opponents of the measure, like the writer in the "Englishman", take their stand upon the cry that the Zemindars have gained at the cost of the Government and the ryots. The reverse, however, is the case. The Settlement of 1793 was arrived at to the full advantage of the Government and the cultivator, and the greatest disadvantage of the landlords themselves. Need we furnish any further proof for this than that most of the Zemindars with whom the Government made the contract were sold out and ruined?

The fact is not generally known that at the time of the Settlement only an eleventh share of the crops was given to the landlords, and that the remaining ten-elevenths were appropriated by the State as the share of the public. The lion's share was thus taken by the Government and only a pittance given to the Zemindars, who, at the same time, was saddled with the PUNCTUAL payment of an enormous revenue. The position, in short, was this. In the division of the produce of the field, two-fifths were allotted to the ryots after deducting the expense of collection; and of the remaining three-fifths, constituting the rent of the estate, ten-elevenths were taken as the Government share, and one-eleventh was left to the Zemindar. So the charge, that in the Settlement, the Zemindar was the one party who was benefited, and the Government and the cultivator were cheated of their rights, has no foundation in fact.

The inevitable result of the one-sided arrangement, so grossly unjust to the Zemindars, followed immediately. The history of the Bengal Zemindars for half a century after the Settlement is a record of ruin and disaster—a record which demonstrates the fact that the assessment at first was calculated at an exorbitant rate and fixed at a most unconscionable amount. They were the only persons who were bound, in the first instance, to pay the Government revenue. Of course, they were empowered to realize rents from the ryots and repay themselves; but, the ryots were either poor or disobedient. The law did not help the landlords in the realization of the rents, while the demand of the State was inexorable and exorbitant. One can thus easily picture the perilous condition of the Zemindars of the period to which they were reduced by this arrangement.

When the Settlement was arrived at, there were then hardly sufficient data for the proper adjustment of the tax to the capacity of the soil. It was at length, fixed in a haphazard way, at the average amount of collections for the last three years, no margin having been allowed for years of dearth and famine, pestilence and flood. Then arose a wall that the country had been overtaxed. From this high taxation there has, however, never been any reduction made. On the other hand, accumulating arrears were realized with a rigour which proved the destruction of most of the ancient houses in Bengal.

The Zemindars failed to meet the demands of the Government and their lands were sold off to realize the revenue due from them. In the year 1795-97, the landed properties

advertised for sale bore a rent of 28,70,061 Sica-Rupees, and those actually sold yielded an annual rent of 14,18,766 Sica-Rupees. Which means half the Zemindaries were sold for non-payment. In 1797-98 the quantity of land sold bore a rent of 22,74,076 Sica Rupees, that is more than three-fourths, and it is observed in the Fifth Report to Sir John Shore's Minute that among the defaulters were some of the oldest and the most respectable families of the country, the dismemberment of whose estates at the end of each succeeding year threatened them with ruin and poverty, and, in some instances, presented difficulties to the revenue officers in their endeavours to preserve undiminished the amount of the public assessment. In the meanwhile the realization of rents from the ryots became a matter of the greatest difficulty. The Collector of one of the most important districts thus wrote on the subject:—

"Farmers and intermediate tenants were, till lately, able to withhold their rents with impunity, and set the authority of their landlords at defiance. Land-holders had no direct control over them; they could not proceed against them, except through the courts of justice; and the ends of substantial justice were defeated by delays and costs of suits. It was notorious that many of them had large arrears of rent which they were utterly unable to recover, while the Government was selling their lands for arrears of assessment."

It was no matter to the authorities whether the Zemindars could realize the rents due to them or not, they were sure of theirs, and so they were content. The result was that almost all the biggest houses of Zemindars in the country were ruined and extinguished. A few like those of Maharajahs of Durbhanga and Burdwan survived the cyclone, but it took them many years' economical management to recover from the shock. The country had thus been charged with a permanent land tax founded not on correct data, but on the actual revenue of three prosperous years, which was exorbitant and greater than the land could bear, and unexampled in the history of revenue settlements of any other civilized country in the world. Under the Hindu kings the state could claim only a sixth part of the produce of the land. In Akbar's time, again, the revenue was fixed at one-fourth of the harvest of the land. But, under the British rule, during Lord Cornwallis' time, the State took ten-elevenths of the produce as its share! This does not show any great generosity to the Zemindars.

Here is an interesting statement showing the different assessments of land revenue of Bengal by the various Governments at past times. In Todor Mull's time it was Rs. 1,06,95,152. In 1722 it was increased by the Prime Minister Jaffer Khan to Rs. 1,31,15,907. Sujat Khan raised it to Rs. 1,64,18,513 within a space of ten years by the imposition of some new taxes. In 1755, Ali Verdy Khan, the Governor of Bengal, assessed it at a still higher amount, about Rs. 1,86,44,067. The highest assessment of land in Bengal was made by Cassim Ali, which came up to over two crores. But, at the time of realization, it dwindled down to the figures of previous assessments. The assessment imposed on the country by Cassim Ali is stated by Sir John Shore to have been "mere pillage and rack-rent."

Let us now have a glance at the assessments imposed by the present rulers of the country. In 1765 the East India Company assessed the revenue at Rs. 1,60,29,011, of which Rs. 1,47,04,875, or 13 lakhs less, were actually collected. In the year 1793, Lord Cornwallis, in proclaiming the rates of land revenue to be fixed for ever, increased it to Rs. 2,85,87,722, that is to say, when Lord Cornwallis permanently settled the land revenue of Bengal with the Zemindars, he assessed them at an amount which,—or rather less than which,—was "mere pillage and rack-rent" in the opinion of Sir John Shore. The disadvantages were thus wholly with the Zemindars, and, as stated above, many ancient wealthy land-holding families disappeared because of their failure to meet the extravagant demands of the Cornwallis Settlement. Their Zemindaries were sold and others purchased them from Government at a higher rate. And, one hundred years after, the revenue permanently fixed by Lord Cornwallis, has reached the sum of over four crores!

If two crores were "mere pillage and rack-rent", according to Sir John Shore, we do not know how he would have characterized the doubling of that amount in the course of one hundred years. Nor is this all. In violation of the terms of the Permanent Settlement, the Zemindars have been compelled to pay two cesses on land—the Road and the Public Works Cess—since the seventies, and which amount to over a crore. So, when the Zemindars were made to pay two crores by Cassim Ali, the assessment was considered "pillage and rack-rent." They, however, now pay over five crores, but there are people who think that they are so lightly taxed! And a further cess is now proposed to be imposed upon them!

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL.

In our issue of Friday last appeared an account of how the Salvationists,—white, black and yellow,—performed their "Two days with God" ceremony in London. The Vaishnavas have, in the same manner, their "Chabbish Proharies", or "two days-ceremony." The Vaishnavas spend these forty-eight hours in "Kirtan"; the Salvationists did almost the same thing. They, these Salvationists, began with music, and a hymn was sung with full-throated energy by the multi-colored throng." The General (Booth) then ordered the clapping of hands, and "again the verse was sung to an accompanying fusillade of hand claps." The Vaishnavas have their cymbals, and those who have them not accompany the Kirtan songs with "a fusillade of claps." The Salvationists added to the volume of the sound by crying "glory" and "hallelujah." The Vaishnavas have their cry of "Joy" which also means "glory" or "hallelujah." They "swayed to and fro in ecstasy" and this the Vaishnavas also do. Some "laughed aloud" and some no doubt wept, (though it is not mentioned) as the Vaishnavas do. In short, the Salvationists have adopted the Kirtan of the Vaishnavas, though for reasons to be explained presently, in a partial manner.

We fear the Salvationists are trying to accomplish something which is hardly possible, namely, to make two incompatibles meet. Would you give a pair of wings to an elephant? Or, the beak of a bird to a lion? The beak would not fit in the lion who has to kill buffaloes, and the wings will not suit an elephant who is too heavy for flying in the air? In the same manner, a picture, representing a hippopotamus or a rhino dancing, would be considered fantastic. In the same manner, we say, dancing and laughing scarcely suit Christianity, as it is taught by the priests. To be faithful to his creed, the devout Christian should appear before God with a rueful face, beating his breast and tearing his hair. Such an attitude will suit him better than dancing and singing.

God has His sweetness, for He granted the bliss of love, and immortal life to man. He has His mightiness too, as indicated by hurricanes, earth-quakes and the like. Vaishnavism is the only religion which worships His sweetness alone. The Vaishnavas have given God the figure of a beautiful youth, bedecked with wild flowers and peacock feathers, and armed with no other weapon than a flute by which He bewitches His creatures.

Every other religion prescribes mainly the worship of the mightiness of God, and scarcely His sweetness. Thus, even one of our Goddesses has a sword in one hand, though this fearful aspect is sought to be counterbalanced by another hand offering assurance and blessings. The Christians do not give any form to the deity; nevertheless, their description of God excites more fear than love. God, according to them, is "jealous," He is "wrathful" and "vindictive." He at one time destroyed in His wrath, all men on earth, with the exception of half-a-dozen elect. He has in readiness, hell-fire for the damned where He will hurl His creatures and torment them. In this manner, He will keep the damned for ever and ever in eternal suffering. He is ever on the alert to find fault with His creatures; and, though belief and unbelief are beyond the control of men, He will punish these with eternal fire who have no faith in Him or His Son. In this manner it is only a select few who will be permitted to enter Heaven, and the vast majority tormented in hell for ever and ever more.

Those who have read Dante are so overcome by horror and fear that we think it is a book which no sensitive man or woman should read. Fancy a man or woman converted into a tree or stone for their sins, without the power of motion but fully alive, and thus living an everlasting life of torture.

There is no doubt that in the above description is to be found what an orthodox Christian believes. For ourselves, we believe in the Divinity of Christ. We believe that every sincere Christian will be saved. What Jesus taught was perhaps suited to the fierce races of the West. Perhaps Christ has been misinterpreted or misunderstood. It would be impertinent on our part to find fault with the teachings of the Prophet of God. What we only mean to say is that the Vaishnavas have one method of worshipping God, and the Christians have another. The Vaishnavas worship the sweetness of God, so dancing and singing suit them. The Christians worship what is dreadful in God, and Kirtan therefore does not suit them.

The Methodists are the natural products of Christianity as taught by the priests. The most important duty of a man, according to Christians, is to avert eternal damnation which a wrathful God, always seeking an opportunity of venting His anger upon His creatures, has kept ready for them. Man is naturally a sinful creature; he is led from one sin to another, and the chances of his escape are feeble. The chances of entering Heaven are so small that gigantic efforts are to be made to secure it. And the Methodist, therefore, prays for forgiveness; he beats his breast and tears his hair, and groans in agony. The preachers describe the tortures of hell-fire, and the shrieks of the damned, so that the hearers go in hysterics, and some even lose their senses altogether.

We think this attitude is more natural in a Christian than the holy dance of the Vaishnavas. As a matter of fact, the Salvationists have blended the two,—Vaishnavism and Christianity,—and created a curious mixture, which is unnatural. Why do the Salvationists dance and sing, clap their hands and laugh in ecstasy? It is because each thinks he is saved. Let a quote here from the Proceedings of the "Two days with God" ceremony of the Salvationists:—

"A burly Australian told the story of his conversion. The listening soldiers broke in ever and anon with cries of 'Praise the Lord.' 'It's true,' 'I believe it.' Each nation, after its kind, showed its joy in the recital. 'The blacks swayed to and fro in ecstasy, the soberer Teutons beamed, the United States delegates laughed aloud, and one and all at the close sent up a thunderclap of 'I'm saved.'"

So, at the ceremony referred to above, their war cry was "I am saved" and thus they were happy. So they were happy that they had escaped the clutches of God Who had destined them for everlasting damnation. They were happy, because, they form the select minority who will go to Heaven, and others to hell.

But the happiness which has self for its basis is not ecstasy—the ecstasy which leads the devotee to dance and sing. The fact is, the ecstasy of the Vaishnavas proceeds from a cause which is quite different from that of the Salvationists. The Vaishnava conception of God is that, He is the Partner of the Soul and therefore dearer than all men. They realise the fundamental creed, upon which Vaishnavism is based, namely, that "He is mine and I am His." The realization, though partial, of such an idea causes ecstasy and ecstasy is followed by its manifestations, such as dancing and singing. In the Vaishnava "Kirtan", there is no thought of punishment or reward, or self-salvation, or of hell or brimstone.

The Vaishnava dances, because he has a great future; the Salvationists dance because he has escaped hell, as an accused dances when a convicting Magistrate of India has acquitted him. The prisoner does not dance for his love of the Magistrate, nor do the Salvationists for their love of God—they dance because of their escape from punishment.

We know that men who serve Christ sincerely will be saved, as men who serve Sree

Krishna will be. But what we contend for is this: if you remain Christian, be a Methodist; instead of dancing, roll on the ground in the anguish of your soul; instead of clapping your hands in joy, beat your breast in agony; and instead of singing, utter groans. But if you will adopt Kirtan, then accept Him, the Avatar of Nadia, Sree Gauranga, who brought it into the world for the benefit of mankind, and His idea of God as a Partner of the Soul. To accept Kirtan, and not to accept Sree Krishna and Sree Gauranga—or to remain Christian and dance and sing—is to make sweet religion ridiculous.

We do not know what dangerous things the Punjab vernacular paper said to deserve to be prosecuted for sedition. But we feel that the prosecution of an Indian paper by the Government is more hurtful to loyalty than anything that a silly editor might say in his paper. What does this prosecution of the Indian paper indicate? It is this that, though the people of India are under British rule, they are only a conquered people who are distrusted, and kept straight by brute force. An Indian has not the right to say what an Englishman has. If, under a sense of irritation, (alas he has much cause for it) the Indian uses a strong expression towards the Government, he is to be treated as a felon. The same language in an Englishman will, however, be excused. What Indian, under such circumstances, will care to be frank with their rulers, or for the welfare of the empire? A jealous, irritable and unforgiving Government has very little chance of securing loyal and devoted subjects. Of course sedition ought to be stopped but that can be done in better and milder, and more effective ways. When a man preaches, what is called sedition, in his newspaper, which he distributes broadcast, it can be taken for granted that he does not mean anything serious. He proves by his writings that he is a fool, that is all. Therefore, instead of "loading cannons to kill a mosquito," the best policy would be to give him a warning; and we dare say that it would have a more salutary and permanent effect upon him and others than a prosecution which, without producing the desired effect, would only evoke the very worst of feelings. The matter can be viewed from another stand point. The people of India are not "inflammable"—surely newspaper articles are not likely to drive them to desperation. Why should the authorities then go into hysterics over the nonsense appearing in an obscure newspaper? And, above all, is not the Government too strong for the people? That being so, it can afford to be generous. The people have their grievances and let them have ample opportunities of unburdening their hearts through newspaper articles. They do no harm to the Government, and at the same time, serve to calm the perturbed spirit of the discontented section of the population.

We said that the District Boards are more official than popular bodies, though, as the custodians of the Road Cess Funds, they should be controlled wholly by the representatives of the cess-payers. This fact was made abundantly clear by some of the sentiments in the addresses they presented to Sir Andrew Fraser and the replies he gave to them during his recent tour. Take, for instance, the following statement in the address of the Bankergunj District Board:—

"Our Board have long been foremost in their care for the health of their constituents and the sanitation of their district. We support 35 dispensaries at an annual cost of Rs. 80,000 and we have dug in ten years 160 tanks at a yearly cost of Rs. 15,000."

The Board may justly be proud of its achievements; but, is it aware that it has simply misappropriated the money of the cess-payers, though for a very noble object, by applying it to medical purposes? It is the duty of the Local Government to afford medical relief to the people. Indeed, that is one of the primary obligations of every civilized Government. The Russian Government did not make any provision for the medical help of its subjects, and for this reason, the whole of Europe cried shame upon it. As we have already pointed out by quoting from the Road Cess Despatch that the pledge was given in distinct terms by the highest of the authorities that the proceeds of the Road Cess would be devoted to only certain specified objects, amongst which the establishment of dispensaries was not one. Sir Alexander Mackenzie admitted that it was misappropriation of the Road Cess money to spend it upon medical purposes. That was also the admission of Sir Andrew Fraser at Rajshahy, though no doubt, through forgetfulness His Honour was led to state quite a different thing at Rajshahy. Now, if the Bankergunj Board were in the hands of the real representatives of the cess-payers, they would have never allowed such a diversion of the fund or taken credit for it. It is the Collector, the representatives of the Government, who controls the Board, and hence this illegitimate application of the Fund. Now that the matter has been prominently brought to the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor, this unjustifiable practice of misapplying the Road Cess Fund should cease. The diversion of the Road Cess money to the extent of Rs. 50,000 for the construction of the water-works in the town of Barisal is another unjustifiable act on the part of the Bankergunj District Board. As we said the other day, the Lieutenant-Governor, instead of countenancing such a diversion, should have discouraged it. Those elected members of the Board, who joined with the Collector and other official members, in taking credit for diverting the Road Cess money to the establishment of the dispensaries and the construction of the water-works in the town, ought to hang down their heads in shame for having been a party to such a transaction.

We have had often occasion to blame the apathy of those who have sought election in the Council and govt. But really they are not much to blame. The Governments, local and imperial, have adopted the policy of Charles I and resolved to ignore the Councils altogether. The Imperial Government spend about nine months in the year on the

hills and tours, and hold only a dozen Council sittings at the most in the cold season in Calcutta. The Government of Bengal is, however, the greatest sinner in this respect. Fancy the members of the local Council are summoned only on three or four occasions in the year! But this was not the case before. Then the Councils were held much oftener. If the local Governments summon the Council, say, once a month, they create an opportunity of coming in touch with the people under their charge twelve times in the year. Is it not an advantage to associate with representatives? Of course those who do not need advice or information,—those who dislike to meddle with public matters which are disagreeable,—will never be disposed to come in contact with representatives oftener than they do now. But those who really mean to serve their respective Provinces with credit, can, by summoning the Councils frequently, keep themselves very much acquainted with the wants and grievances of the people.

A "PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE" has been formed in America, and it has submitted a petition to the Congress praying for the complete independence of the islands. To this petition seven thousand of the foremost men in the country have appended their signature. The other party in the country is not prepared to go so far. Said Secretary Taft, who heads the letter: "God knows I want to give it to them." The objection of this second party is that the Philippines are not prepared for complete independence. Of course this other party may not be sincere, it is quite possible their motive is only to thwart the object of the Independence Committee, which is day by day getting more powerful. But there are no two opinions about the other reform which is to grant self-Government to the country. Indeed it has been settled now that even if the Islands do not get their independence, America will not have a firmer hold upon the country than what England has upon Australia. This means practical independence to the Islands. It must be borne in mind that it is not to pure philanthropy that the Filipinos owe these concessions. A large number of patriotic and thoughtful Americans are convinced that if the Philippines are ruled as a subject country the United States itself will, at one time, lose its present constitution. They do not believe in slavery abroad and freedom at home. In proof of which they refer to the present condition of England.

Mr. FARQUHAR in a paper in the "Hindustan Review" lays it down with great energy, that Christianity is destined to destroy Hinduism in India. He says: "Let Hindus, therefore realize that Christianity met and conquered in the early centuries an enemy quite as great as Hinduism, an enemy, too, in many respects similar to Hinduism." There is no doubt that Christianity spread rapidly all over the world, though perhaps less rapidly than Mahomedanism. But whence did Christianity acquire this power? This will be found explained in Tertullian's apology quoted by the author, which runs to the effect:

"Your cruelty, even the most exquisite is of no avail against us. It is rather that which is our hire; it draws converts to us. We grow by being mown down. The blood of Christians is the Seed of the Church". Thus Christianity first flourished because the votaries were humble and persecuted. But when Christianity handled maxim guns, and thus became arrogant and persecuting in its turn, it laid a knife across its throat. Christ promised the kingdom of Heaven, his followers chose the kingdom of earth, and they have got what they chose. They can not expect to get both.

The "Utkal Dipika," the local paper of Cuttack, makes some further startling disclosures regarding the notorious Dacocy case in which three innocent men had been transported for life who were afterwards released when it transpired that they had nothing to do with the crime. One of these unfortunate men had been sent to the Andamans; and from there he had to be brought back to his native town at public expense. How wonderfully was the whole case concocted! It was done in this way. One of the accused named, Banamali, was made the King's evidence. This man was tutored to repeat a story, implicating himself and his co-accused in the offence. The manner in which his confession was taken was most extraordinary. He should have been brought to the Court of the Magistrate to have his confession fully recorded in a regular form. What was, however, done was to fetch a Deputy Magistrate to a police out-post in an out-of-the-way corner of the town, where the confession was hurriedly taken down. Now an enquiry on this point ought to be instituted. Why was such an unusual procedure adopted and why did the Deputy Magistrate agree to lend his judicial authority to it? Who took him there? Did he go at the request of the Police Superintendent or the Magistrate of the District? The point ought to be cleared in the interests of the public; for the general complaint is, the Inspector or the Sub-Inspector guides the Police Superintendent and the latter leads the District Magistrate in any direction he likes. The case is scandalous from the beginning to the end, and the Government should leave no stone unturned to sift it to the bottom. When the Cuttack Police before the eyes of a European District Magistrate and European Superintendent of Police is capable of committing such an atrocious thing as to tutor witnesses for the purpose of getting innocent men transported for life or hanged where is the guarantee that the police in other districts, which are similarly constituted, are in a better position? And fancy the infernal cleverness shown by those who were working out the dacoity case. Yes, they threw dust not only into the eyes of the Sessions Judge but also to those of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court.

We stated at the time that the labours of the Calcutta Income Tax Commission did not close in March last with the dismissal of two men, and that Sir Andrew Fraser would not stop till the whole office was purged of its impurities. We now learn that Mr. Logan, Commissioner of Income Tax in the Bombay

Presidency, has taken up the enquiry, it is believed, under the supervision of the Hon'ble Mr. Savage. Mr. Logan is conducting the enquiry at the office of the Commissioner of the Presidency Division. The Income Tax department may be greatly improved by introducing into it University men with good family connection.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Babu Romanath Ghose, the well-known Zemindar of Pathurighatta, which melancholy event happened on Tuesday at 3-30 p.m. About seven months ago he had a fit of paralysis while driving near the Eden Gardens. He regained the use of his limbs to a considerable extent and it was expected that he would get round in due course. But he was again attacked by the fatal disease and succumbed to it at last. Babu Romanath was only 38 years of age, and his untimely death will thus give a rude shock to all his friends and acquaintances. A more popular and highly respected member of the Hindu Society in Calcutta was not to be found. This was mainly because of his spotless character and amiable nature. He was one of the wealthiest men in the city but he kept himself entirely free from all sorts of vicious habits. He was a prominent Vice-Chairman of the B. I. Association and took active part in all public movements. To the Kayestha community, of which he was a recognised leader the loss is simply irreparable. It is mainly through his personal exertions and pecuniary help that the Kayestha Sova attained to such a high position. He was a Hindu of Hindus, and eminently pious. In short, he was a good and noble soul, who was loved and esteemed by a very large section of the people. We offer our sincerest condolence to his bereaved family. We have only this consolation to offer to them that he is now in a better world and far happier than he could possibly be in this "vale of tears."

Scraps.

It is believed that Lord Curzon arrives in India on the 24th September next.

A correspondent informs us that the European manager of an estate in Purnea is being prosecuted on various charges. The case is pending before the Sub-divisional Officer of Khasganj.

The Murshidabad paper "Pratihar" in its last issue chronicles some grave and serious allegations against the police stationed at Daulatabad, Barua and Hariharpara in that district, for extortion, unlawful detention etc. The aggrieved parties have lodged complaints against their alleged aggressors and the cases are pending before the senior Deputy Magistrate of the district, Mr. Mackartiss, who has ordered for a departmental enquiry by the District Superintendent of Police at the first instance. We hope the D.S.P. will make a sifting enquiry into the matter ere he submits his report to the Magistrate.

Since the conversion of a Mussalman to the Arya religion, the feelings between the followers of the two religions have become very strained. Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Khan, Barrister-at-Law at Delhi, has presented to the Deputy Commissioner on behalf of the Mahomedans of that city, a petition praying for permission to prosecute the writer (a Mussalman convert to the Arya religion) of the Tarki-Islam (Why I Renounced Islam) under section 153 A. of the I. P. Code. The Deputy Commissioner has forwarded the petition to the Local Government for orders.

We understand that the present Superintendent of Government Printing who was lately translated there from the Presidency Jail, has issued an order to the Book Department, fixing the office time from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. or 11 hours on a plea of making up arrears! Even coolies are not to be forced to work eleven hours a day and it is contrary to the provisions of the Factory Act. In Indian Jails the prisoners are made to work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the Superintendent, who was lately working in that Department, wants to introduce the jail hours in the Book Department of the Government Printing, quite unmindful of the fact that nowhere amongst the free population there exists the practice of working the whole day from sunrise to sunset. Be that as it may, the action, taken by him is neither just nor humane. We hope the Government will set this office right and order the immediate cancellation of this illegal order and thereby save the poor and unfortunate clerks not only from brutally hard labour but also from starvation, as they are now working almost without meals the whole day.

Our correspondent at Dinajpur says that the party who was responsible for the cart-seizing scare in that district, published in our paper about a month ago, was not the District Magistrate, Mr. Jeffreys, but a Deputy Magistrate in charge without due deliberation. But let our correspondent describe the hardship: "The fact is that as soon as the order of the Government was received the Deputy Magistrate, in question, the then Magistrate in charge without due deliberation and without even consulting the District Magistrate, issued notice to the local Police to seize carts. The police being armed with this authority sallied forth on cart-seizing expedition, seized as many carts as they could and thereby caused untold hardships and sufferings to the public in general. The owners of the carts made a representation of their grievances to the Deputy Magistrate to no purpose. The parties thereupon moved Mr. Jeffreys, District Magistrate, who was kept quite in the dark as to the order of the Government, the unreasonable step taken by the Deputy Magistrate in giving effect to the same and the deplorable state of affairs obtaining in the district. Hearing the parties Mr. Jeffreys at once sent for the Deputy Magistrate and expressed in strong terms his disapproval of the order made by the latter, left for the place where the carts were kept and being informed by the owners of the carts of their unwillingness to proceed to Siliguri, allowed them to go away. He further assured the parties that no compulsion would be brought to bear upon them and that they would be quite at liberty to go or not to go. Though young, Mr. Jeffreys was a very kind-hearted official and never played duck and drake with the liberty of the people. Of course it was never the intention of the Government that any oppression should be committed upon anybody in this connection; yet an order of the kind was bound to produce undesirable result.

With the raising of the taxable minimum under the Income-tax, the people expected that a large number of poor people would be exempted from its operations. But the people, it seems, are disappointed, for the manner in which the revenue from this source is being collected by some of the over-zealous assessors, the circle of assessment is greatly widened instead of being narrowed. The Lahore "Tribune" says that a number of persons at Ramnagar, a fast decaying old town in Wazirabad Tahsil of the Gujranwala district, have received notice to the effect that they would have to pay income-tax to the amounts mentioned against their names. Would it be believed that village confectioners, village goldsmiths, retail sellers of provisions and similar other petty shop-keepers have been asked to pay Rs. 35 as income tax? The people complained that they have been over-assessed and petitioned the authorities accordingly. We are told that the way in which assessment is made there has already become scandalous. We hope the higher authorities would interfere and nip the scandal in the bud.

From the Government Resolution on the working of the Bombay police for 1903 we learn that there was a decrease of over 500 cases in the city. In the important class of offences against the coinage the percentage of success was relatively low, but these are difficult cases and the police had one or two notable successes in the class. There has been a small increase in cases under the heads of lurking house-trespass and house-trespass with intent, a class of crime which needs the special attention of the police in a large city such as Bombay. The work of the new Police Act is responsible for far the greater number of these, while there are appreciable increases under the Public Conveyance Act and the percentage of convictions obtained in cases Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. Of this sort seems to show that the greatly increased activity of the police in dealing with acts or omissions which interfere with the amenities of life in large cities. His Excellency the Governor in Council agrees with the Chief Presidency Magistrate that in some classes of these cases it was not desirable to inflict deterrent sentences, but only to deal with them in such manner as to insist on the persons liable causing as little inconvenience as possible to the remainder of the public in the use of the public places of the city.

The expeditionary force in Tibet occupied Karola, which is some 92 miles from the capital city of the Forbidden Land. The intervening country between Karola and Lhasa is stony plain. On the 19th the Expedition reached Nagatse, which is a considerable town on the margin of an extensive lake, Yamdok Tseo. Mr. Manning, the Tibetan explorer, thus describes the path from Nagatse to Lhasa. From Nagatse the road leads for six or eight miles along the margin of the lake, after which it takes a northerly trend and ascends the Pass of Kamba-la. This is quite a humble pass after Karola, and is only 14,950 feet high, as compared with the 16,800 of the position just taken. "The height of the mountain," says Manning, "was trifling. After a mile and a half or two miles of easy ascent we were at the top; but the level of the valley on the other side was considerably lower than the one we departed from. The descent was long, tedious, and in many places troublesome." The passage of the Kamba-la leads to the Upper Brahmaputra Valley. About the Valley Mr. Manning wrote: "The valley was wide, a lively stream flowed through it, houses and villages were scattered about, and under the shelter of mountains on the farther side was a large white town, pleasantly situated and affording an agreeable prospect. The place was not destitute of trees nor of arable land and an air of gaiety was spread over the whole and I thought on the faces of the people." Here the river is to be crossed. Mr. Sarat Chunder Das says that there is a strong chain bridge over the river, but it is doubtful if the Tibetans keep it intact when the force reaches there.

We have heard various stories about salaam-loving Englishmen in India. They would not allow anybody, however high be his position, to pass before them on horse-back or with an open umbrella over his head. But the salaam loving craze was till recently confined to officials—civil and military—only. But it appears that the disease is infectious and the infection has already spread to an alarming degree in some of the Punjab towns, so much so that even a meek lamb of christ is not immune from it. The Lahore "Tribune" has published the following story from Murree. A native gentleman was going on foot, a few days ago, from Murree to a neighbouring Cantonment with open umbrella on account of the sun being very hot at the time. A cooly was following him. A Padi Sahib happened to see him in this state from the other side of the road at some distance. From there the Reverend gentleman started to shake the little cane in his hand without uttering anything. The Indian gentleman, not understanding what the Padi Sahib might have to do with him, thought that he was probably beckoning to the cooly following him, but when the Padi Sahib got near he was startled by the words addressed to him, which led to an interesting dialogue, the substance of which is given below:

Padi Sahib (arrogantly):—"Tum ko rasta ka dastur malum nahin?" (Don't you know the custom of the road?)
Indian Gentleman.—"Ran sahib malum hai." (yes, sir, I know it.)
Padi Sahib.—"Malum hai to phir chhata kyon bund nahin karta?" (If you know why don't you shut up the umbrella?)
Indian Gentleman.—"Yeh koi dastur nahin." (There is no such custom.)
Padi Sahib.—"You devil!"
Indian Gentleman.—"You devil!"
Here the matter was brought to a close by the Padi Sahib probably being put in mind of his better self, for without another word he went on his way, and the Indian gentleman did the same. The latter was satisfied that he had not shut his umbrella, and the former must have thought in his calmer moments that he had not acted exactly like a Christian saint.

The Madras Government have approved of the grant of loans at the reduced rate of three per cent interest per annum to raiyats of certain villages in North Arcot affected by floods.

ANGLO-INDIA AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, July 8.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

"The average man of the people appears constitutionally timid. He shrinks from innovations that he does not understand. . . . In the face of authority the common people appear cowed and subservient to a degree. They dare not look their superiors in the face. A loud word or an abrupt address utterly upsets them. In their ordinary routine of life they are provokingly easy-going and fond of comfort. That such men should make a good fighting stock seems inconceivable."

WHOM DO THEY RESEMBLE?

The passage I have selected as the Thought for the Week occurs in an article by Colonel Emerson, which appears in the "Contemporary Review" for this month. It may be asked who are the people who are "constitutionally timid," "cowed and subservient in the face of authority," "utterly upset by a loud word or an abrupt address"? Are they the much-despised Bengali Babus, and is the Colonel who writes the article a disciple of Anglo-India and of Rudyard Kipling in his reading of their character? The guess seems possible: yet it is wrong. The race of whom the Colonel writes is not the men of Bengal. It is the Japanese. The men who have made Japan, who have proved their intelligence and capacity through forty years of miraculous progress, and who, finally, have shown a physical courage in war which is as striking as their glorious achievements during peace. Colonel Emerson does not write of them spitefully. He is thoroughly pro-Japanese in sympathy, and would, therefore, see the good points rather than the weak points of their character. Yet he writes, and I do not apologise for repeating his words: "To the foreign observer it often appears anomalous that the Japanese should show any capacity. The average man of the people appears constitutionally timid. He shrinks from innovations that he does not understand. In the city of Tokio there are many thousands who are afraid to enter the electric cars. In the face of authority the Japanese common people appear cowed and subservient to a degree. They dare not look their superiors in the face. A loud word or abrupt address utterly upsets them. In their ordinary routine of life they are provokingly easy-going and fond of comfort. That such men should make a good fighting stock appears inconceivable."

But Japan has triumphed over these drawbacks which might appear to completely bar ordinary success. Here is a Gospel of Hope to those Bengalis who feel tempted at times to succumb to the contemptuous opinion held of them by other races. Japan gives them a cheering answer to their despair.

LORD CURZON STILL PLAY-ACTING.

Last Saturday Lord Curzon was installed Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, a position which, for several centuries, has been almost a nominal one. The fact that he has assumed this ancient dignity does not necessarily mean that he will be prevented from returning to India to resume the Viceroyalty. Of the two previous Viceroys who have held the office of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports,—Lord Dalhousie and Lord Dufferin—the former received the honour while he was still in India, and, indeed, was never officially installed owing to ill-health on his return to England. Lord Curzon is entirely free to return to India or to accept a home appointment under the present Government, should Mr. Balfour succeed in escaping an early dissolution. In the olden days before the Norman Conquest, and onwards, too, into times almost recent, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports was one of the most important men in England. Head of the five great trading ports and the many lesser harbours along the English Channel, he held command in the innumerable naval fights with the French seamen across the silver strip of water. Now-a-days the merchant vessels and passenger steamers crossing the Straits of Dover are no longer semi-privateers ready to do a little profitable piracy if a favourable opportunity occurs. The Lord Warden's ship has, therefore, become nothing more than a picturesque survival of olden times. Even among the twelve ports over which he holds nominal sway, there are several which have become silted up by the rivers or have been left stranded from the sea by a gradual rising of the land surface. The ceremony at Dover was a gaudy little piece of pageantry, with curiously-named officials in curiously old-world dress, reading curiously worded documents that had a meaning and significance five hundred years ago, but are to-day a creed outworn. It was an interesting ceremonial inasmuch as it carried one's thoughts back to the long ago history of an earlier England than that to which we are accustomed. As the "Times" declared, the customary pomp was doubtless insignificant compared with the splendid ceremonies to which a Viceroy of India is accustomed, but the English ceremonial was not without a picturesque interest of its own. There must have been many present at Dover last Saturday who, if they compared the scene before them with the colossal magnificence of the Delhi Durbar. The similarity which they may have noted in the external trappings of the two ceremonies was not so great as the similarity of spirit. For what did the processions and speechifications at Dover signify? They signified the accession of Lord Curzon to a position, the honour and usefulness of which had long since disappeared. They celebrated his command over harbours, most of which are useless, and towns, some of which are nearly deserted. They strove to put into words an honour and a glory which had vanished in fact. The one port under the Lord Warden's jurisdiction which is growing in importance and influence is Dover; and the management of the affairs of Dover is altogether beyond his control and his office. Now note the parallel to the Coronation Durbar. At Delhi Lord Curzon was the central figure at the celebration of the King-Emperor's accession. Homage was paid to King Edward on his assumption of authority over India—an India which is as the Cinque Ports are, but on a continental scale. All the old trappings of wealth and splendour were paraded, all the old boasts of power and

happiness were repeated. Meanwhile the country itself was decayed and desolate. The people who were yet mourning their dead from the starvation of five years' famine, were asked to share in a rejoicing that had no meaning or hope for them. The India of the Delhi Durbar was as hopelessly a thing of past centuries as the naval gorges of Sandwich or Hythe. In both celebrations an attempt was made to revive a past for a present which has little or no use for it. In both cases the effect is the same. After the gaiety and rejoicings Rye and Winchelsea sleep as peacefully as before; in India the peasantry are as hard put to as before the Durbar to earn their scanty means of food, and the educated people are none the less bitter that they are denied the right of exercising some influence over their own destinies. Only one harbour flourishes among the Cinque Ports, and it is beyond Lord Curzon's control. In the same way, there is only one hope flourishing in India to-day, and that lies in the steady growth of a dauntless and unwavering independence among its people. By his own action Lord Curzon has rendered the comparison complete. He has voluntarily refused to recognise the healthy patriotism of India, and by so doing has placed it beyond his influence or control. Is it not a strange fate which is always dogging Lord Curzon? Where he goes, be it East or be it West, he comes to a pretence of power or of good government. But this is not a world of children's games. One day Lord Curzon may wake up to the need of a greater reality, when he will desire to see things, not as he thinks they have been nor as he would like them to be, but as they really are. Some day he may tire of play-acting. Then at length he will be in a position to learn the truth.

SEQUEL TO THE BOGUS TELEGRAM CASE.

On Tuesday before Moulvi Bazal Karim the third Magistrate, Mr. Walsh, was re-arraigned on charges of personating a police officer and extorted Re. 200 from Mr. Gainsford, Secretary to the Corporation.

Mr. Moses and Babu Kali Churn Palit vakil appeared for the prosecution and Babu Suresh Chander Mitter for the defence, who cross-examined the complainant.

Fred. Gainsford, cross-examined said:—I have been Secretary of the Corporation for nearly four years, drawing Rs. 1000 per month.

Q.—Now Mr. Gainsford, will you kindly let me know what your monthly expenses are?

The Court disallowed it. The pleader then submitted that he would show that his client did not go there himself but was sent for by him. He also said that he would show that Mr. Gainsford had lost a certain sum by the failure of Messrs William Watson and Co. and that he was in some way connected with the bogus telegram case.

The witness said that he was willing to answer any question put to him but he was sorry to find that such allegations have fallen from the lips of a pleader of this court.

The Magistrate wanted to know what was that Bogus Telegram case about and he was told that in that case Mr. Elliott was charged with having sent bogus telegrams from Bombay and Darjeeling to the "Indian Daily News" and "Englishman."

The witness continued.—I saw the announcement in the "Englishman" "Indian Daily News" and "Statesman" that Walsh was going to give evidence in that case. I know Mr. Elliott for the last eight months only. He was a servant of the Corporation. I first heard of that case after Elliott's arrest. Elliott's case does not interest me. I read the reports in Papers about the case. I have no time to read everything.

Q.—Did you see the bogus telegram in the papers on the 28th January?

Ans.—I may have seen it but I do not remember it; in fact I can say I never saw it as I never read the "Daily News."

Witness continued.—Mr. Elliott, as far as I am aware, has never taken leave to go to Darjeeling till the institution of the case.

Q.—Do you know one C. Thomas?

Ans.—No.

Q.—Have you heard of Thomas in connection with Elliott?

Ans.—No. I have not.

Witness continued.—I do not know the accused in my life. I know the Inspector of the Fenwick Bazar thana. Two or three times, I had occasions to go to the thana. I had an account with William Watson, but I certainly did not lose 30,000. I have a considerable and convenient sum. I never purchased stocks in my life. I never purchased any stocks or shares from Prosad Das Boral and Tulsi Roy. I do not know them. I could not assign any reason why I went to the Park Street thana instead of Fenwick Bazar thana. Mr. Chalmers took me. I came to my office a quarter of an hour before the arrival of the accused.

I did not know that the accused had gone to the Fenwick Bazar thana, on the 3rd or 4th of February and lodged information there about the sending of the bogus telegram and mentioning my name as connected with it. On any of the occasions I went to the thana, the Inspector did not tell me about this information lodged against me. It is absolutely false that I went to the thana, in order to avoid that. I did not tell the landlady that if any person turned up for me, to send him on to Mr. Norton's. I certainly formed my own idea as to what brought the accused there. My idea is, for blackmailing. I knew what the accused said to me were false, but I did believe that he was a Police officer and was going to give evidence at Darjeeling.

Q.—Were the allegations made against you in connection with the Bogus Telegram case, true or false?

Ans.—Absolutely false.

Witness continued.—I did not ask him to what Police Force he belonged. He was not in uniform.

Q.—Did he tell you how he came to know you were implicated in the Darjeeling case?

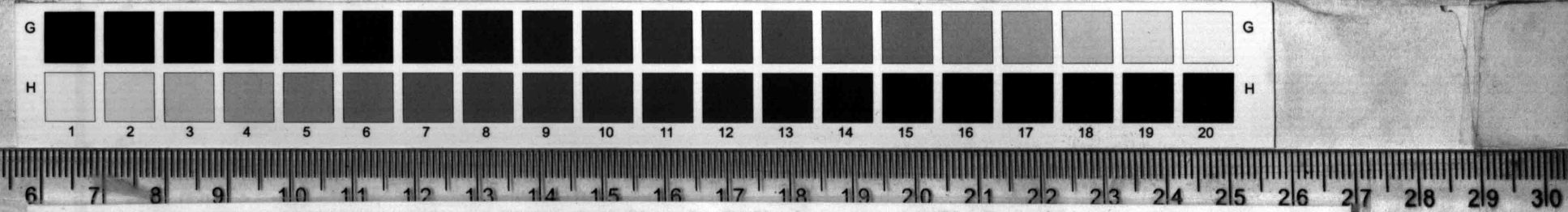
Ans.—No.

Q.—Did you believe that it was in his power to implicate you?

Ans.—I did not believe that he would go deliberately and implicate me. You can't stop a man's mouth.

Q.—Did you ask him how he was going to implicate you?

Ans.—Oh! Yes. I think it was next morning.



Witness continued.—He told that Elliott and Thomas had implicated me and that he knows it and he would have to say so in his evidence unless he was squared. I do not know that Elliott made a statement or confession in the Darjeeling case. He told me that as a Police Officer, he knew everything about the case. Q.—You do not like it to be rumoured that you were implicated in this telegram case? Ans.—Certainly not; nor in any other case and I took the first opportunity to vindicate myself. Witness continued.—I know Chalmers and Hobbs from a long time. I go to office every Sunday and holidays. Some more questions were put and then the case was adjourned till this morning.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Indian Telegram Department.—A scheme for the re-organization of the Indian Telegram Department is now under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale.—According to the "Sanjibani" the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale, Addl. Joint-Secretary to India National Congress, will visit East Bengal next month.

Public Works Department.—Rai Krishna Chandra Bandopadhyaya Bahadur, Inspector of Works, is transferred, from the Bhagalpur to the Eastern Circle, to take charge of the later. Mr. T. H. Richardson, under convenant, is transferred, from the Eastern to the Bhagalpur Circle, and is appointed to officiate as Inspector of Works of the latter Circle.

Alleged Defamation.—On Tuesday before Mr. D. Weston, the Chief Presidency Magistrate, the case in which Mr. K. N. Sen Gupta barrister-at-law, charged Babu Dwarka Nath Gupta with having defamed him, came on for hearing. Mr. Swinhoe instructed by Babu Ananda Prosad Dutt appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Manuel for the defence. The case was transferred to the file of the second Magistrate. As the case was called on Mr. Swinhoe asked for an adjournment. The case was adjourned to the 9th proximo.

Crop and Weather Prospects.—Rainfall during the week was general, but not evenly distributed. The districts of Rajshahi, Dinapur, Darbhanga, Purnea and Angul are in need of more rain. Excessive rain caused some damage to crops in Midnapore, Hooghly, Howrah, 24-Parganas and Shahabad. Transplantation of winter rice in progress. Prospects fair. Cattle disease reported from 15 districts. Fodder and water generally sufficient. The price of common rice has risen in six districts, has fallen in seven, and is stationary in the remainder.

Cold-blooded murder.—A correspondent writes from Dinapur: On the first Rath Jatra day, the youngest son of Babu Karam Chand Lall, a resident of Dinapur, at about 8 p.m. came out of the house to see a procession that was passing by his house at the time. The boy, who had ornaments on his person did not return and the members of the family became alarmed. Search was made after the body but without success. At last the sad news reached the father that the dead body of the child was lying near one of the bridges on the road facing the railway station, not far off from the police out-post. It is curious indeed that none of the police men there knows anything of the foul deed.

Eloped with a Servant's Wife.—On Tuesday before Syad Mahomed, Khan Bahadur, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, one Kristo Charan Pal of Tollygunge, was charged with having enticed away a young Hindu married woman from the custody of her husband. The husband of the girl was a menial servant under the accused. Both the husband and wife used to put up in their master's house. The accused, availing himself of this opportunity, induced the woman to leave her husband's protection, and took her away to Howrah, where he concealed her in a house of ill-fame, in order to avoid detection. The charge having satisfactorily been proved against him, he was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment.

Civil Medical Department.—Senior Assistant Surgeon Kasi Nath Ghosh, on return from leave, is appointed to do supernumerary duty at the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta. Second grade Assistant Surgeon Ras Behari Moitra, of the Ranigunge Sub-division and Dispensary, in the Burdwan district, is allowed three months' leave on medical certificate. Third grade Assistant Surgeon Shah Jahan Ali is appointed to act at the Ranigunge Sub-division and Dispensary. The undermentioned Civil Hospital Assistants are promoted to the next higher grade:—Shoshi Bhushan Roy, Poorno Chunder Singhee, Raj Mohun Das, Brijnath Sahai. Third grade Assistant Surgeon Mohendra Nath Indra is appointed to act at the Naogaon sub-division and dispensary.

Export Trade of Calcutta.—Exports from Calcutta, by sea to foreign countries in June again exhibited a considerable increase in value as compared with the previous year. The value amounted to nearly four and a half crores or an increase of over thirty lakhs. Movements of treasure were practically "nil," and the whole trade was confined to exports of merchandise. A large trade in grain, especially in wheat, has contributed chiefly to the enhanced value; and shipments of rice and dal were also greater. Altogether 1 1/2 millions cwt. of wheat were sent away: the United Kingdom took the greater portion, but Antwerp was also a large indentor. Jute manufactures were better in value by fifteen lakhs, and lac, with an increase in quantity of 7,154 cwt., rose in value by nearly twenty lakhs. Opium too shewed a larger quantity shipped, to the extent of 55 chests, the value advancing by over twelve lakhs. At the safe decreased exports in other important products were considerable. Oilseeds owing to a greatly contracted trade in linseed and rapeseed, declined in value by nearly 32 lakhs. Raw cotton also fell off in value by twelve lakhs: raw jute contracted in volume by 45,562 cwt. and the demand for cotton twist and yarn also shrank. The quantity of tea sent away was over seven millions lbs., or a rise of 663,684 lbs.—from Chittagang there was an increase of 404,672 lbs.

Trade of Calcutta.—For the first quarter of 1904-05 Calcutta's trade by sea with foreign countries gives a very large expansion in value. The three months' trade was valued at over 23 crores or an advance of 3 1/2 crores. Imports contributed 176 lakhs to this increase, and exports 150 lakhs. Merchandise only contributed eighteen lakhs of the increased value of imports—treasure accounted for the balance of 158 lakhs. Gold imports were valued at 223 lakhs, and those of silver at 42 lakhs. Exports of treasure were on a very small scale during the whole period.

Tiger Shooting in Purneah.—A fine tiger (male) measuring nine feet eleven inches fell to the gun of Mr. A. J. Shillingford, at Manshai, on the 21st instant. Miss Shillingford was the only other person out, and was rewarded for her trouble in seeing a fine charge, which nearly resulted in the Howdah elephant she was riding on being mauled. This tiger has been doing great havoc among the buffaloes and cattle of late, but owing to the denseness of the covers could not be got at, but the recent rise of the river Ganges sent him up on to the higher lands, where he killed a cow in a small patch of jungle, and was bagged with only five elephants.

Assam Weather and Crop.—The following is a report on the state of the season and prospects of the crops for the week ending the 19th July, 1904:—Heavy rain in Cachar, Kamrup and Naga Hills; light to moderate rain elsewhere. More rain wanted in Goalpara, Upper Assam, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and Lushai Hills. Ploughing for and transplanting of late rice, reaping of early rice, and plucking and manufacture of tea in progress. Prospects of tea and sugarcane generally fair. Prospects of jute fair in Sylhet and Garo Hills; poor in Goalpara. Early rice promises a fair outturn in all districts, except Goalpara, Kamrup, and Nowgong. Cattle disease prevalent in five districts. Prices of common rice—Silchar 17, Sylhet and Dhurbi 16, Gauhati, Tezpur, and Sibsagar 14, and Nowgong and Dibrugarh 13 seers per rupee.

Flinging a Shoe at a Magistrate.—A correspondent from Muzafferpore writes to the "Behar Herald" under date the 15th instant:—An old offender, Abdul Rahim by name was being tried before Babu Siva Nandan Sahai, Joint Magistrate, for an offence under section 379 of the I. P. C. To-day the said accused threw an old shoe at the trying Magistrate which hit his left arm slightly. On search a piece of brick was also found with the accused who was immediately charged under sections 355 and 228 of the I. P. C. A Muktear, a peon and a constable who were present in court as well as the Joint Magistrate were examined before a Mahomedan Deputy Magistrate. The accused pleaded guilty and said that the reason of his throwing the shoe was that the Court was prolonging his trial which had already taken three months. He was subsequently sentenced to undergo a rigorous imprisonment for one year.

A Providential Escape.—Our Midnapur correspondent writes:—News reaches us that the heavy rain in the early part of this month has considerably retarded agricultural operations in several parts of the district. Ghatul has suffered most. At the ninth mile of an embankment near Ghatul there was a serious breach which resulted in the flooding of the surrounding tracts. The poor villagers were in great distress. The Sub-divisional Officer of Ghatul, Moulvi Ahmed Saheb, with his usual goodness personally visited the places in order to give relief to the distressed. Unhappily the Sub-divisional Officer's boat capsized and the gentleman narrowly escaped being drowned. His rescue from a watery grave may well be regarded as providential; and God be thanked, that so valuable a life has been spared for the good of humanity. The great personal risk which Mr. Ahmed ran in trying to bring succour to the people in distress is the most eloquent testimony to his zeal, sympathy, and high sense of duty.

A Pathetic Scene in a Court of Law.—Our Dinajpur correspondent writes:—After a protracted trial of about a fortnight during which time Mr. Hamilton, Sessions Judge, fell twice ill, the big and sensational gang case instituted by Babu Mathura Nath Rakshit, a very able police officer, came to a close. All the accused who belong to wandering gangs were convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment ranging from three years to 18 months. A very pathetic sight was witnessed after the delivery of judgment by the Sessions Judge. It would appear that almost all the elderly members, both male and female, of the gang were sent up by the police and a lot of children were left to take care of themselves. On the day judgment was delivered all the children stood in front of the Sessions Court crying over the fate of their parents, brothers and sisters and cursing those who were the authors of their present misfortune. As soon as judgment was delivered the children one and all set up a cry so piteous that none could resist shedding drops of tear. Be it said to the credit of the police that they refrained from sending up 4 members 2 females and 2 males of the gang so that they could look after the children.

A Man-eater Shot.—The "Indian Field" says:—"Rumours of the death of that arch-fiend the Dongargah man eater reached us some time ago and certain details connected therewith were placed at our disposal. But he had so often been reported as having been bagged that we hesitated to publish our information until sufficient time had elapsed to prove conclusively that he had at last ceased from troubling. Last April Captain Goring-Jones, the Adjutant of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Volunteers, determined to get the brute, and succeeded under rather peculiar circumstances. During one of the beats the half-eaten carcase of a tigress was discovered, and, judging from the appearance thereof it was suspected that a tiger had been dining off her. Captain Goring-Jones sat up for what might come along, and to his astonishment a huge tiger soon made his appearance, and was about to resume his repast when he was accounted for. The beaters, Shikaris and villagers from miles around agreed that at last the scourge of the district had been removed, for the beast was quite well known to many who were prepared to swear to his identity; and as no further additions have been made to the long list of the Dongargah man eater's victims for the last three months it seems now pretty certain that we have heard the last of him.

A Defamation Suit.—The case in which Babu Gonesh Chandra Chundra, Attorney-at-law, sued Mr. J. Chowdhury, Barrister-at-law and proprietor of the "Calcutta Weekly Notes," claiming Rs. 25,000 as damages for an alleged publication of a defamatory writing came on for hearing on Monday before Mr. Justice Stephen. His Lordship is hearing the case in chamber.

Crops in Bengal.—During the past year there was a falling off in the total area of crops in Bengal. The outturn of the Province as a whole of all the crops taken together amounted to 86 per cent of the normal against 90 per cent. in the preceding year. Winter rice, which is the staple food crop of the Province, took up about half of the total normal acreage of sixty-two and three-quarter million acres. Among non-food crops the outturn of jute was estimated at 94 per cent of the normal while indigo which was the poorest of all fell to 65 per cent.

Alleged Municipal Zoolom.—On Monday, before Moulvi Serajul Hug, Police Magistrate of Alipore Mr. Hamisier, a Footpath Inspector and two "Chaprasses" of the Calcutta Corporation were charged with trespass assault and mischief under the following circumstances. It was stated that on the morning of the 13th instant one Bhogolo Saha, a rich shop-keeper of Soomibazar Kidderpore brought a cartload of flour from the Goabagan Mill for his shop and when the cart was unloaded the accused came to the spot with the two peons ordered the shop-keeper to bring out all the bags of flour and on the latter's refusal, he with his men, was said to have forcibly entered into his shop, kicked the complainant and scattered a bag of flour on the ground. When the case came on for hearing the pleader for the prosecution asked the Court for an adjournment as the principal witnesses were not present and accordingly the case was adjourned.

Strike at Bag Bazar.—A correspondent writes:—The hay and straw merchants of Bag bazar have made a strike since Sunday last not to sell a single bundle of hay or straw and not to unload a single straw-boat floating on the Ganges. They have stopped to supply hay and straw even to their old customers and are ready to make themselves liable to pay damages for breach of contract. Thousands of customers are at a loss to find out what to do with their horses bullocks or cows. Hay may be purchased from Jaunbazar or elsewhere, but straw can nowhere be found at Calcutta. The reason of this strike is due solely to the alleged oppression by some employees of the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta. At the time of unloading straw it is said that some clerks compel the merchants to make pass for more articles than the boats really contain. The clerks it is alleged, oppose them to unload the boat unless they agree to their unjust proposal. They presented petitions to the Secretary to the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta praying for redress of this oppression, but to no purpose. They are determined to stop their traffic until their grievance is remedied.

Alleged Kidnapping.—The case in which Mr. A. Stark charged his mother-in-law with kidnapping his two minor children was resumed on Saturday before Mr. Bonnaud, Northern Division Police Magistrate. Mr. J. K. Bose appeared for the complainant and Mr. J. N. Roy, barrister-at-law, instructed by Messrs. Swinhoe and Remfry, for the defence. The defence raised a preliminary objection that this being a "show cause" case on notice where no offence under the Indian Penal Code is alleged to have occurred, the Court had no power to deal with the custody of the children, whereupon the Court remarked that this was merely a preliminary inquiry and its interest being for the good of the children, it would hear this matter on evidence as to the desirability or otherwise of the children being left in the possession of the complainant—a man subject to epileptic fits and other constitutional disorders. It further remarked that it was sure the grand-mother had the interest of her grand-children at heart, and as this was only a preliminary inquiry and this Court would have to report the result of this inquiry to the Chief Magistrate before issue of any process, the Magistrate thought it would be better to proceed with the evidence. Dr. Allan examined both the children and found them emaciated and badly nourished. The younger one had an open cut wound under the chin, scratches on her neck, and bruises on her back; while the elder one had bald marks on the head, as if the hair had been plucked out. The Rev. Mr. Summers, Secretary of the Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children, corroborated the above evidence. The Doctor, moreover, said that just before or immediately after an attack of an epileptic fit, the father was liable to ill-treat his children, though he would not be responsible for his action. The Magistrate after going through the evidence produced by both parties said that on the evidence of the complainant himself, which was corroborated by his own medical man and the evidence of the defence as to his being subject to fits and other constitutional disorders, and not for the present dealing with the question as to how or by whom the marks on the children were caused, he considered it would be extremely dangerous to allow these young children to remain with the complainant, and ordered that they do remain in the custody of the grand-mother, subject to the further orders of the Court.

In consequence of the dues levied by the Tibetans on the Luytias of Byans and Chaudans in the Almora district, it has become necessary to consider whether it would be desirable to endeavour to obtain a recognised trade mart at some point in Western Tibet adjacent to the Punjab Frontier, in order to free the trade of these exactions. A neat trick in horse stealing was played a few days ago by a man who went to the Arab stables in Rasthai Peth, Poona, and stated that he was a groom in the employ of a European gentleman, who was in need of a good horse. He asked that one should be saddled and bridled in order that he should try for himself the mettle which the animal was made of. Having obtained his mount, he rode off at a tremendous pace and was not seen again. The police recovered the horse a few days later in a village close to Sirur where the man sold it for Rs. 27. It was suffering much hard riding and ill usage.

TELEGRAMS. REUTER-TELEGRAMS. THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, July 24. Reuter wires from St. Petersburg that in the interest of friendly relations with the Powers, Russia has withdrawn the authority given to the Volunteer Cruisers to search and seize ships.

In reply to the German protest, Russia announces that orders have already been given to release the Scandia. Reuter's correspondent at Tientsin says that fighting was reported yesterday six miles from Niuchwang, in which the Japanese were successful, the Russians losing 700. Fighting was proceeding to-day outside Niuchwang, the Japanese slowly approaching the town.

Reuter's correspondent at Port Said states that the Scandia has been released. The decision of Russia, anent the Volunteer Cruisers, was the result of yesterday's Council, at which Count Lamsdorf and Admiral Avolan and other high authorities attended. After a long discussion the Council decided that the status of the Volunteer cruises was not sufficiently defined to justify further seizures.

The Valdivostok squadron has been sighted 30 miles off the southern coast of Idzu bearing eastward. Count Von Buslow has addressed earnest representations to Russia anents the seizure of the Scandia, and Russia has promised to make immediate enquiries.

Reuter wires from St. Petersburg that the Volunteer Cruisers have seized the British steamer Ardova, which was bound from New York for Manila and Japan, in the Red Sea. Count Lamsdorf has informed Sir O. Harcourt that this is due to the Volunteer Cruisers not having yet received the instructions sent to them.

An important Conference took place yesterday at the Palace of the Grand Duke Alexis, to consider the status of the Volunteer Cruisers. Count Lamsdorf was present at the Conference which shows that the reported recall of the Petersburg and Smolensk was premature.

London, July 25. General Sakharoff reports that a Japanese force of two Battalions with machine guns is advancing along the Taitse River, east of Liaoyang, followed by strong columns with thirty guns.

The Russian prize crew which was put on board the Scandia has been landed at Port Said and proceeded to Odessa. Their rifles and ammunition have been placed in the Custom House.

The Smolensk and Petersburg are cruising in the vicinity of Jeddah. The Russian Consul at Suez is negotiating for the charter of a Khedivial steamer to convey instructions to the volunteer cruisers in the Red Sea.

It is expected that the Petersburg that the volunteer cruisers in the Red Sea will eventually join the Baltic fleet and be replaced by ordinary warships. The Malacca will be transferred to the British Consul at Algiers.

The Porte in consequence of the British protest has informed the Russian Ambassador that any further volunteer cruisers will not be permitted to pass the Dardanelles.

London, July 25. Mr. Balfour, replying to several questions in the Commons, said he did not wish to minimise the seriousness of the question arising from the recent captures which raised a separate question, namely, that of the Dardanelles, which was still giving Government great anxiety, but signs pointed to a favourable issue and it was expedient to say more.

Government consider that prizes like ships have a free right to pass the Suez Canal. They don't consider that British merchantmen are required to submit to the removal of a portion of the cargo without the authority of the prize court.

The British steamer "Ardova," captured by the Volunteer Cruisers, has been released at Suez. The Russians are evacuating Niuchwang. The Vladivostok Squadron has sunk the British steamer "Knight Commander" from New York with a cargo of bridge work. The crew were saved. The Squadron also captured the German vessel "Arabia" laden with flour.

London, July 26. The Russians have seized the Peninsular ship Formosa which has arrived at Suez with a prize crew aboard.—"Englishman."

Telegram from Shanghai and Niuchwang state that the Japanese drove thirty thousand Russians from a height in the vicinity of Tashichiao after fourteen hours' desperate battle.

It is stated at Washington that the British steamer Ardova carried 250 tons of gunpowder consigned to the American War Department in the Philippines. Lloyd's agent at Suez telegraphs that the machinery of the Ardova is damaged and repairs will last ten days.

The English papers have raised an outcry against the exploits of the Vladivostok squadron. They declare that the sinking of neutral ships without trial is an intolerable precedent amounting to an act of war.

The Morning Post in a leading article today severely criticises Mr. Balfour's statement in the House of Commons yesterday regarding the situation. It also says that Mr. Balfour has failed to satisfy an indignant nation.

The Standard declares that the situation is exceedingly grave. Reuter at Yokohama telegraphs that the crew of the British steamer Knight Commander were given ten minutes in order to escape before the ship sank.

The Daily Telegraph publishes a telegram from Shanghai that only the lascars of the steamer Knight Commander were sent to Yokohama. The Europeans are held as prisoners. The Hamburg-American steamer Scandia has reentered the Canal and resumed her voyage.

Various reports are current that the Russians have evacuated Tashichiao. Semi-official Russian telegrams mention severe fighting as having taken place there on 24th and 25th instant.

The Japanese Cavalry have entered Niuchwang. The French flag is flying over all the Russian buildings, and everything points to the general retreat of the Russians.

TELEGRAMS. INDIAN TELEGRAMS. THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

Colombo, July 24. The German Mail Steamer "Prinz Heinrich," recently detained by the Russians in the Red Sea, arrived at Colombo on Friday evening. She left for the Far East on Saturday. News received from Galle to-day states that the vessel grazed a rock the same afternoon off Dondra Head and put to Galle in a damaged condition. She is leaking, and water is being constantly pumped out. All on board are safe. The mails, consisting of five hundred bags, will be brought to Colombo and sent by the earliest opportunity. The repairs are expected to detain the steamer a fortnight. Divers from Colombo have left for the scene. The "Hongkong Maru" is intercepting steamers near Wei-hai-Wei with contraband of war on board.

Advices from the Far East state that, at Shanhaikwan parties of French and Japanese soldiers fought with bayonets; two Frenchmen were killed and nine Japanese were wounded.

Port Arthur is unable to hold out beyond October, when the Baltic Fleet is expected to arrive. The Japanese are landing heavy siege guns.

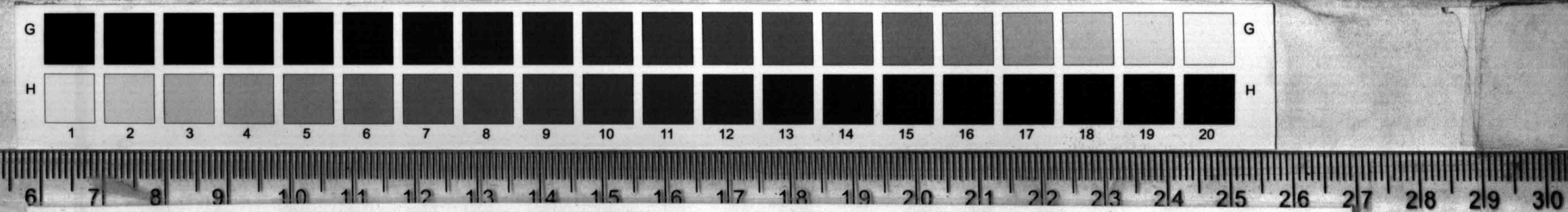
Bombay, July 24. General Kuroki reports.—On the 18th inst., one column of our army commenced operations for occupying Hsihoyen, on the Liaoyang road north of Lienshankwan, where the enemy had constructed strong defence works, and were posted on eminences commanding the defile and sloping on the eastward. Columns of our main force advanced in front of the enemy's position and commenced canonading there at dawn of the 19th, and the enemy replied with 32 field guns. Meanwhile one detachment in closing the steep mountain pass, menaced the enemy's right flank. The enemy offered a stubborn resistance and a sanguinary fight ensued. At 5-30 p. m., the main force penetrated into the enemy's position on the heights northwest of Hsihoyen, while a detachment facing the enemy's right, cut his retreat at 8 p. m. Hsihoyen and its neighbourhood fell into our hands. The enemy's main force fled in confusion towards Anping. Our casualties were 72 killed including two officers, and 452 wounded including 16 officers. The enemy left 131 corpses on the field, and his total casualties are estimated over 1,000 in this engagement. The enemy consisted of the Infantry Divisions 34th and 36th regiments, and one Cossack regiment with 32 field guns, one Cossack

THE TIBET EXPEDITION. Nagartee, Gyansee (Tibet), July 24. Nagartee, July 20.—The force arrived here yesterday, marching through lovely mountains which above are clothed in snow and tender spring flowers blossom at our feet. Outside the Jong the mounted infantry were met by the peace delegates Ta Lama and the Lama's grand secretary who had been at Gyansee. Yutok Shape was the new delegate. The mounted infantry halted but presently saw a large convoy by mounded men leaving the Jong. They went to stop the convoy but were fired on, a sharp skirmish resulted. We captured ten prisoners and about 35 mules and horses. The prisoners were the best armed body of men yet met with. All had breach loaders and several carried magazine rifles. In the meanwhile Captain O'Connor interviewed the peace delegates who later when the camp was pitched were invited to a durbar by Colonel Younghusband. They said that as a result of a council at Lhasa they had come in finally to make peace. They asked us to return to Gyansee to discuss terms adding that a treaty signed at Lhasa could not be lasting as the latter was purely a religious city and did not concern itself with civil affairs. Colonel Younghusband replied that we had only decided to go to Lhasa after giving the Tibetans an extension of time to treat at the various places on the road. The treaty must now be signed at Lhasa, but he was willing to discuss the terms during the journey. It depended on the Tibetans whether there was further fighting. We wished to travel as peacefully as possible and would pay for supplies, provided there was no resistance. We also had no wish to prolong the stay at Lhasa. The delegates had another interview with Colonel Younghusband this afternoon. We have occupied the Jong.

Simla, July 24. The Tibet Expedition has arrived at Nagartee, all well on the 19th instant. There was no further opposition.

Simla, July 25. General Macdonald reports as follows, dated Gyansee (Tibet), 23rd July, 1904. Nagartee, July 21st, 7 a.m.—We marched here from Zara on 19th March, without any incident, and found the Tibetan Delegates, consisting of Yutok Shape, Ta Lama and the Grand Secretary, with the flag of truce, waiting to see Colonel Younghusband, who received them at 3 p. m. that afternoon. Nagartee Jong was peacefully occupied by two companies of Pathans and found to contain over 3,000 maunds of supplies, chiefly barley meal, and a large number of Tibetan traps and kits. The Jong is situated at the bottom of the spur about a mile from the shore of a narrow arm near Lake Palti, and of no great strength. We halted here on the 20th to rest, and to graze the animals. Colonel Younghusband had a further interview with the Delegates. I am marching to-day to Yarsig and sending back two troops with mules under escort of a Company of the 23rd. I am leaving a post here of one Company of the 40th Pathans and twenty Mounted Infantry for dak purposes.

It has now been arranged that on goods sent to China overland by Bhamo a refund of the import duty shall be made. A bonded warehouse is to be established at Bhamo, under control of the Chief Collector of the Customs, Burma. There goods can be repacked in sizes suitable for mule transport to Tengyueh. On receipt at Bhamo of an acknowledgment by the Commissioner of Customs, Tengyueh, of the arrival of the goods, seven-eighths of the import duty will be refunded.



High Court—July 25.

CIVIL APPELLATE SIDE.

(Before the Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Sale and Mr. Justice Bodilly.)

ALLEGED LIBEL AGAINST ATTORNEYS.

Rai Amrita Nath Mitter vs. Ohoy Churn Ghose and Promotha Chunder Kar.

In this case their Lordships delivered judgment on Friday, the judgment explaining the facts of the case.

The Chief Justice: In this case the plaintiff seeks to recover damages from the defendants by reason of an alleged libel written by the defendants and contained in a letter dated May 4th, 1901, and addressed to, and received by, the attorney of the plaintiff. The defendants, after formally traversing the material allegations in the written statement of the plaintiff, plead that the words complained of are privileged by reason of the occasion on which they were written. The learned Judge in the Court below has held that, as regards a portion of these words, the plea of privilege holds good and that the plaintiff is not entitled to recover, and, as regards certain other words complained of, that the plea of privilege does not attach, but that inasmuch as the plaintiff has suffered no damage by reason of their publication, he is not entitled to judgment in respect of them, and has entered a decree in favour of the defendants with costs. The only publication was to the plaintiff's attorney. Against that decree the plaintiff now appeals.

The facts of the case are shortly as follow: The plaintiff, who is a man of apparently substantial means, at some time prior to the year 1899 became acquainted with the defendant P. C. Kar, a member of the firm of Ghosh and Kar, who are attorneys practising at Calcutta and the defendants in this suit, and in March, 1899, he advanced to one Mr. S. N. Tagore, who was then a client of the defendants, the sum of Rs. 70,000 at seven and a half per cent upon the mortgage security of two houses, 19 Store Road, Ballygunge, and 226-1, Lower Circular Road, and in respect of this matter the defendant's firm acted on behalf of both parties, though the transaction was brought about by the defendant Kar alone and the defendant Ghose did not actively interfere. The mortgage deed contained a provision that if the money secured was not paid on the due date, the 13th day of March 1901, the mortgagee should not be bound to receive it unless the mortgagor should have given three months previous notice, or in lieu thereof should pay three months' interest. In March, 1901, Mr. Tagore was apparently absent from Calcutta and a sum of Rs. 100 had become due for interest on the mortgage in respect of the premises situated at 19, Store Road and on March 27th, 1901, the defendant Kar became aware that the land of the premises, which were worth approximately the sum of Rs. 60,000, had been sold at auction, in respect of which he had arrears, for Rs. 12,800 and that this sum had been deposited in the Collectorate. Mr. Kar on the next day wrote informing the plaintiff's son, who appears to have acted for his father in business matters, of the state of affairs and at the same time took advice on behalf of Mr. Tagore as to the possibility of settling aside the sale. Mr. Kar then had an interview with the plaintiff himself and received instructions to file a claim in respect of the money that had been deposited, and he alleges, and we think it probably was the case, that at this interview, the sufficiency of the security remaining for his mortgage was discussed. There were at this time certain negotiations proceeding on behalf of Mr. Tagore for the re-purchase from the auction purchaser of the property in question, but such negotiations ultimately proved abortive and on the 10th April Mr. Kar wrote to the plaintiff to this effect and a suggestion was evidently made at that time that Mr. Tagore should provide additional security, and by a letter of the same date the plaintiff's son replied that unless a settlement was come to without delay the plaintiff would institute such proceedings as he might be advised, and on April 19th the plaintiff's son wrote again complaining that Mr. Kar had not called or communicated Mr. Tagore's views and that proceedings could no longer be delayed. It seems reasonably clear that the proceedings referred to were proceedings to enforce payment of the mortgage money. On the same date Mr. Kar wrote that Mr. Tagore had been able to come to terms with the purchaser, but that if the matter was not concluded on the next day he would give the additional security demanded by the plaintiff. At this time apparently Mr. Tagore was negotiating for the sale of 226-1, Lower Circular Road, with the object of paying off the plaintiff's mortgage, and Mr. Kar was acting on his behalf. On April 23rd an interview took place between Mr. Kar and the plaintiff as to the details of which they are in direct conflict. Mr. Kar's story is that he then received positive instructions from the plaintiff to request payment of the mortgage money if the plaintiff's demands were not met by Mr. Tagore, and that, acting on these instructions, he wrote the letter of the same date to Mr. Tagore. The plaintiff, on the other hand, denies that he gave Mr. Kar any authority whatever to make any demand for the repayment of the money. Upon receipt of the letter of April 23rd Mr. Tagore made arrangements for a loan of Rs. 70,000, and wrote his letter of that date to the plaintiff, and on the 24th Mr. Kar wrote to the plaintiff's son that Mr. Tagore has instituted his intention of paying off the loan and on the 25th the defendants, acting on the instructions of the plaintiff, wrote to Mr. Tagore demanding three months' additional interest on the mortgage debt under the terms of the mortgage, and on the same date Mr. Tagore wrote repudiating his liability to pay inasmuch as the demand made by the plaintiff for repayment waived the condition for payment of additional interest. On April 26th there was an interview between the plaintiff and Mr. Kar as to which they differ in their accounts, but it is at any rate clear the plaintiff used language towards Mr. Kar which was at once insulting and apparently quite uncalled for. According to the entry in the defendants' day sheet there was a dispute at this interview as to whether or not the plaintiff had given instructions to demand repayment of the money, the plaintiff denying that he had done so and Mr. Kar asserting that he had. In his evidence, however, the latter says that the plaintiff did not dare to suggest that he had not given instructions to make the demand. In consequence

of this interview the defendants wrote the letter of April 26th declining to act further on behalf of the plaintiff, and by the same post they wrote to Mr. Tagore informing him of this fact and at the same time telling him that the plaintiff persisted in his demand for the payment of the additional interest. Mr. Tagore then placed the matter in the hands of Messrs. Fox and Mandal, who are attorneys practising at Calcutta, and they wrote on April 17th to the plaintiff stating that Mr. Tagore was then ready to pay off the mortgage debt, and in reply the plaintiff's son wrote stating that the plaintiff would be glad of further time to consider the matter, as the defendants had ceased to act for him; and that Mr. Kar who had negotiated the loan had performed the combined functions of broker and attorney and had no authority at all from the plaintiff to make the demand for repayment of the mortgage debt. This letter was shown to Mr. Kar before the 4th May, 1901. The plaintiff at this time consulted and employed as his attorney a Mr. Amarnath Ghose, between whom and Messrs. Fox and Mandal some correspondence, which is not very material, passed, as to the repayment of the money and other matters. On May 2nd Mr. Amarnath Ghose wrote on behalf of the plaintiff the letter of that date to the defendants. This letter would appear to be the commencement of the present trouble. Mr. Kar says that on receipt of this letter making charges of highly improper conduct as a professional man, he wrote in his firm's name the letter of 4th May, solely to repel the attack made upon his character, and in answer to that attack, and that all he said or insinuated in that letter had reference to the matter in dispute between them, and to nothing else. The statements made in that letter are the statements complained of in this action. It must be remembered that, when this letter was written, the plaintiff had gravely insulted Mr. Kar at the interview of the 26th April, that the plaintiff's attorney had written the letter of the 29th April to Messrs. Fox and Mandal which Mr. Kar had seen and which contained at least an insinuation far from fair to Mr. Kar, and based apparently on insufficient information, for Mr. Kar had not acted as broker and attorney. And, moreover, the plaintiff had deliberately charged him with highly improper conduct as a professional man, which, if so advised, on public grounds, he considered it his duty to bring to the notice of the Court. We cannot discover in the conduct of Mr. Kar the slightest foundation for so grave a charge. This was the position of the parties when the letter complained of was written. The plaintiff apparently again changed his attorney, for on June 6th Mr. G. N. Dutt wrote on his behalf complaining of the statements in the letter of May 4th and threatening action unless the statements were retracted, and an apology made; and to this letter, on June 10th, the defendants replied vindicating their letter, and asking which statement or statements the plaintiff regarded as being libellous, and to this letter the plaintiff returned no answer and brought no proceedings without further communication.

After dealing with the evidence and arguments his Lordship said: There is no evidence of malice outside the language of the letter, nor is there any real ground for questioning the "bona fide" and honesty of the defendant Kar, who was writing under circumstances of considerable provocation. Looking at these circumstances and at the language used and that that language may be fairly read as connected with the subject of dispute, we do not think that in themselves the words afford evidence of express malice. As regards the liability of the defendant Ghose he had nothing whatever to do with the transaction. The letter of the 2nd May charging Mr. Kar with unprofessional conduct was addressed to the firm and answered consequently in the name of the firm, and we think that the above considerations which apply to Mr. Kar would apply equally to the case of Mr. Ghose. The appeal must be dismissed with cost.

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justices Pratt and Handley.)

THE KALLACHERRA DACOITY CASE.

This is a case of dacoity of a most extraordinary character. The plan was formed in Afghanistan and carried into execution by a gang of twenty-seven Kabulees at Kallacherra Bazar, in the Hailakandi Sub-division of Cachar, the victim being a rich merchant named Golak Chandra Saha. The accused Abdul Hakim was fairly well known in Cachar which he had visited on various occasions and while there he had twice taken service with the witness Nur Mahomed. This latter individual was a cloth dealer and though a native of Afghanistan had resided many years at Kallacherra where he employed Golak Saha as his Banker and for him he entertained a very friendly feeling. While in his native village last November Nur Mahomed learnt that a number of his countrymen including Abdul Hamid have just started for India with the intention of committing a dacoity at the shop of Golak Saha. He started soon after they did taking money as usual for trading. Arriving at Delhi on the 30th November he learnt that Abdul Hakim had left that place with a number of companions. The next morning he telegraphed to Golak Saha "Take care for life and property; thieves started for robbery." He followed this up by a second telegram. Arriving in Calcutta and finding that no reply had come for him he wired on the 4th of December "Be careful from Kabulees," and prepaid for a reply. Next day he got answer by wire "received your telegram, note contents with thanks." Golak, however, put no credence to these messages. The Calcutta Police, however, came to know that Nur Mahomed was talking about a contemplated dacoity by Kabulees in Cachar, so the man was sent for and upon his and further information the Commissioner of Police sent the following telegram to Mr. Burt, District Superintendent of Police Cachar: "Thirteen Pathans headed by Abdul Hakim, left six days ago to commit dacoity, house of Golak Saha, a Mahajan, Kallacherra Tea Garden, Hailakandi, on 8th or 11th instant, arrange to arrest in act." Mr. Burt obtained a guard of Military Police on the 6th December he also instructed Mr. Kemp, Inspector of Police, Hailakandi, to keep the rural police in the neighbourhood of Kallacherra on the alert. Golak Saha was not communicated and the only precaution which Golak had adopted on receipt of Nur

Mahomed's telegram was to engage an extra chowkidar named Hari Christian. Twenty-four dacoits were thereafter arrested and were placed on their trial before the Sessions Judge of Cachar. One of them was made King's witness. The trial was held with the aid of Assessors, one of whom acquitted the accused and the other found them guilty. The Sessions Judge agreeing with the latter convicted the accused persons of dacoity. He sentenced two of them, viz., Abdul Hakim and Babrai to transportation for life; nineteen accused persons to ten years' transportation each and the rest two to seven years' rigorous imprisonment each. Against that conviction and sentence the accused persons preferred an appeal to this Court. Their Lordships delivered a very lengthy judgment and confirmed the conviction and sentence passed by the lower Court on all the accused, except that of Babrai. Their Lordships commuted the sentence passed on Babrai to one of ten years' transportation. Their Lordships remarked: "In conclusion we direct that a copy of the printed paper book as also of this judgment be furnished to the Government of India for information with special reference to the facility with which the undesirable Afghans seem able to enter and traverse British territory without passes and to the consequent evils to which the timid rural inhabitants of this province are not infrequently subjected."

THE KYD STREET RIOT.

Babu Dasarathi Sanyal moved for the admission of an appeal on behalf of one Shaik Phatinga and two other persons, who were convicted by Mr. Bonnaud, the Second Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta, under sections 147, 325 and 325 read with 147 of the Indian Penal Code, the first petitioner having been sentenced to eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment and the second and third to one year's rigorous imprisonment each. It appeared that the petitioners were placed on their trial along with two other persons before Mr. Bonnaud for committing riot in Kyd Street of the 30th April last and seriously assaulting Mr. Boisongoff, the complainant. The facts of the case had already appeared in these columns. The case for the prosecution was that Mr. Boisongoff, who lives in 7 Kyd Street, had some trouble in getting servants and believed that he was boycotted by the servants of Mr. Parker, who lives opposite to Mr. Boisongoff's house. On the 30th March Mr. Boisongoff observing a man walking up and down the Kyd Street and believing him to be the man who had boycotted him sent out his durwan to bring him into his compound, which was done. Mr. Boisongoff then had the man's hands tied down and sending for a policeman, made the man over to him to be taken to the thanah. An attempt was made to rescue the man and it was said a crowd collected, abused Mr. Boisongoff and the latter opened the gate of his house. He came out with a whip in his hand whereupon he was attacked by the crowd. Mr. Boisongoff used his whip with which he struck one of his assailants, but Mr. Boisongoff was thrown down and was seriously beaten. Their Lordships admitted the appeal. Learned vakil then moved in revision on behalf of Suttomani and Nirparad, two other accused persons, who were tried on the same case and convicted but received a non-appealable sentence viz., six months' rigorous imprisonment. Their Lordships ordered that the application on behalf of these two men be heard along with the appeal.

THE PATNA MUKTEAR'S CASE.

Babu Dasarathi Sanyal with Babu Bishen Prosad, vakil, appeared in support of a rule issued on behalf of Teknarayan Lal Muktar to show cause why the conviction under section 406 I.P. Code (criminal breach of trust) in respect of 11 currency notes of Rs. 100 and sentence of 9 months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100 passed by Mr. Macpherson, Joint Magistrate of Patna, the Sessions Judge having affirmed the conviction and sentence, should not be set aside. It may be remembered the petitioner was tried along with his son Sheoglam Lal. The Magistrate convicted Sheydhyan, with having committed the offence under section 406 I.P.C. and the petitioners with having abetted the commission of his offence under section 406 read with section 41 I.P. Code. On appeal the Sessions Judge directed additional evidence to be taken and after considering the evidence he came to the conclusion that the son Sheoglam should be acquitted but found Teknarayan engaged in the whole affair and affirmed the conviction and the sentence accordingly. Their Lordships in the first instance ordered the record to be sent for. The records having come up, the application was heard again. Various points were urged on behalf of the petitioner. Their Lordships directed a rule to issue on the District Magistrate to show cause why the conviction and sentence should not be set aside on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th grounds stated in the petition and their Lordships directed the petitioner to be enlarged on bail to the satisfaction of the Magistrate, pending the hearing of the rule.

A small committee, consisting of the officials of the Punjab Commission, has assembled at Simla to discuss the Pre-emption Bill now pending before the Punjab Council.

In connection with the strike at the Government Press Madras, the Police put up two cases before the Senior Presidency Magistrate, Black Town, at the instance of the Superintendent. In the first case four of the strikers were alleged to have obstructed and intimidated two type-casters who have been entertained since the date of the strike. In the second case two of the strikers were prosecuted for similar offences alleged to have been committed upon an employee of the casting department, who had also been entertained since the date of the strike. In the latter case it transpired in Court that the second accused was the wrong man and has been unnecessarily dragged into Court. All four accused were discharged in the first case, the evidence being unsatisfactory. In the second case the second accused was discharged, but charge was framed against first accused under Sections 606 and 341, I.P.C. He pleaded not guilty and to enable him to call witnesses the case was adjourned to the 29th instant. A large number of the strikers were present in Court to witness the proceedings.

Calcutta Gazette.—July 27.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Maulvi Abul Mahmud, Dy. Magte and Dy. Coll. on leave, is posted temporarily to the head-quarters station of the Rajshahi district. Mr. H. Van Grieken, B.A., is appointed substantively pro tempore to be a Dy. Magte and Dy. Coll. of the eighth grade, and is posted to the head-quarters station of the Nadia district. The Probationary Dy. Colls. named below are posted to the head-quarters of the districts mentioned opposite their names:— Babus Nongendra Nath Sen, Mymensingh, Khirod Lal Mukerji, Backergunge, Lalit Chandra Guha, Dinajpur, Narendra Nath Datta, Ranchi, Ajodhya Prasad, Saran, Maulvi Mohammad Fazlul Karim, Dacca, Babu Dhirakshan Singh, Patna, Babu Sasi-bhushan Satpathi, Cuttack. Mr. T. S. Macpherson, Offg. Jt-Magte, and Dy. Coll. Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, is transferred temporarily to the head-quarters station of the Gaya district. Mr. S. W. Goode, Asst. Magte, and Coll. Darbhanga, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Hajipur subdivision of the Muzaffarpur district. Mr. W. H. Reynolds, Probationary Asst. Supt. of Police, Backergunge, is transferred to Muzaffarpur. Babu Baldev Misra, B.A., Dy. Inspector of Schools, Patna (class II of the Subordinate Educational Service) is appointed substantively pro tempore to class VII of the Provincial Educational Service in the resulting vacancy, vice Rai Sarat Chandra Das Bahadur, C.I.E., about to retire, and to be Asst. Inspector of Schools, Chota Nagpur Division, with effect from the 29th August 1904, vice Mr. J. H. D'Abreu.

Promotions.

The following appointments and confirmations are sanctioned in the Indian Civil Service, but the officers concerned will continue to act in higher appointments or grades, if any, until further orders:— Appointed to be Commissioner of a Division. Mr. D. J. Macpherson, C.I.E., substantively, vice Mr. H. C. Williams, resigned. Mr. E. W. Collin, temporarily vice Mr. D. J. Macpherson, C.I.E., and substantively, vice Mr. C. J. S. Faulder, deceased. Mr. T. Inglis, temporarily, vice Mr. E. W. Collin. Appointed to be Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces. Mr. P. C. Lyon, temporarily, and substantively vice Mr. E. W. Collin. Confirmed in the 1st grade of District and Sessions Judges. Mr. C. P. Caspersz, vice Mr. A. E. Staley, resigned. Confirmed in the second grade of District and Sessions Judges. Mr. Ambica Charan Sen vice the Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. G. Geldt, confirmed as a Judge of the High Court, Calcutta. Mr. W. H. Lee, vice Mr. C. P. Caspersz. Confirmed in the third grade of District and Sessions Judges. Mr. C. Fisher vice Mr. Ambica Charan Sen. Mr. F. R. Roe, vice Mr. W. H. Lee. Appointed substantively pro tempore to the third grade of District and Sessions Judges. Mr. F. R. Roe vice Mr. C. Fisher. Mr. J. D. R. Carrill vice Mr. F. R. Roe. Appointed to be a Magistrate and Collector of the first grade. The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. H. Allen, substantively vice Mr. D. J. Macpherson, C.I.E. Mr. H. J. McIntosh, temporarily and substantively vice Mr. P. C. Lyon. Mr. E. Geake, temporarily vice the Hon'ble Mr. C. G. H. Allen and again vice Mr. H. J. McIntosh. Appointed to be a Magistrate and Collector of the second grade. Mr. J. G. Cumming, substantively vice the Hon'ble Mr. C. G. H. Allen and again vice Mr. R. Nathan, C.I.E., appointed to be Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department. Mr. L. F. Morshead, temporarily vice Mr. J. G. Cumming, and again vice Mr. Cumming and substantively vice Mr. H. J. McIntosh. Mr. C. Fisher, temporarily vice Mr. L. F. Morshead, up to the 11th May 1904. Mr. C. A. Radice, temporarily, vice Mr. C. Fisher. Appointed to be a Magistrate and Collector of the third grade. Mr. Mohammad Yusuf, substantively, vice Mr. J. G. Cumming, and again vice Mr. L. F. Morshead. Mr. Satis Chandra Mukerjee, temporarily, vice Mr. Mohammad Yusuf, and again vice Mr. Yusuf and substantively vice Mr. C. Fisher. Mr. H. F. Samman, temporarily vice Mr. Satis Chandra Mukerjee and substantively vice Mr. F. R. Roe. Mr. W. B. Thomson, temporarily, vice Mr. H. F. Samman. Appointed to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the first grade. Mr. D. H. Kingsford, substantively and again vice Mr. Mohammad Yusuf. Mr. H. Coupland, temporarily vice Mr. D. H. Kingsford, and again vice Mr. Kingsford, and substantively vice Mr. Satis Chandra Mukerjee. Mr. H. L. Stephenson, temporarily vice Mr. H. Coupland and substantively vice Mr. H. F. Samman. Mr. J. R. Blackwood, temporarily vice Mr. H. L. Stephenson. Appointed to be a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the second grade. Mr. A. H. Clayton, substantively and again vice Mr. D. H. Kingsford. Mr. A. N. Moberly, temporarily vice Mr. A. H. Clayton and again vice Mr. Clayton and substantively vice Mr. H. Coupland. Mr. F. J. Jeffries, substantively, vice Mr. H. L. Stephenson. Mr. R. G. Kilby, temporarily vice Mr. A. N. Moberly. leave. Babu Nani Lal Mukerjee, Dy. Magte and Dy. Coll. on revaluation work, Jalpaiguri, is allowed leave for fifteen days, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 30th May 1904. In modification of the order of the 28th March 1904, Mr. F. J. Jeffries, I.C.S., is allowed combined leave for six months, with effect from the afternoon of the 7th July 1904, viz., privilege leave for three months under article 260 of the Civil Service Regulations, and special leave for the remaining

period under article 316 of the Regulations, and in modification of the order of the 18th July 1904, the Hon'ble Mr. A. Earle, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General and Revenue Departments is allowed leave for one month, under article 260 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the afternoon of the 25th July 1904.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

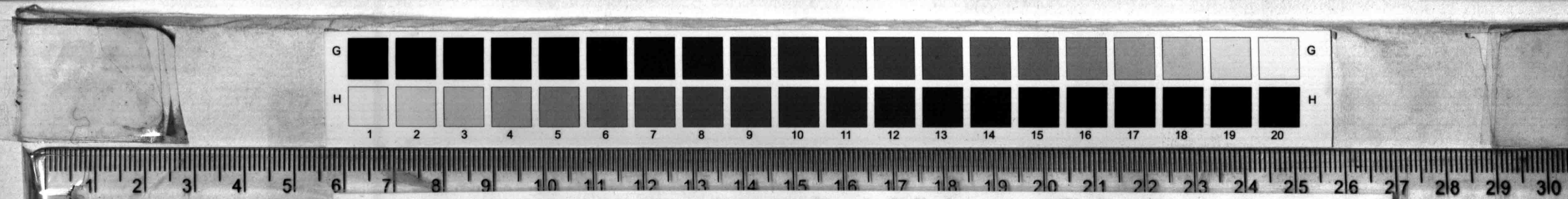
Appointments and Transfers. Babu Nistarun Banerji, Offg. Subordinate Judge, Dinajpur, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Subordinate Judge Shahabad. Babu Gopal Chandra Basu, Offg. Subordinate Judge, Jessore, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Subordinate Judge, Gaya, Leave. Babu Nagendra Nath Dhar Munsif, under orders of transfer to Malda, in the district of Rajshahi, is allowed leave for one week. Babu Madan Mohan Saha, Munsif of Kishoreganj, in the district of Mymensingh, is allowed leave for fourteen days. Babu Satis Chandra Basu, Munsif of Jangipur, in the district of Murshidabad, is allowed leave for eight days. Babu Nripendra Nath Sarkar, Munsif of Contai, in the district of Midnapore, is allowed leave for twenty-five days. Babu Srigoopal Chatterji, Small Cause Court Judge, Dacca and Munshiganj, is allowed leave for three weeks. Subordinate Civil Service. Maulvi Abdur Rahman Mahmood, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, is allowed extraordinary leave for one month, station of the Dacca district. Maulvi Abdur Rahman Mahmood, substantive pro tempore Sub-Dy. Coll. on leave, is temporarily posted to the head-quarters. Maulvi Abdur Hakam, Sub-Dy. Coll. is allowed furlough up to the 17th July 1904.

THE MYMENSINGH SENSATION.

Mymensingh, July 23.

Preliminary enquiry was held in the case against Munsiff Mr. V. Roy, and the Joint-Magistrate, after taking down depositions of pleaders, Babus Surja Kumar Shome and Dwarka Nath Acharjee, and one Mohamedan witness, has summoned Mr. V. Roy under section 352 I. P. C. Yesterday a number of witnesses were examined in the case against Judge Mr. Lee for obstructing a public path. Amongst them may be mentioned the names of Babu Govinda Chandra Bose, the oldest pleader here, Babu Anath Bandhu Guha and the Head Overseer of the Nasirabad Municipality. The Joint-Magistrate, after hearing the evidence, remarked that there was no question as to the public character of the thoroughfare, but he wanted to hear arguments on law points, as to whether after the acquisition of the land by the Government, all rights of way have ceased or not. This 2nd August has been fixed for the further hearing of the case. Pleaders Babus Shyam Charan Roy, Shama Charan Bose and Surja Kumar Shome are conducting the prosecution, while Munsiff Mr. V. Roy is personally conducting the defence. Shortly after 11 o'clock it was rumoured that Mr. Lee would personally conduct his case and people came to believe it from the absence of Mr. Lee from his office at the time and in consequence of this there was a great rush of people in the Joint-Magistrate's Eijas which was crowded to suffocation. But it was subsequently found that Judge Mr. Lee, after finishing his daily routine work, went to his house. At any rate the public here are taking keen interest in the matter as they have been put to great inconvenience owing to this action of Mr. Lee in stopping the path. It is whispered here that some even have sent telegrams to His Honour the L. G. of Bengal and to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court to kindly intervene and order the removal of the obstruction. We don't know whether the Hon'ble High Court or the Bengal Government has taken any step to ascertain the extent of inconvenience to which the public has been put in this rainy season, but it is a matter which requires prompt intervention of the Government. Yesterday Babu Kali Sankar Guha and Mr. S. K. Bose went to see Judge Mr. Lee to ascertain if there was any possibility of a compromise being effected. The public it appears would be fully satisfied with a foot-path and were not very anxious to have the path open for carriages but Judge Mr. Lee did not seem to them to be very favourably disposed towards any compromise. Apparently he was of opinion that the respective rights of the Government and of the public should be determined in a court of justice.

In connection with the Tibet Miss on arrangements have been made for the collection of information regarding the Fauna and Flora, Meteorology and Geology of the Country. Mr. Heyden, who is now accompanying the Mission as a Geological expert, will no doubt be able to render good account of his work in Tibet. Serious attempts have been made since the last few years to find means to exterminate mosquitoes from the face of the earth. The following is the latest experiment in that direction. The Cecum viride or mosquito plant which was alleged to have extraordinary virtues as a mosquitoifuge, and which was recently discovered in Africa, and which was experimented with at Saharanpur and Mussorie Botanical Gardens but it had no apparent effect on the local mosquitos. Mr. Gollan, the Superintendent of the Gardens, seems to think that a few dozen pots of this cecum, or of any species of plant with an aromatic leaf, kept in a room might lessen the visitations of the mosquito, but the cure would be far more inconvenient than the presence of the pest. We are glad to learn that the cultivators of the Central Provinces have at last come to realise the necessity of improving agricultural operations there. For the proper education of the agriculturists books are needed in both Hindi and English. At the request of several gentlemen of Hardoi and other places we inquired of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal, to supply us with a list of books in Hindi and English. The latter gentleman writes us to say that there is no reliable book on agriculture in Hindi, but a Hindi agricultural Gazette is published by this Agricultural Department of the Central Provinces. Among English books the following are recommended:—Mr. Mollison's Text Book on Indian Agriculture, Mr. Bosu's Notes on Indian Agriculture and Mr. N. G. Mukerjee's Hand Book of Indian Agriculture.



THE AWARD OF PARIS

(By William Wallace Whitlock)

Yes, you're right, everybody has a romance, if you can only get at it," said the Captain, smiling. "The fellows whose romances have turned out happily don't mind so much talking about them; but it's the other sort that are the most interesting. I can tell you only one of the uninteresting romances; but if you'd like to hear how I won my wife, or rather how I re-won her, I'll tell you."

"The two most beautiful women I've had to do with in my life are my sister and my wife. They're still beautiful in my eyes, but thirty-five years ago they were beautiful in everybody's eyes. To walk along the street with one of them was a trial, but to have both of them in tow was to run the risk of being mobbed by the curious. They were as different as day and night, but it was nip and tuck between them. At least, it was nip and tuck after they became acquainted; but as they didn't become acquainted until the day before my marriage, there was a considerable period during which each of them had the satisfaction of thinking herself the most beautiful woman in the world."

"It happened this way. I met the girl who became my wife just after I got out of the naval academy. I told you I was in the line of going to sea. But I didn't intend marrying before I returned from my initial cruise, we decided to keep the engagement secret for awhile. So, none of my family even knew of her existence. And then, before I had a chance to tell them, there came one of those idiotic lovers' quarrels which wreck so many lives, and I woke up to find myself unengaged. I hate to think about that time even now. I was in such a desperate state of mind. It was a foolish quarrel; but the estrangement seemed none the less final. I was too proud, or thought myself too proud, to write to her, and for three weeks I neither saw nor heard anything of her. Then, all of a sudden—but that would be to anticipate."

"Quite unexpectedly came an order from the department to report for sea service at San Francisco within ten days; so there remained just time for me to get things in order and make a beeline for the Coast; for, you see, it took longer to cross the continent those days than it does now. When I'd be back was a question—certainly not three years, at the shortest. And in three years so much can happen. The night before I was to leave for the West, my sister was coming down from Boston to bid me good-by and she had written me to meet her upon her arrival in New-York in the evening. As it happened, however, one of my classmates, who had resigned just after graduation, was lying at Stamford, 30 miles from New-York, and I decided to run out there and dine with him, and then surprise my sister by meeting her on the arrival of the train at that point."

"Everything went according to the program, and at a quarter to ten I was standing on the station platform waiting for the Boston Express to come along. Suddenly, to my surprise, a fellow came up whom I hadn't seen in five years, and we stood there talking until the whistle of the train informed us it was coming on. Thirty years ago, you know, trains were fonder of whistling than they are now. Here came the great, throbbing, glowing monster toward us out of the night, and, as I watched the headlight grow bigger, a whimsical idea struck me."

"Look here, Frank, I said to my friend, I'll make a bet with you. You see that train coming toward us? Well, I'll bet you a pair of field glasses that I'll walk up to the prettiest girl in the parlor car and kiss her without even saying by your leave. What do you say?"

"Well," said Frank, laughing, "that sounds pretty bold. But how are we to decide which is the prettiest girl?"

"Oh, I'll leave that to you. Just walk through the car and stop opposite the girl you think the prettiest, and I'll do the rest."

"Very well, I'll take you," said Frank.

"At that moment the train came to a standstill, and we sprang up the steps of the parlor car, with Frank in the lead. I was not in the least concerned for my field-glasses, as I knew it was practically certain that he would select my sister as the prettiest girl. "Into the car stalked Frank, and I followed him more slowly, so as to allow him a lead of ten feet or more. I quickly cast my eyes over the passengers. Ah! there was my sister in the centre of the car halreaching in her chair, with her head laid back against the cushion, and her eyes fixed on space, lost in dreams. In the artificial light her face seemed ethereal, almost preternaturally beautiful, in its pale regularity."

"With a confident smile, I followed Frank down the aisle, as he slowly advanced, turning his head from side to side to scrutinize each woman in his course. Suddenly he perceived my sister, and with a start came to a halt and stood gazing at her. From that moment he had eyes for no other woman in the car, and that state has continued to the present day. But at the moment he recovered himself, and quickly advanced till beside my sister's chair, when he again paused, as a signal to me and forthwith passed on toward the end of the car."

"I had won my bet. Slowly I advanced, inwardly chucking at thought of Frank's surprise when he should see me bend over and kiss this beautiful woman. But, being her brother's sight of her beauty had not in capacitated me for noticing other people, and as I advanced I let my eyes rove over the passengers on each side. But a surprise was in store for me, too."

"Suddenly I caught my breath and came to a standstill, my heart ceasing to beat, and every drop of blood in my veins seeming to turn to ice. There before me, in the chair across the aisle from my sister, sat the woman whose face was indelibly stamped upon

my mind, and who never had been absent from my thoughts for one instant since our first meeting. She was reading, and had not noticed me. What strange turn of fortune had thus brought together these two women, each of whom was so entwined with my life? Often, since, I have pondered the question, but at the moment I did not stop to concern myself with riddles. My one thought was "Yonder sits the woman whom I love and without whom life is not worth living." That was sufficient for me.

"Like a flash the thought passed through my mind; the next moment I was advancing toward where she was sitting. The train was now again under way, and the only sound was the rattle of the wheels. When I was within one seat of where my sister was sitting she caught sight of me, and sat up with an exclamation of surprise. This, perhaps, attracted the attention of her neighbor, or was it that she felt my presence? At all events, just as I reached her side, she looked up and her eyes met mine. For a moment she gazed at me, absolutely, as though I had been but a dream figure; then a wave of color rushed to her face and hooded it. I, too, hesitated, but only for an instant. Then, quickly stooping, I leaned over and kissed her fairly on the lips."

"Oh! I heard my sister exclaim; but that was all. I straightened up and waited to see what would be the result of my audacity. Those deep, brown eyes were fixed on my face, and in their depths I saw—for a moment I was in doubt what I saw; then it rose and overflowed her eyes and broke her face into dimples, and I knew it was a smile. My boldness had stormed the fortress."

"Well, I had lost my bet after all; but I had won something infinitely better, I think than a pair of field glasses. Nor was I the only one of that party who, like Saul, had found better than he had gone out to seek. An hour later, as my sister, my fiancée Frank and myself were driving down town in a four-wheeler from the Grand Central Station, during a silence between my companion and myself I overheard Frank assuring my sister that not for one moment had he hesitated in awarding the prize of beauty to her in the train. This was pretty good, I thought, as I could have taken oath that he had failed to notice the girl sitting across the aisle from her, and who was now sitting beside me. However, love is blind, and from a blind man one mustn't expect too great discrimination."

RANADE MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

On Sunday the Hon. Mr. Gokhale laid the foundation stone of the Ranade Memorial Library, at Madras, founded through the generosity of three prominent citizens viz., Dewan Bahadur R. Raghunatha, Rao, V. Krishnasami Iyer and P. R. Sundara Iyer. The library is to be attached to the South Indian Association whose object is to promote study and research in the fields of history and economics. Mr. Gokhale delivered a short and stirring address alluding to the many excellent qualities of head and heart of the late Mr. Ranade. The raising of this memorial to him in Madras was significant of the fact that Mr. Ranade was a man not of one province or race but of all India and of all races. He was pre-eminently great and good, a great thinker, a great scholar and worker. His mission in life was to interpret the new order of things which had come into existence and the new duties springing up on all sides around them. Dwelling on the facilities which the library afforded students he emphasised the importance of specialisation in studies in these days when the total output and accumulation of knowledge was enormous. He exhorted the younger generation to take full advantage of their facilities and pointed out by doing so they would be raising a real memorial to Mr. Ranade. In the evening Mr. Krishnasami Iyer entertained Mr. Gokhale at a garden party to which had been invited many people.

CHEATING A MARWARI.

At the Mazagon Police Court, on Friday, before Mr. P. H. Dastur, Inspector Draper charged Rahimtoola Nausar Bhow Manoo, Valimohomed Peerbux, and Mohanlal Tarachand with cheating one Sardarmul Manaji, a Marwari shroff of Moamadavi, in respect of Rs. 600. It appeared from the evidence that the first accused, who had dealings with complainant, went to his shop on the 12th instant, and asked him if he would give him a loan of Rs. 600 on the security of gold ornaments. Complainant said he would and asked him to show the ornaments. The accused then took complainant to his shop in Surti Mohalla, where the other three accused were sitting. The ornaments were shown to complainant who approved of them. Complainant then returned to his shop and came back with Rs. 600. He paid the money to the first accused, and the second accused handed him the ornaments. Complainant then left, and on his subsequently showing the ornaments to his son, the latter informed him that they were false. Complainant immediately repaired to the accused's shop, where he found the first accused. The latter expressed his surprise at what complainant told him, and on the pretext of going in search of the second accused, he tried to take complainant to a secluded spot at Mama Hajani. It being sunset complainant refused to go and reported the matter to the police. The accused were subsequently arrested and Rs. 500 were recovered from them. The accused, in their statement, attempted to exculpate themselves by throwing the blame upon one another. The Magistrate convicted all the accused. The first and second accused were sentenced to sixteen months', the third to one year's and the fourth to nine months' rigorous imprisonment.

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Notes On The Russ-Japanese War.

VOLUNTEER CRUISERS.

The short sharp incident of the volunteer cruisers may now be regarded as over, since, as the Russian Government is apparently not prepared to define their position, it can hardly contemplate letting loose any more of them upon the traffic to and from the East. The affair is a good illustration of the Russian fondness for bluff. Undeterred by the rude awakening in the Far East, the St. Petersburg Government seems to have imagined that the mere terror of the Russian name would prevent the chief maritime Powers from taking action in defence of the vital interests threatened by the depredations of what are now admittedly privateers. Damages, gentlemen, heavy damages," as Sergeant Bufuz would say if he were appointed counsel for Great Britain before the Arbitration Court, are the only method of fixing the seriousness of the mistake in the Russian mind.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Russia has climbed down all along the line. She has ordered the release of the captured ships and "in the interest of friendly relations with the Powers has withdrawn the authority given to the Volunteer Cruisers to search and seize ships." Reuter states that this decision was arrived at by the Tsar and his advisers, because the status of the cruisers was not sufficiently defined to enable them to act as warships. This is all very well and quite in accordance with the usual policy of the Muscovite, who, like many a professional football lier offside on the off-chance that his delinquency will not be noticed by the referee and he may thereby obtain an unfair advantage over his opponents. The pious resolution now arrived at would never have been thought of had the public voice in England not demanded a clipping of the Bear's claws. When the vessels of the Mediterranean Fleet began to enter the Suez Canal on their way to the Red Sea, Russia realised that Great Britain at any rate was not playing a game of bluff, and fearing she would lose her privateers altogether, she threw down her cards. It would be a pity, however, if the Government were now to recall the warships already in the Canal from further voyage to the Red Sea. The franks of the "Petersburg" and "Smolensk" and the earlier gambols of the "Dimitri Donskoi" have proved the necessity of poising this highway, in which we have the largest interest of any Power, against the aggression of Russian naval cooligans. There is no necessity to interfere with the right of the Russian Navy to search merchant vessels for contraband, but what has occurred in the Red Sea went very far beyond that. In the excitement of this "Malacca Incident," which was of overwhelming importance to us owing to the grave issues at stake, very little interest has been paid to the progress of events at the seat of the war. Every time the report of a Japanese victory is confirmed by both sides, it is confidently stated that the Japanese advance has begun again in earnest and now that both General Kurapatkin and General Kuroki confirm the heavy defeat of the Russians at Hsihoyen, on the Liaoyang north of Lienshankwan, we shall probably have the same story repeated. Monday morning Reuter's Tientsin correspondent reported that the Russians had been driven in on Manchwang, and that the Japanese were slowly approaching the town. It seems evident from this that the Japanese advance has never been interrupted, but has proceeded with deliberation and thoroughness characteristic of the nation, which from the very start was the main plank in Marshall Oyoma's plan of campaign. General Kurapatkin is disputing every inch of ground stubbornly, but has to give way in the face of an overwhelming force. The greatest interest of the campaign now is whether the Japanese will be able to cut off his retreat northward and compel him to fight a pitched battle, which may end the war. Port Arthur is thoroughly isolated, and while Admiral Togo with undiminished vigilance keeps the Russian fleet within the barrier, General Nogi is getting his siege train to work. How much longer he will delay the grand assault?

MONKEY NUISANCE IN BOMBAY.

Only yesterday (20th instant), says the "Advocate of India," we reported the death of a Hindu child, caused by tetanus following a monkey bite, and to-day (21st inst.) we learn that two more children have been bitten, apparently by the same animal. It appears that on Tuesday morning last, a monkey got through the roof of a house in Nagdevi Street, and bit a Hindu child, aged two years and a-half, on her right foot. The animal then ran away. This morning at about two o'clock it made its appearance in the room of one Bhasker Shewram in the same street, and bit a child, aged four years, on its head, causing a wound about three inches and a half in length, and a number of teeth marks. An attempt was made yesterday to catch this animal in the house of a Hindu, but without success.

PROSECUTION FOR ALLEGED SEDITION.

On the 1st May last the "Civil and Military Gazette" drew attention to what was alleged to be a seditious article which had been published in the "Ahlwalia Gazette" (a vernacular paper of Amritsar) and urged the necessity of sharply checking journalism of this sort in the Punjab. Mr. A. Turner, Government Advocate, has now been instructed by the Punjab Government to institute a prosecution in the case, and Bhai Laha Singh, editor and proprietor of the "Ahlwalia Gazette," and Lala Ram Nath proprietor and owner of the Parkash Press, at which the paper is published, are to be placed on bail. The case will be heard by Mr. H. A. Sans, C.S., Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar, on Thursday, the 28th July. Dewan Ram Saran Dass, barrister-at-law, will appear for the defence.—"Pioneer."

CLAIM FOR A LAKH.

On Friday, on the Original Side of the Bombay High Court, the Hon. Mr. Justice Budroodin Tyebji delivered judgment in the suit brought by Raja Bahadur Chaturbhujdas Gordandas, of Hyderabad, against Mr. Muncherspah Bomonjee Chothia and Mr. Vithaldas Ramdas, the surviving members of the firm of Muncherspah Bomonjee Chothia and Co., in which the plaintiff prayed that the defendants may be ordered to pay or caused together with interest and costs, etc. His to be paid to him the sum of Rs. 1,02,477-9-3 lordship in delivering judgment, after reviewing the evidence in the case, said the defendant's contention in the first instance was that Vazira Begum was a necessary party to the suit could not be heard. His lordship however was of opinion that Vazira Begum was not a necessary party to the suit. Upon the evidence it was clear that the defendants were liable under the agreement to the plaintiff for the amount not exceeding Rs. 40,000. On this sum the defendants were liable to pay bond interest at 9 per cent, till the 26th of August, 1900, and three-and-a-half per cent. thereafter. Dealing with the question of security his lordship said that on the evidence the defendants were liable to indemnify the plaintiff for the security of Rs. 89,000, deposited by the plaintiff in the Hyderabad Court, on behalf of Vazira Begum. There was not a shadow of evidence that the plaintiff had ever withdrawn that security, and the defendants were bound by the agreement to indemnify the plaintiff in regard to that sum. The question of additional security, which the plaintiff had deposited in the Hyderabad Court, his lordship thought, was more important. On considering that part of the case, the Court had to look to the position the parties occupied at the time and the surrounding circumstances in the case. The plaintiff was in the position of a surety in regard to the additional security, which made up the total sum of Rs. 1,94,000. Nassira Begum, the plaintiff and defendants, were all interested in the additional security without which the shares in question could not have been sold, and it could not be supposed that the plaintiff should furnish the additional security without being secured. His lordship referred to the telegrams and other documents in reference to the additional security and held that the defendants were liable to the plaintiff to indemnify him in regard to the whole security for Rs. 1,94,000. His lordship accordingly passed a decree in favour of the plaintiff, with costs, and referred the matter to the Commissioner for taking accounts. Vazira Begum was given liberty to appear before the Commissioner when the final accounts were adjusted.

MURDEROUS ASSAULT BY A EUROPEAN.

On the 21st inst., before Mr. J. W. S. Dracup, at Mazagon, Superintendent Nolan charged Barouch Aladjem, a European, aged thirty-three, with attempting to cause hurt to his wife, Rose Clayton, by means of a razor, on the 15th instant.

The evidence showed that the complainant is the wife of the accused, and about four months ago they resided together in Paris. Owing to the ill-treatment of the accused the complainant left him and came to Bombay, and put up in a house of ill-fame in Gilder Street. About a month ago accused followed her to Bombay, and tried to persuade her to go to Colombo with him. She refused to do, and eventually accused went to Colombo alone, complainant paying his passage and £20 for expenses. From Colombo accused sent a number of telegrams to the complainant asking for more money, but she did not send him anything. On the 15th instant the accused suddenly returned to Bombay, and put up in the complainant's room. He then again asked the complainant to go with him to Colombo, but she refused to go, as the accused had frequently threatened her with a razor. On Saturday night last accused had a quarrel with his wife in connection with a visitor with whom the complainant was talking. Accused desired to know from the complainant if the gentlemen had been persuading her not to go to Colombo. The complainant said he had no business to interfere, when the accused got excited and went out into the compound after the gentleman with a razor, which he had in his hand. The complainant interfered, when the accused turned back and rushed at her with the razor. He seized her by her throat when she struggled and screamed out. Just then Superintendent Sloane, who happened to be passing by the house at the time on hearing her screams went into the compound when the accused ran away and rushed in to the complainant's room and shut himself in. After some difficulty he was taken into custody. On seeing Mr. Sloane, the accused had dropped this razor on the ground, where it was subsequently found.

The accused, in denying the charge, stated that he had been quarrelling with his wife, and as the latter insulted him, he got excited, but he never ran after her with a razor.

His Worship in disposing of the case observed that from the evidence of witnesses, it was proved that the accused had an open razor in his hand, and that he did rush and seize the complainant with the object of stabbing her with it; but he was prevented from doing her any injury by the timely arrival of Superintendent Sloane. Although no injury had been actually caused, his worship remarked there could be little doubt that had it not been for the opportune arrival of Mr. Sloane it was not impossible that the accused admittedly was, he could have caused serious injury to the complainant. Taking this circumstance into consideration, his worship sentenced the accused to two months' rigorous imprisonment.

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

MEETING AT LUCKNOW.

A sitting of the United Provinces Council occupying one hour, took place in Lucknow on Tuesday, the 19th instant, at 11 a.m. The Hon'ble Sir James Dugges LaFouche, K.C.S.I., presided. There were also present the Hon'ble Mr. A. McRobert, President of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce; the Hon'ble Mr. T. Conlan, C.I.E., Barrister-at-law, Allahabad, the Hon'ble Raja Rasadduk Rasul Khan, C.S.I., Talukdar, the Hon'ble Rai Sri Ram Bahadur, Advocate, Lucknow; the Hon'ble Rai Nihal Chand Bahadur, the Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Allahabad; the Hon'ble Munshi Madho Lal Benares; the Hon'ble Mr. A. W. Cruickshank, I.C.S., C.S.I.; the Hon'ble Mr. J. M. Hoims, I.C.S., C.S.I.; the Hon'ble Mr. R. G. Hardy I.C.S., C.S.I., Member of the Board of Revenue; the Hon'ble Mr. L. A. S. Portey, Chief Secretary; and the Hon'ble Mr. J. E. Gill, I.C.S., Legal Remembrancer.

The principal business of the meeting was preceded by a number of questions by Messrs. Madho Lal, Lala Nihal Chand, Rai Sri Ram and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. In reply to the Hon'ble Lala Nihal Chand the Hon'ble Mr. Porter said that the question of the facilities to be offered to the public in connection with well sinking was under consideration in connection with the Irrigation Commission's report. Government had appointed an expert to give advice on all matters connected with wells, and a supply of boring tools could be obtained from the Director of Land Records and Agriculture. In answer to Babu Rai Sri Ram, Mr. Porter said that Government had received no application from students in these Provinces for the State scholarships offered by the Government of India, and "no student was forthcoming of whom it could be said that the grant of a scholarship would benefit a sound industrial undertaking and secure him employment." In reply to the Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Mr. Porter said that the Lieutenant-Governor, when at Benares in February last, had inquired personally into the use of cocaine as an intoxicant in that city, and the draft rules under the Poisons Act relating thereto, were now under consideration.

The Benares Family Domains Bill was then taken up, and on a motion by the President the Bill was duly passed, having received the unanimous approval of the Council. The only important alteration made by the Select Committee in the form of the Bill was the addition of words empowering the Local Government to exempt any class of tenants as well as any class of land from liability to pay the rate in question. The object of the Bill was given in the statement of Objects and Reasons as follows:—"By notification, No. 2615, dated the 22nd November 1873, the Family Domains were exempted from the operation of the law relating to the levy of rates on land in view of the honour and dignity in which the British Government regarded the Maharaja and of the efficient manner in which he fulfilled the objects for which the local taxation was introduced. In consequence of this exemption, the Maharaja is incompetent to recover from tenants in his Domains the rates that would otherwise be recoverable from them, and has to contribute towards expenditure on local purposes and to provide for the relief of famine without receiving any contribution from tenants who hold land on very favourable terms at rents which are frequently not open to enhancement. The object of the present Bill, which is being introduced at the request of the Maharaja, is to enable His Highness, his personal exemption being maintained and enacted by law by the exemption of the Domains from the Local Rates Act, to realise the usual rates from the tenants of the Domains and to apply them for local purposes and towards the relief and prevention of famine. The inferior proprietors, who also hold land on very favourable terms, are practically in the same position as tenants and have been treated as such with reference to the land cultivated by themselves."

As the non-official members present stated that they required further time to elect a successor to the Viceroys Council in the room of the Hon'ble Rai Sri Ram Bahadur, the outgoing member, the meeting stands adjourned to the 16th August.

MAGISTRATE AND PLEADER.

At the Esplanade Police Court, Mr. Kurundas Chhabildas, Third Presidency Magistrate, passed his order on the representation presented to his Worship by Mr. D. Godinho, pleader, in regard to certain remarks made against him by the Court in a judgment. The Magistrate, in addressing Mr. Godinho, said he had accepted his explanation and ordered the representation to be filed along with the other papers of the proceedings.

A DEATH TRAP.

A father and son were working in proximity to a well near the Radhan Railway station, says the Karachi paper, when, requiring water which did not appear to come up freely, the son proceeded to descend the well to see what was wrong. On nearing the bottom he was seen to relax his hold on the rope and fall senseless into a foot and half of water. The father shouted for help and then attempted the rescue of his son, but was struck down in like manner on nearing the bottom. From the crowd now assembled at the mouth of the well workmen stepped forward and attempted a rescue, but no sooner had he arrived within the poisoned area than he also was seen to relax his hold and fall senseless to the bottom. In spite of his appalling catastrophe a fourth man rashly went down and also succumbed. At this stage the Chief Constable was informed and he with the assistance of the platelayer attempted to recover the bodies by means of grappling irons, but without success. Affairs were at a dead lock when a man named Dosu, a tum-tum driver between Radhan and Mehr stepped forward and volunteered to enter this death trap. Due precautions being taken, he went down and brought up one body; went down a second time and brought up another; the third time he managed to bring up the two remaining bodies.

INDIA, AND THE FAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, July 4.

The Seizure of the Steamship "Allanton."—Mr. Wolff asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs: Whether he is aware that the British steamer Allanton, while proceeding from Marstrand, in Japan, to Singapore with a cargo of coals consigned to a British subject, was seized by a Russian vessel and taken to Vladivostok, and has since been condemned there as a prize and confiscated; and will he state what steps his Majesty's Government propose to take in order to obtain the release of the vessel.

Earl Percy: His Majesty's Government are aware of the fact and are in communication on the subject with his Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg, who has asked to be supplied with an official statement of the grounds of condemnation. They understand that the owner of the vessel has taken steps to lodge an appeal, for which a month's time is allowed, to the Supreme Prize Court, which will sit at St. Petersburg; and, in these circumstances, his Majesty's Government must await the decision of that tribunal before deciding what, if any, representation they can properly address to the Russian Government when the full facts of the case are before them.

Mr. Wolff asked whether the appeal was to St. Petersburg.

Earl Percy: Yes.

Mr. Wolff asked if nothing was being done meanwhile.

Mr. J. Devlin asked was there an English representative at Vladivostok.

Mr. T. W. Russell asked if an appeal had been made.

Earl Percy: The minimum time for appeal is, I think, a month; perhaps a little longer.

Mr. T. W. Russell: If the captain and crew are confined how can an appeal be made? It is a very serious matter for the owners of this Belfast vessel.

Neu-chwang.—Mr. J. Walton asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs: Whether, in view of the reported withdrawal of the Russians from Neu-chwang, the active operations of brigands in the neighbourhood, and the uncertainty as to when a Japanese occupation will take place, also that Neu-chwang is not now likely to be the scene of naval operations, his Majesty's Government would send a gunboat of Neu-chwang for the protection of the lives and property of British subjects.

Earl Percy: His Majesty's Government have no reason to believe that the Russians have withdrawn from Neu-chwang; but the Esperanza has been ordered to that port.

Thibet.—Mr. Lambert asked the Secretary of State for India: If he has information as to the request of the Tibetans for an armistice; and whether competent negotiators have been appointed to settle the 22% difference; and, if so, has the British Government authority to receive and treat with such negotiators.

Mr. Brodick: An armistice was granted up to June 30 and has been prolonged at the request of the Tibetans. The Ta Lama, accompanied by representatives of three Lhasa monasteries, has been received by Colonel Young-husband, and is now in negotiation with him. It is not yet known whether the Ta Lama has authority to effect an agreement with Colonel Young-husband, but in this event the British Commissioner has authority to treat with him.

Mr. Flynn asked if representatives of the Chinese Government were allowed to take part in the negotiations.

Mr. Brodick: Representatives of the Chinese Government have been in communication with us throughout, and will, of course, be associated with us.

Wednesday, July 6.

The Operations in Thibet.—Mr. Gibson Bowles asked whether the Government had received any news as to the operations in Thibet.

Mr. Balfour raised the point that no notice of the question had been given and that the Secretary for India was not in his place.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman supported Mr. Bowles's request for information.

Mr. Balfour said he could not be expected to bring to the House without notice important telegrams or give substance from memory. In this case, however, a colleague on the Treasury bench happened to have the telegram, and he would read it.

Mr. Balfour then read the telegram.

On the motion for the adjournment, Mr. Dalzell asked for information with reference to the operations taking place in Thibet.

Mr. Churchill wished to know why the telegrams which had been published in the newspapers had not been communicated to the House.

After some remarks from Mr. Flynn, Mr. MacNeill, Mr. Stuart Samuel, and Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Brodick said that no one gave him notice of a question on the subject and, therefore, he was not in the House at question time. At the same time, if he had had any communication to make to the House, he would not have failed to be there. The Government had received no confirmation as yet of the information that appeared in "Reuter's" telegrams in the course of the afternoon—namely, that the force at Gyantse had occupied the jong from which threatening attacks had been made. As soon as ever any information arrived he would take care that it was given to the public through the Press. (Opposition cries of "Through the House.") It was rather a late hour to enter upon a discussion of the policy of the Government in this matter. That policy had not changed in any single particular from the policy laid down in the telegram sent to the Viceroy on the 6th of last year. The Government had had to advance the mission into Thibet in order to obtain reparation and satisfaction for a variety of difficulties that had arisen—(Opposition cries of "Oh")—for the detention of two British subjects who had not been released, and for other matters. They had repeatedly invited the Suzerain Power—China—to send persons of sufficient rank to conduct negotiations. The operations of the last few days led them to hope that the Thibetan representatives would approach Col. Young-husband, and, in consequence, the advance to Lhasa, which was fixed for the 25th of last month, was delayed. The Thibetan representative was not possessed of sufficient credentials, and it was not desirable to prolong the period of delay, in view of the short time that would elapse before the beginning of the Thibetan winter. Opera-

tions had been resumed; but if the Thibetan authorities sent negotiators with sufficient power to negotiate, his Majesty's Government would not ask for any terms at variance with their previous declaration. (Ministerial cheers.)

Courts Martial in India.—Mr. H. D. Greene asked the Secretary of State for War: Whether any regulation has been recently adopted as to dispensing with or otherwise altering the attendance at courts martial in India of a deputy judge advocate, and on what grounds, and whether such change was approved by the Government before it was made; and, if so, whether the presence of an independent official possessing special legal knowledge is no longer considered requisite to safeguard the interests of accused soldiers at courts martial.

Mr. Brodick: No report on the subject has been received from the Government of India. I will make inquiries.

Thursday, July 7.

The Steamer "Allanton."—Sir C. Cayzer asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he could now state the reasons given by the Russian Prize Court at Vladivostok for the confiscation of the British steamer "Allanton" and her cargo; and, if not, when he would be able to give the information.

Earl Percy: His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg has asked the Russian Government for an official statement of the grounds upon which the vessel and her cargo were condemned. The information, when furnished, will at once be communicated to the parties interested.

The Operations in Thibet.—Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman asked if his Majesty's Government had had any further news from Thibet.

Mr. Lough also asked if there was any information as to what the approximate losses of the enemy were.

Mr. Brodick: I telegraphed this morning to the Government of India, but I have not yet received from them any account of the operations yesterday at Gyantse, nor have I yet heard from them whether the account published in the newspapers is correct.

Before the sitting was suspended, Mr. Brodick said that, as he had been asked at question time to communicate any news received at the India Office with regard to Thibet he would read to the House the following telegram, which had been received at 5-55 p.m.:—"Thibetans having refused to evacuate jong, MacDonald resumed operations at 1 p.m., July 5, demonstrating only that day. On the morning of July 6 a portion of the Gyantse town assaulted and our position made good. At 4 p.m., July 6, wall of jong breached. Jong assaulted and captured by 6 p.m. Enemy's strength estimated at 5,000. Their losses not known yet. Our casualties (full return not yet received):—Killed—32nd Sikh Pioneers, Lieut. Gordon; 8th Goorkha Rifles, three men. Wounded—40th Pathans, Lieut. Col. Campbell, Capt. Preston; 8th Goorkha Rifles, Lieut. Grant; 23rd Sikh Pioneers, Lieut. Mitchell; 1st Royal Fusiliers, three men—all slightly wounded in active ranks."

WAR NEWS.

A Liaoyang message declares that the Japanese have now completely enveloped Port Arthur.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Echo de Paris" telegraphing on Tuesday says he has just seen a telegram announcing the triumphant return of the Vladivostok Squadron after its sortie. The cruisers sank a Japanese destroyer and a torpedo boat which exploits were not mentioned in Tokio.

The Chinese who left Port Arthur on Saturday have arrived at Chefoo. They say that the armies outside are separated by only a mile. The Japanese were advancing from hill to hill placing big guns on all. They have landed 150. Only nine of the larger warships are now there.

Reuter at Tientsin says that the Russian destroyer Burnkoff arrived safely in Port Arthur from Niuchwang on Sunday evening. The telegram adds that four Japanese destroyers made a determined effort to enter the harbour of Port Arthur but were discovered by the shore batteries. One sunk under Golden Hill another under battery 22 while the third had her funnel shot away. The remaining destroyer then retired.

Admiral Alexeieff altogether denies the Japanese report of a recent naval sortie from Port Arthur. Telegraphing to the Czar on the 30th he says a torpedo boat action took place on the night of the 23rd. The Japanese were repulsed. Next morning the Novik, Diana, Askold, Sevastopol, Poltava, Czarevitch, Pobeda, Peresviet, Retvian, Bayan and Pallada steamed out of the harbour and anchored in the roadstead while boats picked up some Japanese mines evidently placed during the night.

A Peking telegram of the 5th says that the Japanese minister has informed the Foreign Office that Japan is about to make a supreme effort to take Port Arthur and is confident of success. She therefore wished to know whether China will send troops to hold the place or entrust its safe keeping to Japan. The Foreign office has given a hesitating reply not being desirous of committing itself until the Japanese plans are more fully developed.

Admiral Skrydloff telegraphing to the Czar on the 5th reports that the Vladivostok torpedo flotilla and the transport Lena carried out an important reconnaissance to Gensan where they burnt a coasting steamer and schooner after landing crews. Some Japanese soldiers fired on them but were compelled to retire. Admiral Skrydloff adds that the cruisers squadron under Admiral Bezobrazoff passed the straits of Korea on the 4th and met seven large vessels, apparently three battleships and four protected cruisers with one or two torpedo boats. The Russians fired and the enemy pursued retiring without effect. The Russians did not reply. In the evening eleven torpedo boats appeared ahead of the Russians and attacked them but without effect. Admiral Bezobrazoff believes he sunk two of them. The Russians were not damaged and there were no casualties.

The Vladivostok squadron has again succeeded in giving the slip to the Japanese. The Tokio correspondent of the "Times" reports that it was sighted by Kamimura's squadron at 6-45 on Friday evening between Tushima and Okshima Islands. Kamimura attempted to reduce the distance but the

Russians steered north-east at full speed. At night fall Kamimura ordered the torpedo flotilla to get close to the enemy at any cost. Flashes could be seen from the main squadron denoting that an attack was in progress. The Russians suddenly concentrated all their lights on the attacking craft then suddenly extinguished everything and slipped away in the darkness on an unknown course. The correspondent adds that the purpose of the Vladivostok cruisers appears to be to draw the Japanese to Gensan and take advantage of their absence to pass Tushima but the Japanese fathoming the design remain in the vicinity.

HOW PORCELAIN WIRES ARE MADE

IN JAPAN. (BY S. DEB.)

Tokyo, June 12.

I have taken admission in the Higher Technological School here as a special student in the ceramic department. This school is going to be closed soon, and I also intend to go to Kyoto, the centre of the Potteries in Japan, to study in the factories there. The subject I have taken for my study is a very difficult one. The Japanese art of porcelain-making dates from a very ancient time; they imitated it from the Chinese, the inventors of this art. The Japanese are very fond of art, they simply live by art and by sheer dint of natural instinct, favored by the various suitable raw materials, they have succeeded in producing fine wares without giving any special stress on the scientific side of the art. Generally, Japanese porcelain wares are valuable being only curious specimens of Japanese design and art. They are generally not fit for use wear and tear of every day use as the European wares are. In France and Germany the scientific side of the art is highly developed, and the exact chemical and physical ratio upon which art is based, has been found out after laborious investigations by famous ceramists like Broguier, Salvat and Seger. Their wonderful researches in the field of ceramic industry have led to wonderful realizations and now-a-days this art has become one of the finest, noblest and fascinating of all the arts in the world.

Let me state here briefly how the Japanese turn out porcelain wares. They bring the clay, wash it, mix it with some other ingredients in a ratio of which they know from their fathers, try the glare and at last burn it in the old fashioned kilns which their forefathers have used. But what they do in Germany and France? They have discovered, by chemical and rational analysis, a sort of clay suitable for porcelain wares, they mix it with other ingredients such as quartz flint, limestone etc. in ratios according to established formulae. They try to experiment by changing the ratios of raw materials, and have succeeded, in many cases, in finding out novel productions. They employ workmen of special artistic like our Krishnagore and Lucknow artists, and with the help of some modern machineries, they produce cheap and beautiful things.

Here they have no pottery wheel and in its place we have Gypsum moulds by which they produce decorated articles soon and with less expenditure and trouble. I have a mind to work in this line in India. I want to have some machineries and one or two Japanese workmen. We have clay. I have analysed the specimen which I have brought with me from India and have found it suitable for the manufacture of high class fancy porcelain wares. But I must have other raw materials such as flint, quartz, limestone, gypsum etc., which are indispensably necessary.

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8. DR. T. U. AHMED, M. B., C. M. S. A., (London), His Majesty's Vice-Consul, says:—"... I can recommend this Healing Balm strongly to the suffering patient."

9. 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."

10. 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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