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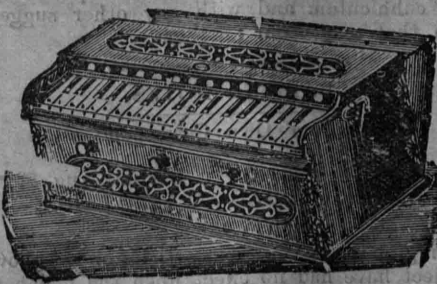
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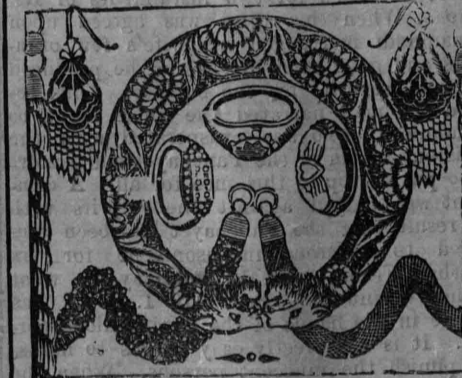
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Dated 4-2-90. Sd/ Nil Kant Majumdar, Professor, Presidency College.

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"All cure fevers" (except in case of incurable) cured in two days and malaria fever, spleen, liver cured in a week.

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INDUSTRIAL INDIA.—By Glyn Barlow, M.A., Principal Victoria College, Paighat, and formerly Editor of "The Madras Times."

Contents.—1. Patriotism in Trade. 2. Co-operation. 3. Industrial Exhibitions. 4. The Inquiring Mind. 5. Investigation. 6. Indian Art. 7. Indian Stores. 8. India's Customers. 9. Turning the Corner. 10. Conclusion. PRICE RS. 1-8. To subscribers of "Indian Review" RE. 1 only.

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROBLEMS IN INDIA.—By Alfred Chatterton, B. Sc. Professor of Engineering, on Special Duty, Madras. Contents. Agricultural:—

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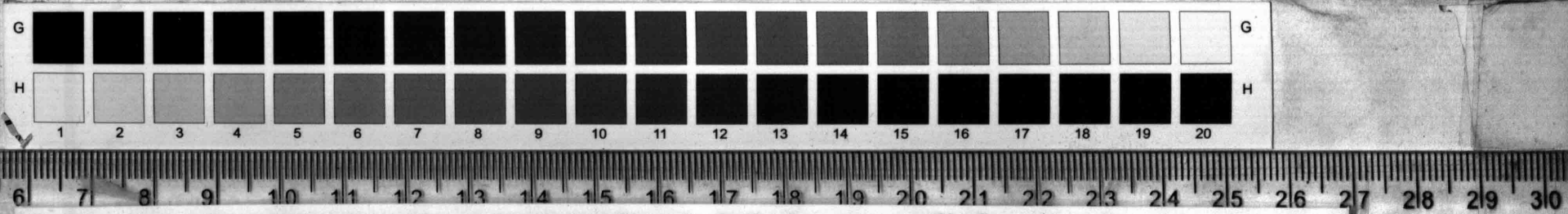
RANADE AND TELANG.—Appreciations by the Hon. Mr. G. K. Gokhale, C.I.E., Member of the Imperial Legislative Council, and by Mr. Dinshaw Edulji Wacha, President of the 17th Indian National Congress.

With portraits of Ranade, Telang, Gokhale and Wacha, As. 8. To subscribers of the "Indian Review" f As. 4.

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Varieties.

NEW ARISHIP'S TRIUMPH.

Captain Baldwin, the well-known aerial navigator, gave a public exhibition of his new airship, which will be entered for the St. Louis competition.

It consists of a cigar-shaped balloon 54ft. long, carrying a frame 30ft. long, and is driven by a gasoline engine.

ATTACKED BY A SEA SERPENT.

While a woman was gathering seaweed at a fishing village in the north of Portugal recently she was attacked, writes a Lisbon correspondent, by a serpent 9ft. in length, which rose from a heap of weed.

Raising its crest, the reptile coiled itself round the woman's body and neck, but on the arrival of some labourers armed with spades from a neighbouring field, it unwound itself and disappeared into the sea before it could be killed.

The event has caused considerable interest, as snakes of such a size have been hitherto unknown in Portugal.

FIGHT WITH A BABOON.

Noticing a baboon in his orchard at Uitenhage, in Cape Colony, recently, Mr. Heugh, a farmer, took his gun and shot the animal, who got away a little distance and then suddenly dropped.

Thinking it was dead Mr. Heugh, with a native and two terriers, followed it to the spot, when it suddenly rose, and seizing the dogs bit a piece of flesh out of each of them. Then, flinging them away, it attacked the farmer, says the "Cape Times," tearing his arm from shoulder to wrist before he was able to fracture its skull with a stone. The baboon's dead body was found to measure 6ft.

HAVE LOCUSTS' EGGS COMMERCIAL VALUE?

We have been long accustomed to look upon locusts as a plague to be deplored, so that it is a satisfaction to know that these pests are of some practical use to man. Mr. Raphael Dhoobis has discovered that the egg of a locust contains a kind of yolk, and that when it is squeezed there flows from it a thick liquid which resembles honey, and is of commercial value.

WHAT IS INDIAN INK?

Indian Ink, much used in China and Japan for writing with small brushes on soft paper, and made extensively in China since 250 B.C., consists of a mixture of carbon and gum, with the addition of a little musk, or Borneo camphor, to give it the characteristic odour. The preparation of this ink is by no means easy, for, if the materials are not of the best quality, and if the carbon is not as finely divided as possible, an inferior ink will be the result.

WHY IS THE PACIFIC OCEAN SO CALLED?

Magellan, practically the first to circumnavigate the world, set out from Spain in 1519 to find a western route to the famous Moluccas, or Spice Islands. Vague rumours of a Pacific Ocean were scattered through Europe. To test these Magellan, following the coast of South America, passed through the straits which now bear his name (formerly the Straits of the 11,000 Virgins), tossed all the time on a most tempestuous sea.

HAVE BIRDS VOCAL CHORDS?

Birds have no vocal chords in the larynx, but they possess a unique voice organ in the syrinx, which is provided with what are really vocal chords of a very effective and complicated kind. This syrinx lies in the lower part of the windpipe, and the upper part of the branching bronchi, but varies much in its exact position, and details of structure, in different birds.

INDIAN NOTES.

HOW TO ENTERMINE CROWS.

"Della" suggests the following method which has been tried with success in Italy. Make a cone of brown paper large enough to admit a crow; smear the inside of it with glue and put some tempting morsel into it. This will attract the crow; as soon as the crow puts his head in, the paper will stick to its feathers and disable its flying. If it dies at all, it will come down at once and will be at mercy of the crow catcher.

BEE-KEEPING IN BURMA.

Bees are kept in many places in the country, especially in Upper Burma and Tenasserim. Throughout the province, honey is in great demand to present to the pongyis at the various Buddhist festivals and especially for embalming bodies, and thousands of wax candles are used to illuminate the pagodas during the festivals; both these demands are met from the products of the country, and a small quantity of wax is even regularly exported to foreign countries.

THE MANDALAY ASSAULT CASE.

It may be in the recollection of the reader that some time ago, the Contonment Magistrate of Mandalay acquitted Dr. Brewer, Health Officer of the Municipality to the Assault case brought against him by Mr. Noyce, a Municipal Commissioner. On Wednesday, an appeal by the local Government against this order of acquittal came before the Chief Judge for admission. As to the question whether an appeal lay to the Chief Court or not, Mr. Giles, Assistant Government Advocate, submitted that an appeal lay to the Court, because, according to his instructions, the accused claimed to be tried as a European British-born subject, and the claim was allowed by the Magistrate.

THE PLANTAIN FIBRE INDUSTRY AT TANJORE.

N. Swaminathan of the T. A. and Industrial Institution, Tanjore, writes to the "Madras Mail":—"In your issue dated the 18th appears the interesting communication from Mr. T. Ponnambalan Pillay, of Travancore, on the plantain fibre industry. He states therein that the improved machine made at the School of Arts, Trevandrum, and Mr. Venkataram's machines cannot be placed at the disposal of the ordinary ryot as they are not easily portable and on account of their prohibitive cost. Your readers, I believe, are aware that the Tanjore Agricultural and Industrial Institution has taken to this industry in right earnest. The institution sent a man to Melrosapuram to study the process of extracting fibre from plantain sheaths. He returned here a month ago and since then he has been extracting fibre. The machine used here costs only Rs. 2-2. The local manufacturers have up to now supplied some twelve machines at this rate. It cannot be said that it is beyond the means of an ordinary ryot; and I dare say if machines are made on a large scale they can be made for a still cheaper rate. Permit me to say a word or two respecting Mr. Ponnambala Pillay's statement that Mr. Venkataram's and the Trevandrum machines are prohibitive and not portable. Mr. Venkataram's machine is certainly portable, but I think it cannot be obtained for anything less than Rs. 15 or so. I may add that one is able to extract more quantity of fibre with greater ease with the local machine at Rs. 2-2 used by the institution than with Mr. Venkataram's which costs about Rs. 15 or so."

EDUCATION IN THE PUNJAB.

An important step has just been taken by the Punjab Government in the matter of the education of the masses. The Government of India having desired that in all provinces arrangements should be made to open separate schools for agriculturists, which would allow of a shorter and simpler course of study than that required for those boys who intend to use the primary stages of education as a preliminary only, the Local Government has decided that primary schools are to be divided into two classes, viz., town primary schools and village primary schools. The former will be located in towns in areas where the non-agricultural section of community preponderates, and will be worked on the same lines as ordinary primary schools, and the latter will be of the village type, and the curriculum will not lead on to any further stage, so that there will be no inducement to zemindars to look upon education as leading merely to Government employment. A scheme of studies suited to the requirements of villagers had been promulga-

ATTACKS OF COLIC, cholera morbus, pains in the stomach, dysentery and diarrhoea come on suddenly and so often prove fatal before a physician can be summoned, that a reliable remedy should always be kept at hand. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy has no equal as a cure for these ailments. It never fails to give prompt relief even in the most severe cases. It is pleasant to take and every household should have a bottle at hand. Get it to-day. It may save a life. For sale by Smith, Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Bahaman, Abdool Karim, Calcutta.

ted, and will be introduced, so far as possible in all primary schools situated in rural tracts. The decision as to the precise locality and the venacular to be used will be made by the Deputy Commissioner in consultation with the Inspector of Schools, and with the final approval of the Commissioner and Superintendent of the Division. It is remarked that there may be some difficulty in introducing the scheme throughout the Province at once owing to the scarcity of qualified teachers, particularly in regard to teaching of native accounts, but this form of training is now being given in normal schools, and after a year or so it should be possible to have the curriculum in full working order throughout the province. Commissioners have been asked to take early steps towards the establishment of these village primary schools, and at the same time to furnish the Government with an expression of their opinion on the curriculum and with any other suggestion that may occur to them.

BARISAL NOTES.

(From our Own Correspondent)

Barisal, Aug. 20. WATER WORKS—A VERITABLE MONSTER.

I regret to say that your articles on the above subject have had no effect upon the members of the District Board. And no wonder, for it is an open secret that it is a department of the Government and would always carry out its orders with devotional zeal. The Indian members are quite alive to the fact that they are digging pits for themselves and their constituents by blindly giving their help to carry out the Government scheme of water-works in Barisal, but such is their infatuation with the powers-that-be, that they would not even care to be influenced by their own interests. The Lieutenant-Governor has asked the Municipality to be prompt and vigorous and the Sanitary Commissioner will shortly come here. So the people of Barisal hope to enjoy the luxury of pure distilled water without much delay. As to the fund to give effect to the scheme, there will be little difficulty in raising it, for the officials have been asked to help the Municipality by raising money by "voluntary donation" from the liberal public. In the meantime a leading pleader, who is both the Chairman of the Municipality and the Vice-Chairman of the District Board has devised another plan to give effect to another scheme. He has proposed the formation of a Joint-Committee of the Municipality and the Board and then he suggests that apart from the contribution of Rs. 5,000 by the Board, it will have to pay a sum of Rs. 5,000 annually for the maintenance of the water-works! But some members opposed the proposal. But the pleader carried the day. And the result will be that all necessary improvements of the District will suffer. Even now though the Board is contributing such a vast sum in charity as it were, it can not be made to re-examine the "khals" which have silted up and choked the passage of country boats. Ours is a voice crying in the wilderness. It requires a mighty flood to remove these friends of the people!

THE HIGH TIDE.

As was apprehended in my last letter the high tide has actually dealt a death-blow to the Ashu dhan by keeping them under water for days together. A cry of horror is rising from the peasants who have had their morsels snatched away from their mouth. For miles together the paddy fields turned into a vast ocean of water. Many homesteads went under water, though there was no loss to life. In the "beels" water has not yet come down to its natural level but who can gainsay His will!

A PANCHAYET IN TROUBLE.

Kajem Howlader is the tax-collecting Panchayet of the village Jagapatti under police station Sharupkatti. He, accompanied by two village Chowkidars, seized the person or one Shonamuddi, a co-villager and threatened to challan him on a false charge under Sec. 110 I. P. C. A few days back the uncle of Shonamuddi was also sent up and sentenced under the same charge. On that occasion Shonamuddi called upon the men ill-named. To wreak vengeance on them, the same Panchayet and Chowkidars got up this false charge against Shonamuddi and threatened him with prosecution. Shonamuddi grasped the situation easily from the face of his uncle and fell to the feet of the powerful evildoer and prayed for mercy. They demanded Rs. 15 of him for his release. But the man was too poor to pay the sum and he offered Rs. 8. The same eight Rupees also he could not pay at once so he asked for two instalments of Rs. 4 each. When this term was agreed upon Shonamuddi mortgaged his wife's few ornaments and gave them Rs. 4 and he produced a man as security for the balance. Thus relieved the man narrated the whole story to his landlord, who was exasperated with the persistent zulm of the Panchayet and resolved to put a stop to this once for all. A complaint was lodged against the culprits with the result that the Panchayet has been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for six months. From this case you may see what an instrument this Sec. 110 I. P. C. has become in the hands of the unscrupulous persons. It is a perfectly easy means to harass and punish the innocent persons. When the Panchayet and Chowkidars are capable of committing such mischiefs through the evil engineering of this section what can not the almighty officials do by its help!

In the suit brought by the Government Advocate, Rangoon, against the Council of the Agri-Horticultural Society for the purpose of obtaining the orders of the Chief Court in the matter of the Phayre Museum, the advocate for the defendants consented before Mr. Justice Chitty to a decree on the lines set out in the plaint, the main point being that the name of Sir Arthur Phayre be maintained in connection with the new Provincial Museum to be erected shortly by Government, who have taken over the collection in the present museum to be deposited in the proposed building.

THE GREAT SUCCESS of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy in the treatment of bowel complaints has made it standard over the greater part of the civilized world. For sale by Smith, Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Bahaman, Abdool Karim, Calcutta.

RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

RUSSIA AND NEUTRAL SHIPPING.

The "Times" correspondent telegraphs:—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Petit Parisien" says that it would seem that the Russian Government is resolved to maintain its own standpoint as against that of England, save in the affair of the "Malacca." In the interview yesterday between Sir Charles Hardinge and Count Lamsdorff concerning the case of the "Knight Commander" the former protested, says this correspondent, against the right claimed by the Russian Navy to sink neutral vessels carrying contraband of war, and declared England's intention to maintain this protest in spite of Russia's publication at the outset of the war of her own views in the matter. England points out that all foreign Naval Codes make a distinction between belligerent vessels and neutral ships carrying contraband. The correspondent of the "Petit Parisien" says that, although each of the Powers is determined to maintain its own standpoint, neither is disposed to let the matter lead to a conflict.

THE RUSSIAN VOLUNTEER FLEET.

A "Times" correspondent telegraphs from Sevastopol on the 29th July:—The report insidiously circulated to the effect that no further Volunteer Fleet transports are to be sent in the near future though the "ardanelles" is not consistent with the facts. Every vessel of the Volunteer Fleet at present in the Black Sea, save the relatively small and slow "Kuzstoma" and "Nijn" "Voigorod," is actually under orders for Government service outside the Euxine. Three of the largest vessels of the Russian Steam Navigation Company of Odessa have been taken over by the Russian Government for Government service outside the Black Sea as coal transports. These three vessels are of the Russian Steam Navigation Company's "Junona" class, the most capacious vessels in the Black Sea after the vessels of the Volunteer Fleet. All preparations have been made for an exodus at a comparatively early date, and a Commander-in-Chief of the transport Fleet has already been appointed in the person of Commander Otto Radloff until recently Director of the Russian Steam Navigation Company in Odessa and formerly Commander of the Petersburg.

THE SITUATION AT PORT ARTHUR.

The "Times" correspondent telegraphs:—Tokio, 31st July.—The Japanese newspapers publish a translation of the reply of the garrison of Port Arthur to the Japanese summons to surrender. The reply shows that the garrison believe that the Japanese siege train, together with Marshal Oyama and all his Star was sunk in the "Hitachi Maru" and the "Sado Maru," and wholly disbelieve that any defeat of General Kuropatkin has taken place. The Naval Department publishes a telegram showing that Japanese torpedo-boats and two gunboats attacked a squadron of Russian destroyers on the 24th instant in a bay east of the Hsien-sheng promontory. Three fish torpedoes fired by the Japanese were seen to explode, but the fog concealed the results. Therefore the telegram was not published pending news from other quarters which indicates that three Russian destroyers were crippled or sunk. An official report from the Army at Port Arthur states that during the fight on the 27th instant—of which details are not given—the Russians behaved with shocking brutality, robbing and murdering the wounded and mutilating the dead.

Tokio, 30th July.—The General Staff announced to-night that five Officers have been killed and forty-one Officers wounded in the fighting around Port Arthur since Tuesday. The losses in men are not stated. This is the first official announcement regarding the operations against Port Arthur since the siege began and indicates serious fighting.

A Reuter despatch from Tokio, on the 1st instant, says:—Admiral Togo reports an exciting naval incident which occurred while the Japanese were engaged in sweeping for mines near Lung-wang-tao.

A Japanese gunboat became entangled with a Russian mine and in trying to free herself got caught in the sweeping apparatus. The gunboat was helpless and drifted to Hsien-sheng Point, where she was exposed to a heavy cannonade. Captain Hirose, in another gunboat, went to her rescue and towed her away. A Russian destroyer suddenly attacked them however, and it was only after an hour's hard fighting that Captain Hirose finally succeeded in extricating both vessels. The rescuing gunboat was hit twice three men were killed and Captain Hirose and ten others were wounded. The funnels of the Russian destroyer sunk on the 24th ultimo are visible off Hsien-sheng Point.

The following Reuter telegram is from Chifu, dated the 3rd instant:—

According to advices brought by two junks which arrived here to-day, the Japanese have made a desperate but unsuccessful assault, lasting three days, on the inner defences to the north and east of Port Arthur. A Russian who escaped by way of Pigeon Bay on the night of the 29th ultimo, states that the earth was trembling under the terrific bombardment which began at four in the morning on the 26th July and ended at night on the 28th, when the battle ceased. A Chinaman who arrived here in another junk agrees with the Russian refugee that the Russian losses in killed and wounded number between 5,000 and 6,000. The Japanese in their repeated assaults against the eastern forts on the hills, through barbed wire entanglements and over mines, displayed fanatical bravery; but they were mowed down by a hail of shell and bullets and by the explosion of mines underfoot. Their losses are estimated at 20,000. The Russian declares that the defenders hold all the eastern forts leading to Golden Hill, and that the Japanese shattered and exhausted, have retired towards the east.

CHANCE OF WATER often brings on diarrhoea. For this reason many experienced travellers carry a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy with them to be used in case of an emergency bowel complaint. It can not be obtained while on board the cars or steamship, and that is where it is most likely to be needed. Buy a bottle before leaving home. Sold by Smith, Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Bahaman, Abdool Karim, Calcutta.

RUSSIAN COMMENT ON THE WAR.

The Patrie publishes from the newspaper specially founded for the Russian troops in Manchuria, The Messenger of the Manchurian Army the following curious sample of Russian comment on the progress of the war. "For the last five months Japan has been committing in the eyes of the whole world honourable suicide with inflexible stubbornness. Japan continues to send her divisions and ships to be destroyed for she prefers to be led to death in war and to die of hunger in Manchuria rather than at home. What has Japan gained during the last five months? What has she done? Absolutely nothing. She is no whit nearer victory, but she has lost nearly half her Fleet and is further than ever from final success. Moreover, Japan is doing what she can to realise completely the plan of campaign which we had foreseen. She is continuing to cut her way through Manchuria to the destruction awaiting her in the narrow defiles and ravines of this region. Generals Kuroki and Oku are beginning over again the fatal blunders of Charles XII. and Napoleon by pushing further and further inland, blunders for which they were cruelly punished." The "Patrie" an organ which is exceptionally friendly to Russia, speaks of the above as an extraordinary way of regarding the events of the war, and points out that all the defiles and ravines mentioned in the Russian military organ have long since fallen into the hands of the Japanese.

THE ASSAULT ON PORT ARTHUR.

Refugees who arrived at Cheloo on July 30 from Port Arthur confirm the report that the general assault has begun. The Russians, they declare, are confident that the enemy could not succeed even with twice as many men. They are still hoping for succour from General Kuropatkin, and are unwilling to believe the reports of his defeat at Tashih-chiao.

The refugees confirm previous reports as to the reported condition of the Russian ships, which, however, are unwilling to attack Admiral Togo on account of the mines placed nightly by the Japanese. If either the Vladivostock Squadron or General Kuropatkin should arrive, the fleet will risk going out. Ammunition at Port Arthur is becoming scarce and the large guns on the forts are seldom fired. The attempts made to manufacture ammunition have proved failures. All the public buildings are used as hospitals. The sick and wounded are well cared for by volunteer nurses. The wounds inflicted by the Japanese rifle fire were not dangerous except in vital spots. Hundreds of men after being badly wounded have quickly recovered and are now back in the firing line.

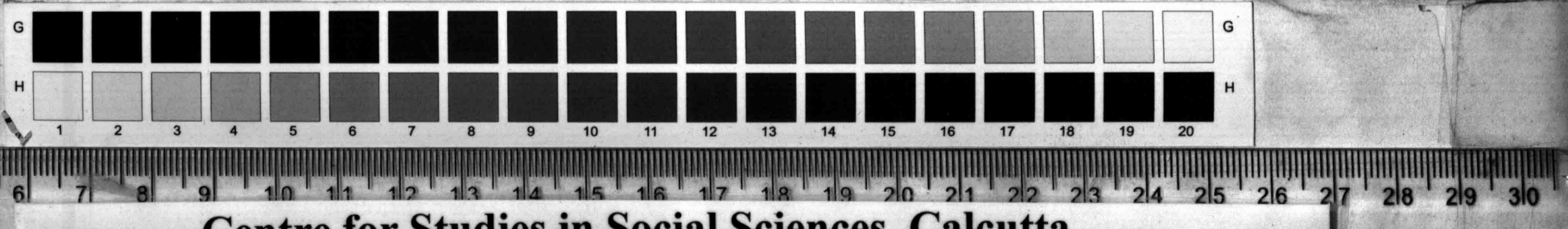
The Russians have erected a new wireless telegraphic station, but it has not been possible to obtain any result here on account of the Japanese auxiliary cruisers, which are fitted with wireless telegraphic apparatus, constantly moving about in the zone of communication and interrupting messages.

RUSSIAN GENERAL'S VIEWS.

Considerable attention has been aroused in Germany by an article by General Dragomiroff which appears in the St. Petersburg Press and which deals with the various stages of the Japanese advance. In a previous article General Dragomiroff paid an ungrudging tribute to the brilliant tactics of General Kuroki, and the writer was accordingly subjected to severe criticism for suggesting the unpatriotic inference that General Kuropatkin lacked in an equivalent degree the qualities which were attributed to his adversary. General Dragomiroff repudiates any intention of this kind on his part and justly declares that it is perfectly competent for him to recognize and to acknowledge the merits even of the Japanese. He resumes his observations upon the progress of the operations, and points out that General Kuroki on the flank and General Oku on the front remained inactive until the Russian forces attempted to develop their advance from Liao-yang to Port Arthur. Unfortunately, General Dragomiroff appears to have been writing under the impression that the function of both these Japanese commanders was to act as a screen for the assault on Port Arthur, and this mistaken view is further exemplified by the assumption that General Kuroki has merely been "marking time."

General Dragomiroff declares that the Japanese cannot and do not intend to do more than to take Liao-yang, and, "of course," Port Arthur, during the present campaign. The attainment of these two objectives would be an abundant measure of success for one campaign, especially for an invading army which is short of cavalry and which has to labour under serious transport difficulties. It is, perhaps, not too much to characterize General Dragomiroff's observations as a valuable index to the real view with regard to the course and to the probable result of the campaign which is here in component quarters in Russia. The somewhat hasty recantation contained in the concluding sentence would seem only to confirm this interpretation. General Dragomiroff's last words are as follows:—"The occupation of Manchuria, it, that is, one assumes the not very probable event of a conclusive Japanese victory in Liao-tung, can only from the occasion of a fresh campaign. But an alliance with China could alone enable the Japanese to renew the war, since it is only from China that horses and transport, not to speak of troops, can be obtained." The sense and character of these last sentences are so entirely out of keeping with the tenor of the body of General Dragomiroff's remarks that one almost feels tempted to regard them as an alien interpolation.

Lord Lansdowne in the course of the negotiations with Russia stated that the Tibetans last year seized, "and as we believed, barbarously put to death," two British subjects. (The latter part of this statement turns out to have been incorrect. The two men imprisoned at Shigatse and Lhasa, were brought into camp and restored to freedom, Colonel Younghusband receiving them in full honour, and impressing upon the Shapas who brought them the enormity of the offence that had been committed. It is also reported that far from "barbarously putting them to death" the prisoners were treated most kindly by the Tibetans.



THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, AUGUST 28, 1904.

IRRESISTIBLE POWERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

If it is necessary to render the District Magistrate irresistible here, it is equally necessary to make them innoxious for mischief. We have not the slightest objection to their being entrusted with dictatorial powers, but adequate protection should also be given to the people from the abuse of their position.

What, however, happens not infrequently is this. A Magistrate may ruin a subject of His Majesty either from over-zeal, zid, or ignorance of law. But the ruler man has absolutely no remedy against this monstrous wrong. Every one here, high or low, is thus losing his manliness; for he feels that he is utterly powerless to cope with a Magistrate. The result is an universal sense of insecurity, which means something like anarchy.

The most unfortunate thing in this connection is the feeling of irritation which is apparently created in the minds of the higher authorities when cases of official high-handedness are noticed in the newspapers. The people of this country have no means of approaching the Government except through their counsels. Hence the aggrieved parties seek the help of the conductors of papers to make known their grievances to those who, they fancy, ought to afford them protection. But the result of such a course, as a rule, proves still more disastrous. The more an offending official is dealt with by the press, the greater object of solicitude he becomes to his superiors. In this way the subordinate authorities are encouraged to break the law with impunity and the people are made to feel that they are utterly helpless.

By sending for the records of the Hazaribag case, Sir Andrew Fraser has raised hopes in the minds of the public that he is not likely to follow the policy of some of his predecessors in this respect. As it is the sincere desire of the Government to render the people of this country happy, the first duty of every provincial Governor is to watch closely the doings of the district authorities and take severe notice of the conduct of those who abuse the enormous powers vested in them. It is, in this way, that the District Magistrate may be made a real blessing to the millions placed under his charge, and also to himself. The divine law should never be forgotten by the rulers that, by blessing others we bless ourselves, and by oppressing our fellow beings, we only brutalize our hearts. The deplorable situation, however, is that very little control is exercised over the District Officers when they are violently disposed, and thus they are indirectly led to commit more and more unjustifiable acts.

Mr. Foster is an officer of only 84 years standing. Within this short time, as we showed in previous issues, he has committed gross illegalities several times. If he had been properly checked when we first showed symptoms of waywardness, it would have benefited both him and the people.

The same remarks apply to Mr. Carey, late of Murshidabad, now of Hooghly, Mr. Egerton, late of Berhampur, now of Balasore, and many others. But they went on committing illegalities after illegalities, and the higher authorities allowed them to continue in their career of lawlessness with impunity. Nay, they did more. When, for instance, we exposed, in our columns, some of the high-handed proceedings of Mr. Egerton in Murshidabad, Mr. Buckland, who, as Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, practically ruled the province at that time, came to Murshidabad and gave him an excellent certificate, simply to spite the press.

The facts of the case, as stated by our Bankipur correspondent, in which the Anjwa Babus of Patna were implicated, will show how utterly helpless are the people of this country at the mercy of the local authorities. A serious riot took place, in which one man died from the effects of the wounds inflicted upon him, and ten more were seriously wounded; and the police, failing to detect the real culprits, hauled up two Zemindars of Anjwa and eleven of their men and put them on their trial. The committing Magistrate not only refused bail to the accused, but expressed himself so strongly on the subject that neither the Sessions Court nor the High Court allowed them bail. Thus they were made to rot in jail for months, in this hot season, like common felons. Rumour has it that the Zemindars were handcuffed along with their men and made to walk from the Dinapur Court to the Bankipur jail. Our correspondent is, however, not quite sure of the correctness of this allegation.

The authorities were so determined to get the accused punished that, in addition to the permanent Public Prosecutor, a counsel was retained on behalf of the Government on substantial fee. The case lasted some twelve days; so that the Government had to pay something like Rs. 2,500 to their lawyers retained in the Sessions Court alone. The Government has very little money for the supply of drinking water to the poor ryots who pay a cess. But, the plea of "no fund" is never raised when people are sought to be put in jail by the local authorities.

Now look to the other side. The accused, to save themselves from the over-zeal of the authorities, had to bring a distinguished counsel like Mr. Garth of the Calcutta High Court and engage three of the noted local counsel at an enormous cost. In this way, it is estimated, that the Babus had to spend something like Rs. 30,000 to 40,000 to defend themselves in the Sessions Court alone, so though they have been ultimately acquitted they are all but ruined.

As regards their innocence there cannot be any manner of doubt; for, the jury which tried them, was most unexceptional in its character. It consisted of three Europeans, one Hindu, a retired Sub-Judge and a Mahomedan, the third Inspector of Registration. After nearly two hours' deliberation, the gentlemen of the jury returned a unanimous verdict of "not guilty"; and the Sessions Judge, in acquitting the accused, remarked that "regard being had to the wretched case for the prosecution, I cannot but accept the conclusion arrived at by the jury."

So here are two Zemindars well-nigh ruined—not to mention their terrible suffering in hajut and mental torture to which they were subjected all these months—by the over-zeal or the zid of the local authorities. But where is their remedy?

Will the Lieutenant-Governor be pleased to send for the records of this case?

LORD CURZON'S SPEECHES IN ENGLAND.

LORD CURZON is a finished orator and a leader of men. He knows how to please and persuade an audience. He was utilizing his holidays in England by entertaining his countrymen and strengthening his own position. At the Constitutional Club he delivered himself thus:—

"My main object during the past few years in India has been identical with that which I take to have been the object of every Governor-General before me and of every patriotic Englishman who knows India—namely, to render the foundations of our rule in that country more secure; and, if you ask me why, the reason is not for the honour and glory of the thing, still less for the selfish advantage of England or Englishmen. We must remain in India, because if we were to withdraw, the whole system of Indian life and politics would break up like a pack of cards. We are absolutely necessary to India. That is recognised by the best of the people themselves, just as it is by us; and I think that the bitterest foe of England, if he were also a true friend of India, would be the first man to vote against our departure."

There is not one Englishman in the world whose soul is not troubled, now and then, by qualms of conscience, and the attitude of his country towards India is the cause. When a famine breaks out in India, hundreds of thousands in England go into hysterics. Nay, there are people superstitious and foolish enough to believe that as there is a good an just God, He may hold England responsible, if she does not treat India justly. Lord Curzon was aware of this. To all such people the assurance given by Lord Curzon would prove as refreshing as a copious shower of rain in Bengal in June.

Thus, we find Lord Curzon declaring in emphatic and clear language that His Lordship is here in India, not for any selfish object, but solely for the good of India. Nay Lord Curzon goes further. His Lordship declares that, that was also the object of all Governors-General who had preceded him. This means that Clive, the first Governor-General in India, fought the battle of Plassey, and won Bengal for the good of India; that Warren Hastings hanged Nanda Kumar for the good of India; that Lord Cornwallis ostracized the natives of the soil from the public services for the good of India; that Lord Lytton disarmed the people for the good of India; and our present Governor-General, Lord Curzon deprived the rate-payers of Calcutta of the privilege of local self-government and abolished the competitive examination for the good of India.

Though, it is thus clearly established that India is governed by the rulers only for the good of the people, Lord Curzon is yet generous enough to admit that India is not altogether a white man's burden, or like the white elephant of Siam. For in his Guildhall speech he enumerates some of the advantages which England derives from its connection with India. His Lordship said there:—

"If you want to save your colony of Natal from being over-run by a formidable enemy, you ask India for help, and she gives it (cheers); if you want to rescue the white men's Legations from massacre at Peking, and the need is urgent, you ask the Government of India to despatch an expedition, and they despatch it; if you are fighting the Mad Mullah in Somaliland, you soon discover that Indian troops and Indian generals are best qualified for the task, and you ask the Government of India to send them; if you desire to defend any of your extreme outposts or coaling-stations of the Empire, in Mauritius, Singapore, Hongkong, even Tientsin or Shan-hai-kwan, it is to the Indian Army that you turn; if you want to build a railway in Uganda or in the Sudan, you apply for Indian labour. It is with Indian coolie labour that you exploit the plantations equally of Demerara and Natal; it is with Indian trained officers that you irrigate Egypt and dam the Nile (laughter and cheers); it is with Indian forest officers that you tap the resources of Central Africa and Siam, with Indian surveyors that you explore all the hidden places of the earth."

If His Lordship had time he might have enumerated many other advantages which England derived from its connection with India. As for instance India maintains a large number of middle class Englishmen, and also a few of the impetuous nobility who have no career at home. Nay His Lordship might have mentioned that India is made to provide for men who are undesirable in England. Indeed His Lordship might have looked Mr. Chamberlain fully in the face and declared, putting his hand in his own breast, that it is India which receives Englishmen who are banished from home for their ability. But a thorough enumeration of the advantages was not necessary considering the way that his Lordship summarized them in a short pithy sentence. He said, in short, addressing his English audience:—

"India is as important to you as you are beneficial to her."

The above means that if the heat of philanthropy in the breasts of English Governors-General be assumed to be 212 degrees, the return which England gets from India is fully the same.

Yet India alone is made to pay for the defence of the country, why, was not explained by Lord Curzon. By the way was England also "beneficial to India" when the entire amount of the increased pay of the British soldiers in this country, to the tune of £786,000, was thrown upon the Indians two years ago? Lord Curzon at least did not think so at the time. On the other hand he considered it a grievous wrong and entered a vigorous protest in his telegraphic despatch to the Secretary of State, dated 8th March, 1902. In those words:—

"British soldiers are already sufficiently well paid in this country; that from the Indian standpoint we know of no grounds for increasing their remuneration; and that the case for the increase of pay has arisen because of the increase in strength of the Home army, not of India."

So, His Lordship, in a State document, gave it as his deliberate opinion that the proposed increase of the soldier's pay was needed in the interests of England and not those of India; and in spite of his protest the burden has been thrust upon India.

It may be contended that if the object of England is disinterested service, how is it that she derives material advantage from its connection with India? In short, it may be contended that the two declarations of

Lord Curzon, one being that the object of England's work in India is disinterested service, and the other that England derives immense advantage from India are incompatible. But these two supposed incompatibles may be reconciled, if it is accepted that what is good for England is good for India. If you accept this simple proposition, it comes to this then that the best way of benefiting India is to make it benefit England, even by making it undergo gigantic sacrifices.

We now come to the few lines quoted in the beginning. His Lordship says that India cannot do without England, and the best of Indians desire the stay of British in this country. This is quite true. If the British now leave the country there will be absolute anarchy in India.

There was a time when India had its great monarchs. The irresistible Mussalman hordes came and conquered the Indians as they had conquered Europe, because the Hindus had forgotten the art of war in the cultivation of the art of literature and the development of their moral and spiritual nature. They had, however, to learn it to recover their independence, and this they did. When they had recovered India from the Mussalman, the irresistible nation which rules the country now came from the West to find the Hindus in possession of their own country. They overcame the Hindus, dispossessed them of India, and have ever since been ruling the country.

This is the situation, and now we find Lord Curzon coming to confess that the 250 millions of the Indian people have been reduced to such a helpless state that if the rulers now leave them, they would perish. What a confession! Is that the result of two hundred years' British rule? Is that the result of the administration of British Governors-General, every one of whom, we are assured by Lord Curzon, governed this country, not with a view to benefit England but India alone? And is there any difference between the emancipation of a nation, who once were free, and the utterly helpless condition to which, according to Lord Curzon, they have been levelled down? We think this is the greatest condemnation of British rule in India ever uttered by its worst enemy.

As for the audience whom Lord Curzon addressed they were delighted. When Lord Curzon declared that the Viceroy worked in India only for the good of the latter, the audience cheered. When Lord Curzon enumerated some of the advantages which England derived from India, the audience also cheered. When Lord Curzon declared that the Indians had been so thoroughly emancipated that though they number 250 millions, they would perish, if left by their English masters; the same audience again cheered lustily Lord Curzon is a great leader and a finished orator.

A CASE THAT DEMANDS ENQUIRY.

In this world, nothing can be more cruel and terrible than the conviction of an innocent man and his life-long imprisonment by a Court of Justice. The three men involved in the Cuttack dacoity case are no doubt very humble individuals. They are so humble that it would be of no moment to society whether they died or lived. Yet, it created a sensation in the country when it came to be known that, through the generosity and sense of justice of Sir Andrew Fraser, and Mr. Kayvet, the Inspector-General of Police, a searching enquiry was made into the case in question and at last their innocence was established. They were all released, and one of them, as the reader knows, had to be brought back from the Andamans. The people of Cuttack specially were so powerfully moved that they held a public meeting to express their thanks to the Lieutenant-Governor and the Inspector-General of Police for having taken such keen interest in the matter.

It is believed by many that Meher Ali, who was tried at the last Criminal Sessions of the High Court and sentenced to transportation for life, has, like the Cuttack men, been a victim of conspiracy. His case requires special notice for another reason. An important law point was raised by his counsel during the course of his trial, which point still remains unsolved. First of all, let us give a short account of the case.

This Meher Ali, who is a sailor, was accused of having caused the murder of one Preo Lal Sil. The accused returned to Calcutta from a sea voyage on the 15th May last; and on the following evening he, in company with three men, namely, one Mahomed and his son Yusuf, and one Mahomed Ali, were out drinking. They returned from the grog shop at about 7-30 p.m., and were seated in an open land behind Meher Ali's house. There, the prosecution say, the deceased Preo Lal Sil came, and was killed by Meher Ali by a crowbar, because Preo Lal had a quarrel with Meher Ali's wife one and half month ago.

But though it was alleged that Preo Lal had been murdered by Meher Ali in this manner, at about 7-30 p.m. the latter, it seems, went to the police station at 8-45 p.m. the same evening and lodged a complaint against Preo Lal and Mahomed Ali for assaulting him. After making the complaint he was seated in the police station when at 9 o'clock Preo Lal's brother came there with the information that Preo had been severely assaulted by Meher Ali, and pointed him out as the man. Thereupon Meher Ali was arrested by the police and taken in custody.

Preo Lal was taken to the hospital at 10 p.m., where, after half an hour he expired. The House Surgeon who admitted Preo Lal into the hospital found four wounds on the head and one bruise on the body. Other wounds were afterwards discovered by Dr. Walsh during the "post mortem" examination, namely, the wounds on the left side of the head and the fracture of the two ribs in two places on the right side, altogether about 8 or 9 wounds.

The Police charged Meher Ali with the murder of Preo Lal and his companion, Yusuf, with assaulting the deceased with his fists. The Presidency Magistrate committed both the accused to the Sessions. The Coroner having held an inquest recorded the statements of witnesses and sent the records to the High Court Sessions, having duly complied with the requirements of law. At the trial, among others, the witnesses, who were examined before the coroner were also examined at the Sessions on behalf of the Crown. Mr. S. Roy, counsel for Meher Ali, in order to contradict them and show the inconsistency of their statements desired to put in their deposition before the Coroner, when, to his surprise, on the objection of the Standing

Counsel, the presiding Judge decided that, before the said deposition could be put in, the Coroner must be called to prove them according to the practice of the Court. This gave rise to the important point of law referred to above.

The defence Counsel in short, pointed out that according to sections 145 and 80 of the Evidence Act the said depositions were admissible without formal proof. The learned Judge, however, disallowed the documents. We would here point out that the learned Judge might very properly have reserved this point as the defence counsel asked him to do. It was a point that frequently arises and causes much inconvenience and, we may say, prejudice to the prisoner. The Coroner does not attend Sessions Court as he should and it is very inconvenient to postpone the trial at the instance of the accused that the Coroner might be called. Besides which if he were called by the accused the last word of the Jury would be claimed by the Crown.

As to the law it is entirely in support of the admissibility of the deposition for the purposes of contradiction; therefore an important question arises whether the law should prevail at the Sessions trial in the High Court or the alleged practice. We say "alleged", because we have been informed that such depositions have been admitted by the presiding Judge, without the Coroner's testimony. The prisoner submitted a petition to the Advocate-General for the purpose of obtaining a certificate on the point of law, namely, whether or not the Coroner should be called in to prove the depositions of witnesses taken before him. We regret that the learned Advocate-General has not thought fit to give his certificate under Sec. 26 of the Letters Patent, for it was a question of considerable legal importance and ought to have been decided by the Full Bench.

Now, not only was the defence Counsel not allowed to contradict the prosecution witnesses by producing their depositions before the Coroner, but there was another extraordinary feature which characterised the trial, namely, that one of the most important prosecution witnesses was not produced. This man was no other than Mahomed, father of Yusuf, who was admittedly present at the scene of the occurrence along with his son and Mahomed Ali. Indeed, the prosecution alleged that Mahomed ran away after the first blow was given to Preo Lal. It, therefore, appears that he was an eye-witness; why was he then not called? This is all the more surprising as the other man, Mahomed Ali, was produced as an important prosecution witness.

The defence alleged that Preo Lal, who was a wrestler and used to mix freely with low class Mahomedans, was mortally assaulted after Meher Ali had left to complain to the Police of his having been assaulted by Preo Lal and Mahomed Ali; and that Mahomed and his son Yusuf were active participators in the assault on Preo; and that Mahomed in the assault received wounds on his head. Therefore, it seems to us that the truth of the case can only be ascertained by the production of Mahomed, and by a thorough inquiry into the fact whether, in a general fight, it was Mahomed or some body else that inflicted the fatal wound. The number of wounds found on the body of the deceased could only have been inflicted by a number of men, and not by one man as alleged by the prosecution. The fact that Mahomed's son Yusuf took part in the assault—(Yusuf has been convicted of assault on Preo Lal and sentenced to six months)—raises the strong presumption that there must have been some row between his father and Preo, the deceased.

Now, here is a fact, which has been brought to our notice, that adds considerable interest to the case. We hear from a most reliable party that after the jurors had given their verdict and retired to their homes, a nephew of the missing Mahomed visited one of them to ascertain the result of the trial. When he learnt from the juror that Meher Ali had been convicted and sentenced to transportation for life, he enquired of him where he would be safe for his uncle, Mahomed, to appear now in public, as the wounds on his head had healed. If this enquiry by the nephew be true, it certainly raises grave suspicion as regards guilt of Meher Ali. A thorough and sitting enquiry into the facts of the case by some impartial officers is thus absolutely needed to ascertain whether or not an innocent man has been sentenced to life-long imprisonment and the real culprit has escaped.

We trust the case will attract the serious notice of both the head of the Local Government and the Chief of the High Court. The former, we hope, will be pleased to direct an enquiry into all the circumstances noted above, as he was pleased to do in regard to the dacoity case of Cuttack. (The latter will also be pleased to decide by a Full Bench, once for all, the important law point raised during the course of the trial, to which reference has been made above.)

It is mainly for two reasons that the abolition of the competitive examination for public service has evoked such strong feelings in Bengal. First, a valued, though very small, privilege, has been taken away; secondly, the manner in which it was withdrawn, namely, by an executive order without giving any explanation whatever to the public, is, however, not fair to blame the Lieutenant-Governor for this retrograde measure; for, we have simply carried out the mandate of the Supreme Government. Indeed, His Honour had nothing to do with the matter. On the other hand, he deserves our sincere thanks for the liberal interpretation he has given to the intention of the Government of India in this respect. The latter did not make it quite clear in their Resolution whether or not the graduates of the Calcutta University alone were entitled to appointments in the executive branch of the Provincial Service. Sir Andrew Fraser has removed all doubts on the point by laying it down distinctly that none but University men should get these posts. This is certainly a good safeguard against the introduction of incompetent men into the service. But then much yet remains to be done. There are graduates and graduates; how to secure the best of them, both in justice to real worth as well as in the interests of good administration? Then again, some provision should be made for candidates who have received "an education not below the

standard of B. A. examination." These candidates had the privilege of appearing at the competitive examinations and securing berths in the Provincial Service. His Honour cannot be too careful in framing the rules for the admission of candidates. The scheme ought to be such as to preclude the possibility of throwing obstacles in the way of really deserving men as also to remove all chance of abuse of patronage by the authorities. As we take it that Sir Andrew ardently sympathises with, and is anxious to afford scope to, the legitimate aspirations of really worthy young men, he may be pleased to invite the opinion of some leaders of the Indian society for the purpose of framing a really acceptable scheme. Anyhow there can be no harm if His Honour can see his way to take counsel from such persons as Maharajah Sir J. M. Tagore, Sir Gurudas Banerjee, and Rajah Peary Mohan Mukerjee.

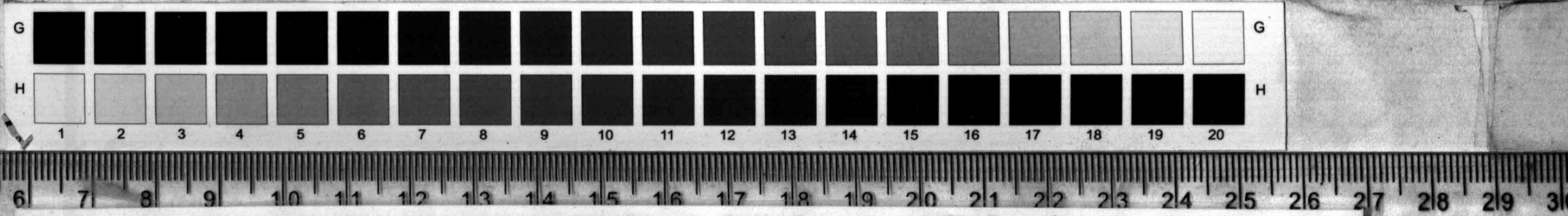
It is said American papers are very untrustworthy. The English papers, however, are not always immaculate in the accuracy of their statements. We see it stated in an English paper, which reached us by the last mail, that Lord Lansdowne, the Foreign Minister, was at one time Viceroy of India, and used to travel, Harun-ul-Rashid like, in the streets of Calcutta to gather "native" opinion. This is what Pearson's Weekly says:—

"Lord Lansdowne, the present Minister for Foreign Affairs, has held the post of Viceroy of India; in that capacity he used at times to walk about Calcutta in disguise, in order to obtain native opinion at first hand." Fancy the absurdity of the whole thing. How is he to hide himself? He can hide himself as the Viceroy, but how can he hide himself as a European, with his white skin, red hair, and grey eyes? And why will a "native," instead of shutting up his mouth, continue a conversation, if suddenly interrupted by the presence of a European? We have always tried to impress the fact upon the attention of our rulers that, if they have any interest in the detection of crime, they should put the Police in the hands of the natives of the soil. A European can never possibly hide himself in India, and, therefore, perform the duties of a detective properly. We do not know whether there is or is not sedition in India; we believe there is no sedition here in India; proper. But if the rulers are really anxious to make themselves acquainted with the real state of affairs in regard to the existence of sedition, let them transfer the Police in the hands of the natives of the soil.

To return to the ex-Viceroy. The supposition of Lord Lansdowne acting the part of a Harun-ul-Rashid is absurd on the face of it. If there was a Viceroy who could have played this role, it was Lord Curzon. So entirely was Lord Lansdowne in the hands of his advisers that he did not even know that he was one of the most unpopular of Viceroys that ever came to India. It was he who waged a crusade against the Indian press, because it had condemned in violent language his Age of Consent measure. It was he who practically annexed Kashmir, sold to Golab Singh, which was little short of a breach of faith. It was his Government which adopted the disgraceful tactics for the purpose of capturing the Manipur Prince. And, above all, the police was inaugurated during his administration to encourage cow-rites, which at one time threatened to desolate the whole country; and the most sacred mela of the Hindus, that of Hardwar, was suppressed with the help of Mussalman constables during his time. The enlig against him was as bitter as it could be; yet he was persuaded to believe that he was popular, and it was for the purpose of receiving an address from the Indian community, which, he was assured the Indians were very eager to present him, that he remained in Calcutta for about a fortnight! When it came to be known that the ex-Viceroy was waiting in Calcutta for an address, some Indian leaders fled from the city on the plea of ill-health. He certainly did not get one from the Indians. It was Lord Curzon who joined, incognito, the lakhs of people, who had assembled in the Maidan, on the occasion of the sacred Kirtan, sung there when the sad news of the Queen's death was telegraphed to this country.

We do not know whether plague is going to stay here or not. But we know cholera has made its permanent home in this country. We know further that cholera is at least as destructive as plague. We also know that good drinking water puts a check upon the growth of this red disease. In Bengal, the people are thus very much in need of good drinking water to save their lives. If the people now submit a formal petition to our Governor, Sir A. Fraser, to provide them with wholesome drinking water, he will ask them to contribute one-third of the cost, a contribution which is very hard on them and practically prevents them from availing themselves of Government help. If you, however, ask him privately, he will sincerely sympathise with your sorrows, and tell you that the Government has no money to do the deed. To prosecute the Anjwa Babus of Benar, the local authorities spent something like 2,000 rupees. When their trial was brought to an end before the Sessions Court, the Judge declared that it was "a wretched case," and acquitted the Babus. When the local authorities will present their bill of Rs. 2,500 as cost of this prosecution, the Government will accept it without any demur. But if the Government had utilized this sum of Rs. 2,500 for the supply of good drinking water for the use of the people of the Patna district, thousands of lives might have been saved. Do not the above circumstances show that the methods by which the affairs of this country are administered are defective and impracticable?

Here is another instance of Magisterial vjgor. On Monday last Mr. Jackson with Babu Dasarathi Banarj moved the High Court for a Rule upon the District Magistrate of Dacca in connection with a most extraordinary case. Babu Mohendra Nath Dutt is a first grade Assistant Surgeon of the Narayágunge Victoria Hospital. He had to make a post mortem examination upon the body of a dead man in a highly decomposed state. It was alleged that the man had been murdered, but the Police recovered the body from a "bit" or a water course after eight days and a post mortem examination was held upon it by the



ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDU-ENGLISH TOPICS.

[From our own Correspondent.] London, Aug. 5.

ANOTHER CURZON SPEECH.

II. THE PARTY SYSTEM.

Lord Curzon's words upon the Party system in England are not complimentary. "From India," he remarked, "we see the political game going on here—I need hardly explain that I do not use the word in an invidious sense—we see the political game going on here much as a sailor may look on at some great manoeuvres from the crow's nest of a ship-of-war; but we occupy a position towards it all of quite curious detachment. Getting our papers, as we do, some three weeks after the events they record I am sorry to say we skim very cursorily over the debates in the House of Commons. We are even so impatient as sometimes to doubt whether the House of Commons is either the best or the most sacred institution in the world. Those of us who have been in the House in the olden days see our old friends still at the mill—see the two sides engaged in saying much the same thing and doing pretty much the same things as they were doing years before. Probably it is all quite necessary and all quite right, for we are told that this is the only system in the world that can provide a constitutional country not only with an actual Government but with a potential Government in reserve, although I am not sure that recent events have not thrown some doubt even upon that hypothesis."

In these sentences, and in his earlier speeches, Lord Curzon deals with the drawbacks, as he conceives them, of English political life. Up to the present he has not suggested a remedy nor sketched his new model constitution. It will be interesting, now that we have his diagnosis, to hear his remedy. Perhaps—who knows?—the cure may be worse than the disease. This possibility is not so absurd as it may sound to Lord Curzon's friends and supporters, for the larger experience from which he draws in making his attack has been derived from his official career in India. Perhaps he pines for a Supreme Council in the House of Lords meeting legislatively in the House of Commons with the addition of half a dozen nominated members. Such a government undoubtedly would have its advantages. Had it been adopted in the past there would have been no Charles Bradlaugh—a voice the needs of India in the Imperial Assembly for the Government. Instead of a freely elected Parliament, there would be to-day a small clique of Cabinet officials and a smaller knot of Whig leaders, with, probably, one or two more strenuous politicians. Lord Curzon has not yet confessed that this is his scheme. But since his praise of the Indian administration—with the exception of the transitoriness of the Viceroy's period of rule—is as wholehearted as his blame of English working politics is sincere, it is not improbable that his plans lean rather towards bureaucracy than democracy. As a matter of fact Lord Curzon, like many others who have spent several years in India, cannot grasp the idea that a complex civilisation requires a complex government. Absolutism appeals to them as being ideally simple and therefore ideally desirable. They do not recognise that by its iron rules and limited grasp upon national life, it acts like a fetter rather than as a support. It confines the healthy growth of the country within narrow, stunting limits. If the country be civilised, it must be complicated in structure, and if it be thus complicated, it can not be ruled continuously by one unvarying class of opinion. Balliol culture is useful in Government; but it is only useful if combined with cultures that have other and—may be—broader outlooks. Lord Curzon is not a god; on his life's pilgrimage he must expect to meet with a few differences of opinion.

III. PARTIAL AGREEMENT.

It is a thankless task to criticise a speech from Alpha to Omega and to find no good in it. I am glad, therefore, to quote Lord Curzon's definition of an ideal party for India. In one sentence he sums up its qualifications, and I fancy most reformers in India will agree with him. "The ideal party for us in India," he declared, "and for you at home, is the party that will recognise the place of India in the Imperial system—that is, as an imperial factor, not as a troublesome appendage—when will act both as the imperial umpire as well as the superior authority in the disputes that sometimes arise between us, and that will not unduly favour the home country at our expense."

Perhaps Lord Curzon would not agree with the reformers when it came to choose the party which fulfilled this definition, but at least it would appear that both are united in what they want. The definition, however, is marred by one significant omission. There is no mention of the greatest function which lies before a real "Party for India" in the House of Commons. For that Party will not merely have to adjudicate disputes between the Indian and the British Governments. It will need to hold the balance fairly between the Indian Government and the people of India who have no power, scarcely a voice, in the direction of their own affairs. Parliament has changed the system of rule in India on several occasions in the past. After the lesson which Japan has enforced upon both the Indian and the British peoples it will be necessary again to alter the administration of Indian affairs. To have omitted this imminent duty from the definition of the ideal party for India shows how unfortunately Lord Curzon's mind is wrapped up in the past and how little he can, as yet, adapt himself to the new future. "Parliamentary interference," he added, "we do not require." He may not think that India requires it; but the time will come, whether the Indian authorities desire it or no, when Parliamentary interference will work reform in India.

IN PRAISE OF LORD CURZON.

A week or two ago I gave extracts from a letter by Mr. C. J. O'Donnell to the "Daily News" on Lord Curzon's reputation in India. There has now appeared a reply from a writer who signs himself "Etcetera," and, since one side of the correspondence has been given it is but right that a summary of the other should also appear. "Etcetera" does not believe that every organ of Indian opinion condemns Lord Curzon. "There are newspapers

outside Bengal," he says, "which, while not approving of all Lord Curzon's measures, give unstinted praise to much of his policy. One has only to take up a book like Sir Henry Cotton's 'New India'—a fair spokesman for a considerable amount of 'Indian opinion'—to see that there is much in Lord Curzon's five years' government which is admired by many of the 'three hundred millions.' The correspondent need not have omitted Bengal newspapers from his remarks. The 'Amrita Bazar Patrika,' at least, has not hesitated to praise where praise seemed to be due. Blame does not attach to its change of opinion for latterly Lord Curzon has neutralised his earlier good deeds and has stultified himself in the eyes of India. 'Etcetera' goes on to ask what Mr. O'Donnell means by retrograde policy in regard to public justice? He adds: 'I am at a loss to understand the reticence. The High Court of Calcutta has condemned several of his schemes.' What does Mr. O'Donnell mean? Some years ago the High Court was opposed to certain proposals made at that time for the so-called partition of Bengal; but the Court has not been in a position to condemn any scheme of Lord Curzon. 'He has superseded or driven out of office every man with a spark of Liberalism in him.' Who has been driven out of office?" asks "Etcetera." He continues: "No doubt if Sir Henry Cotton had been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and if Mr. Smeaton had been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Burma, these two gentlemen would not have had to retire from the Indian Civil Service under the thirty-five years' rule. Were these two gentlemen the only officers with a spark of Liberalism in them?" To this last question one can only reply that they were the leaders of that small band of Anglo-Indian officials whose Liberalism is thorough and unalloyed. Most men, unhappily, who are Liberal in England, change their views with their clothing when they leave its shores. Neither Sir Henry Cotton nor Mr. Smeaton are men of that character.

THE TIBET EXPEDITION.

It is curious how from unexpected quarters fresh light is thrown upon the unwisdom of the expedition which is now, presumably, at Lhasa. Writing from the Sagu Tea Estate in the Western Doars, Mr. E. R. Durnford takes exception to certain remarks concerning the Tibetan campaign made editorially in the "Speaker."

"On June 4th," begins Mr. Durnford, "you wrote:

- 1. 'We clearly did not know before our march began that the Lamas were so bitterly hostile to the entrance of Europeans into their country.'
2. 'We did not know that they had so completely shaken off the suzerainty of China;'

Now, sir," adds Mr. Durnford "we all who have lived in the neighbourhood of Tibet for any time were perfectly well aware of Nos. 1 and 2; decidedly aware of No. 3 as far as the possession of weapons goes, and of the probability—being fanatics for their religion and loathing Europeans—that they would not fear death. I, sir, hold no brief whatever for any officer, political or other, but there can be little doubt that the political officer responsible both knew and reported long ago facts known to us all and not him above all. This letter suggests two speculations with regard to the early history of the Tibetan muddle. Seeing that these facts were common knowledge among Anglo-Indian residents and officials on the frontier, we can only deduce from them that either Lord Curzon was misled into war by the military clique at Simla in some such manner as the Tsar—that 'royal fainéant' of modern times—was misled into war with Japan; or that the 'peaceful' character, which the expedition at first assumed, was a delicate mask to hide the Lhasa raid from a too careful enquiry by the Home authorities. From Mr. Durnford's letter it is plain that the military officers could not have failed to foresee the massacres all along the line of march. Ignorance is a plea that can no longer be urged and the blame of the warfare lies upon Simla, not upon any uncalculated 'fanaticism' of the Tibetan people.

Meanwhile, from another little expected source, London is learning the effects of the expedition upon the peoples of Central Asia.

British Correspondents in the Far East, Mr. A. G. Hales, of the 'Daily News,' and Mr. Kingswell, of the 'Cape Times,' reached St. Petersburg a few days ago after an adventurous journey from the Far East. A permit to accompany the Japanese troops to the front had been refused to Mr. Hales, who, therefore, decided that there was nothing for him to do but return to England. From General Kuropatkin he and Mr. Kingswell received permission to travel where they pleased in Manchuria, Mongolia, Siberia, and Russia. So they decided to cross the Gobi Desert via Kaigan, and Kiakta, to Verch. Uinsk, where the Siberian Railway touches; thence they crossed Lake Baikal and reached European Russia. The travellers chose the Gobi route because they had heard from an Australian and also from Chinese sources that a movement was on foot in Mongolia to raise an army to help the Tibetans against the British. At Urga, the second stronghold of Buddhism in the world, and the seat of a Living Buddha, a great meeting was being prepared for August 2, and tens of thousands of Lamas and disciples were already arriving. Almost every third man, explains Mr. Kingswell, is in that country, a Lama. "Priests and apostles," he continues, "are now being sent to India and to China, and even to Japan, to preach a holy war against Great Britain. The Lamas, who are nominally vowed to celibacy, are magnificent men physically. Mr. Hales and I called upon the Living Buddha, who is a young man of thirty, and ranks second only to the Grand Lama of Lhasa." [He really ranks third since Tashilumpo takes precedence of him.] "He sent a reply to the effect that he refused to see any Englishman, and declared that the English had no right in his dominions. We sent him presents," adds Mr. Kingswell, "but his servants threw them over the wall, and let loose against us all the dogs of the palace, including a wolfhound which, we were afterwards told, was a present from the Tsar." That wolfhound is a most suspicious gift. The "Times" should note that it comes from Russian sources. If the Tsar sends any more dogs to Urga, there should be quite sufficient reason for another expedition.

Assistant Surgeon. On examining the body, the latter found that a part of it had disappeared from decomposition and that it had not been cut off. He was thus not in a position to give any opinion as to the cause of death owing to the highly decomposed state of the body; and in this view Lieut. Col. Campbell, Civil Surgeon of Dacca, agreed. The Sub-Divisional Officer of Narayanganj was, however, of opinion that the man had been murdered; and, because, the Assistant Surgeon could not give any definite opinion, therefore the Magistrate has ordered him to be prosecuted under sections 193, 218 of the Indian Penal Code.

Mr. P. G. RUGGERS, the Sub-Divisional Officer in question, delivered the following judgment when the persons, accused of murdering the man, were brought before him by the police:

"The medical evidence is in conflict with the other testimony; although I believe the accused to be guilty, the evidence against them is not conclusive enough to warrant their commitment. They are discharged under Sec. 209 Cr. P. Code. Having delivered the above judgment, the Sub-Divisional Officer, on the 27th July, recorded a proceeding under Sec. 476 Cr. P. Code and called upon the Asst. Surgeon to show cause he should not be prosecuted under Secs. 193 and 218 I. P. C. In showing cause he stated "that the corpse was brought before him in a highly decomposed state and that he stated in his 'post mortem' report what he found to have been the facts and that the opinion expressed in his report and the deposition before the Court were his 'bonafide' belief, which he came to entertain after the 'post mortem' examination." The Magistrate then passed the following order:—

"Cause shown, not sufficient. The record of the case is herewith transferred to the District Magistrate of Dacca under Sec. 426 Cr. P. C. Mohendra Nath Dutta will give bail of Rs. 500 to appear before him on this day week, August 9th. The record of the case Jamiruddi vs. Nasu and others will also be sent herewith."

On the 8th the petitioner appeared before the District Magistrate, but the case was not proceeded with as the witnesses were not in attendance. The case has been fixed for hearing on the 23rd August.

As the case is sub-judice we make no comments upon it. It is however hardly necessary to point out that it will strike terror and consternation in the ranks of the Assistant Surgeons, if they are made liable to be prosecuted criminally simply because their evidence disagrees with other evidence. Indeed, that appears to be the ground upon which the Assistant Surgeon of Narayanganj has been hauled up. In short, the doctrine is monstrous that, because medical evidence is in conflict with other evidence, therefore, the Assistant Surgeon, who made the post mortem examination, should be put on his trial upon a criminal charge. Perhaps the Magistrate of Narayanganj has other grounds to proceed against the Assistant Surgeon; for, we cannot conceive that, a gentleman, in the position of an Assistant Surgeon, with whose opinion the Civil Surgeon agrees, has been subjected to all this trouble, simply because his evidence, honestly given, did not tally with other prosecution evidence.

This case reminds us of another which took place a few years ago, and in which also an Assistant Surgeon was most unjustly treated by Mr. Egerton, the then Magistrate of Murshidabad. He was convicted and sent to six months' rigorous imprisonment by Mr. Egerton, but the Sessions Judge acquitted him and made severe comments upon the conduct of the prosecution. We shall relate the facts of this case in a subsequent issue.

MR. GLADSTONE, though he oftentimes held the position of a dictator in the Empire, never paid any attention to the condition of India. Mr. Chamberlain, when developing his fiscal policy, clean forgot India. Mr. Stead, though a philanthropist, plays the same role, India being nowhere in his programme of universal redemption. But as Mr. Stead is a servant of God, and not a servant of the Empire, like the other two, he has no right to forget this poor country, whose liberty has been taken away by Englishmen. We are pleased and always expect, to find sentiments like the following in his "Review of Reviews" to hand:—

"While moralising over the drain upon Russian resources, it will be well for us to remember that Britain also is perilously near the exhaustion, not of money, but of men. Our War Office is almost at its wits' end to procure recruits for our Indian garrison. We are sending out troops to India whose term of service will have expired before they are fit to take the field. Mr. Brodrick and Lord Milner between them have succeeded in making military service so unpopular that the men refuse to re-enlist. Nor must it be forgotten, while discussing the cost of Empire, that the chief burden falls upon the starving peasants of India. They cannot revolt, they can only die. The conversion of 10 per cent. normal increase of population in two-fifths of India to an absolute decrease of 11 per cent. between 1891 and 1901 is one of those appalling facts the full significance of which the imagination fails adequately to realise. And yet it is from these miserable famine-stricken fellow-subjects of ours that we are draining the life-blood in order to persist in the campaign on the housetop of Asia, which threatens to add to our Imperial burdens the conquest of Tibet. There has been more fighting near Gyantse, and more Tibetans have been slain. But 20,000 of these patriotic mountaineers, urdismayed by slaughter, still resist our advance. We may wade through blood to the capital of the Lamas, but after that—what? More bloodshed, more taxation, more misery without end."

The reason why Mr. Stead forgets India is perhaps he thinks the case of this country is hopeless. The desperate condition of India, on the other hand, requires that it should remain constantly in his mind.

In America they are using the poisons of reptiles and insects for medicinal purposes. These poisons are used both internally and externally. It is now admitted that the poison of the bee is good for rheumatism. This poison, it is said, neutralises the uric acid

which medical science declares to be the cause of rheumatism. It is claimed in America that a serum, derived in the usual way based on cobra poison is sent largely to India as a cure for bites of that deadly serpent. This is, however, not known here. Our physicians prepare the most potent of stimulants from the poison of the black cobra (keuta). In America the demand for rattle snake serum is now so great that the collection of it has become a regular industry. All handlers of these reptiles engage in it. This venom is green and of the consistency of molasses. A large rattle snake will yield a tablespoonful of it. A large keuta, however, will yield two to three spoonfuls of poison, and its colour and consistency is like that of honey. Snake poison, however, when taken internally will not kill though it will cause a disturbance in the system. It will cause determination of the blood to the head, and produce intense headache. The bite of the daboil will produce fever, swelling and mortification of the parts, and death after an intense suffering for days.

For, however, one of the best and least injurious stimulants known to medical science we are obliged to the familiar little reptile. It is difficult to overestimate the value of this discovery for every one who has to make any muscular effort. But the reptile whose venom has created the greatest sensation in the medical world as a curative agent is the deadly lizard known as the Gila Monster. This poison is not only valuable as an antivenomous serum, but has been proved a valuable remedy for the kind of paralysis known as locomotor ataxia. So deadly is the Gila Monster's venom that it cannot be safely administered as a medicine until it has been diluted to the one-hundred-thousandth part of its pure strength. This is equivalent to mixing one drop of venom in five quarts of alcohol. Dr. Charles D. Belden obtained some of the venom by causing a captured reptile to bite a piece of thick glass, and found it unlike the poison of any other reptile.

But what is this Gila Monster? Is it like our "go sap"? The popular impression here is that this reptile, the "go sap" (scientifically called Varanus Flavescens) has a deadly poison, not in its bite, but in its saliva, and if this poison touches the human skin the man suffers excruciating pain and generally succumbs to the poison. Of course, we did not believe the story. But one day we had the good luck of coming across one of these reptiles, about two feet in length. We intended to drive it away, and with that intention approached it. But as it was running away it showed signs of fury and began to approach us with hisses, and spitting saliva at us, with its restless and prehensile tongue. But being pelted with stones it slowly turned back, all the while, however, showing its anger by his hiss, the bent of its body, and uplifted hairs. So far we had no positive proof that it carried a poison. Its defiance, however, showed that, small and helpless as it was and it seemed to be, it was aware that it had in possession something dreadful, with which it could do harm. But subsequently we came across the account of a lizard in South America, the description of which showed that it was our "go sap" or a reptile very much like it. And this account said that this reptile had a poison and, a deadly poison, and that it was in its saliva which it spits forth at its victims. A man who had been thus spitted at, recovered after a week's illness, suffering horribly all the while.

If the resources of India are remaining undeveloped, though it is under the rule of the most "exploiting" nation in the world, the reason is plain: it is because the Indians are poor and unenterprising and the rulers apathetic. It has indeed been realized in America that the British Government is not willing or prepared to develop the resources of India. And some of the Americans have said that since England is not willing to do it, America with its surplus capital must try it. Just see how vastly can India yet be developed. In India we grow 20 mds. or three-fourths of a ton of rice paddy in an acre, but it is possible to triple the yield. The best sugar industry of continental Europe has destroyed our cane and date sugar industry, but by the aid of science it can yet be revived. There was gold in Mysore, but it was American ingenuity alone that succeeded in extracting it. Our London correspondent has referred to the movement in the United States on behalf of the development of India. Elsewhere will be found an important communication on the subject quoted from the New York "Sun."

Lord Kitchener will return to Simla from Chini on the 6th September.

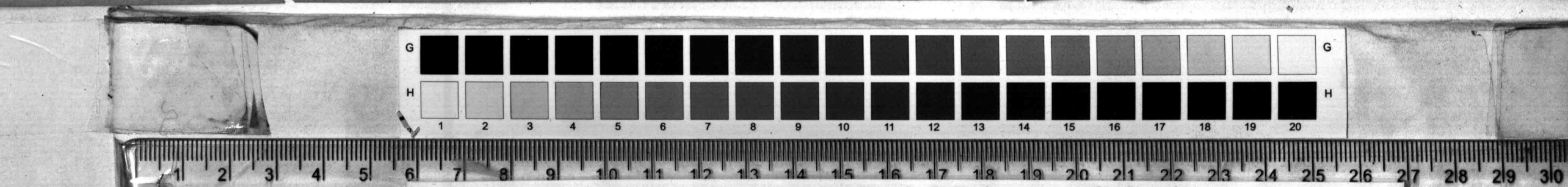
The Viceroy and Lady Amplthill will be entertained at a farewell ball early in October by members of the United Service Club, Simla.

The District Judge of Calcutt has written to the District Superintendent of Police, reporting the extreme unpreparedness of certain S. H. Os to answer questions put to them in Court. As every question, they refer to their note-books and cause much delay and vexation. As they cannot remember important facts relating to their cases, it is high time, the Judge remarks, that they should be eased of the burden of the S. H. O.'s duty.

A little after nine o'clock the other night a Gunner of the Royal Garrison Artillery, Fort Sant George, named William Davis, got into the Central Station and walked up to Messrs Spencer and Co.'s buffet, which was at the time closed. He then made his way into the bar and forcibly opened one of the drawers which was locked up at the time. All that the drawers contained was a pair of spectacles, Messrs. Spencer and Co.'s servants' badge, and license which was framed. He at once broke the whole three and after smashing the water pot which was in the enclosure, went up to the telephone which was also within the enclosure of the Buffet and damaged it by breaking the wires and knocking out the speaking trumpet. The Railway Police were soon on the scene and after arresting the accused handed him over to the Military authorities at Fort St. George Davis who, quite sober on being questioned as to what induced him to commit himself, is reported to have replied that he wanted to get out of the Army. He will shortly be put up before a Magistrate.—"Hindu."

Mr. Gladstone, though he oftentimes held the position of a dictator in the Empire, never paid any attention to the condition of India. Mr. Chamberlain, when developing his fiscal policy, clean forgot India. Mr. Stead, though a philanthropist, plays the same role, India being nowhere in his programme of universal redemption. But as Mr. Stead is a servant of God, and not a servant of the Empire, like the other two, he has no right to forget this poor country, whose liberty has been taken away by Englishmen. We are pleased and always expect, to find sentiments like the following in his "Review of Reviews" to hand:—

"While moralising over the drain upon Russian resources, it will be well for us to remember that Britain also is perilously near the exhaustion, not of money, but of men. Our War Office is almost at its wits' end to procure recruits for our Indian garrison. We are sending out troops to India whose term of service will have expired before they are fit to take the field. Mr. Brodrick and Lord Milner between them have succeeded in making military service so unpopular that the men refuse to re-enlist. Nor must it be forgotten, while discussing the cost of Empire, that the chief burden falls upon the starving peasants of India. They cannot revolt, they can only die. The conversion of 10 per cent. normal increase of population in two-fifths of India to an absolute decrease of 11 per cent. between 1891 and 1901 is one of those appalling facts the full significance of which the imagination fails adequately to realise. And yet it is from these miserable famine-stricken fellow-subjects of ours that we are draining the life-blood in order to persist in the campaign on the housetop of Asia, which threatens to add to our Imperial burdens the conquest of Tibet. There has been more fighting near Gyantse, and more Tibetans have been slain. But 20,000 of these patriotic mountaineers, urdismayed by slaughter, still resist our advance. We may wade through blood to the capital of the Lamas, but after that—what? More bloodshed, more taxation, more misery without end."



Slapping a Witness.—Before a Bench of Honorary Presidency Magistrates, a case of theft was tried in which one Sheik Chedi was accused of committing theft of harness from a stable. The Court found the accused guilty and sentenced him to undergo six weeks' rigorous imprisonment. As the prisoner was being removed from the dock, he gave a violent slap to a witness, who was standing close to the dock. Mr. Malapatra, the Court Inspector, charged the man with contempt of Court and placed him on his trial before the same Bench. Accused pleaded guilty and said that he did so under provocation, inasmuch as the witness remarked, on hearing the sentence passed on him, that he was well served. The Court convicted the accused and sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 50 in default to suffer a month's simple imprisonment, after the expiry of the sentence passed on him on the charge of theft.

Treasuries in Bengal.—After perusing the Report on the working of Treasuries in Bengal for the year 1900-1904, the Lieutenant-Governor has observed with satisfaction on the continued improvement in the working of the treasuries in Bengal and the great decline in the number of mistakes committed as compared with the previous year. The actual number was 2,321 against 3,660 in 1902-1903. The improvement has been most marked in the treasuries at Darjeeling, Bogra, Midnapore, Shalabadi, Tippera, Darbhanga, Saan, Malda, Hazaribagh, and Dacca, but there were several grave errors in the last-named treasury. The following treasuries are reported to have done particularly well:—Bogra, Tippera, Shalabadi, Darbhanga, Saan, Malda, and Hazaribagh. The number of faults was also low in Manbhum (5), Khulna (15), Puri (17), and Monghyr (19), but they were not entirely free from serious irregularities. The attention of Government has been drawn by the Accountant-General to the names of the following Treasury Officers who are worthy of special notice for the excellence of their work:—Syed Mujibur Rahman, Malda; Babu Manmatha Kumar Bose, Bogra; Munshi Nundjee, Darbhanga; Babu Banka Bishari Singh; Suresh Chunder Sen, Saan; Mr. C. Ward-Jones, Hazaribagh. The Lieutenant-Governor has much pleasure in acknowledging their services.

Appointment of a Receiver.—At the High Court on Thursday before Mr. Justice Stephen, Mr. Garth, instructed by Messrs. B.N. Bose and Co., appeared in support of a rule obtained on behalf of Madhoo Monee Dass, widow of the late Dwarkanath Mitter, claiming on Rai Bahadur Omirath Mitter to show cause why he should not make over possession of "Stridhan," and movable and immovable properties belonging to her late husband, and why on his refusing to do so, a receiver should not be appointed. Mr. Jackson, instructed by Babu Hirendro Nath Dutt, said that he appeared for Rai Bahadur Omirath Mitter to answer the rule. The circumstances of the case are these:—The rule was served on the 20th instant, and as there are some serious charges in it to be answered, he would ask that the hearing of the rule might be allowed to stand over for a fortnight. His lordship would recollect that the applicant asked for the appointment of a receiver, and she suggested in her affidavit among other things that the defendant had given a handsome donation of Rs. 22,000 towards the establishment of an outdoor eye dispensary, and also Rs. 2,000 towards the Victoria Memorial Fund, moneys belonging to her late husband, which were given without her consent, for which he was highly praised by Government. There are other matters, besides these which required to be investigated, and this needed time. Under the circumstances counsel submitted that the time asked for was not unreasonable. Mr. Garth objected to the matter being allowed to stand over for a fortnight. He was willing to give his friend a week within which he could collect all the materials that are necessary for the purposes of his case. His lordship after hearing both sides allowed the matter to stand over for a week. It would be taken up the first thing on Thursday.

THE RAINFALL IN WESTERN INDIA. A SERIOUS POSITION.

Bombay, Aug. 26. The agricultural position in the Bombay Presidency has now reached an acute phase. Yesterday was the coconut day festival which is usually regarded as closing the rainy season. The rainfall throughout Western India is in grave and serious defect. In Ahmedabad the rainfall is 19.20 inches below the average, in Rajkot 11.13 inches, in Bhavnagar 8.40 inches, and in Surat 25 inches. The Deccan is in even a worse case; Malegaon has received only 5.98 inches, Purna but 4.64 and Ahmedabad 4.42, but Sholapur is better off, and with 9.10 inches is less than four inches below the mean. Even in Bombay city we have received only 30.27 inches or 2.6 less than is customary by this season of the year, and in Bijapur the rainfall has been as scanty as in Purna, 4.75 inches being the recent official record.

The situation is most serious but not desperate. The actual amount of damage done to crops is not large, except perhaps to rice in Gujarat, though a considerable area remain unown in the Deccan. But the fate of the kharif harvest is trembling in the balance. In Ahmedabad the standing crops are suffering from want of rain, in the Panch Mahals they are in good condition but need more rain. Kaira reports that rain is urgently needed, and so also do Broach and Surat, but Broach cotton is in a fair condition. The case of the Deccan is more anxious still. In any case the outturn of the kharif crops will be far below the average, and if late rains fail it will be almost a negligible quantity. One hope of these districts lies in the rabi harvest, of September is an auspicious month. There will be a troublesome shortage of water for the well-level has fallen to a point, which no late rain can be expected to remedy. In the southern division Bijapur is a badly circumstanced as Purna and Ahmednagar, but in Belgaum, Dharwar and Satara the rainfall has been more abundant. Everything hinges upon the nature of the weather during the next three weeks. If the rainfall is good the kharif crop will be saved over a large area, and the rabi crop will be given an excellent start. If it falls famine conditions will obtain over the major portion of the Deccan and Bijapur, and severe scarcity, if not famine, will afflict large tracts in Gujarat.

The Tibet Expedition.

Simla, Aug. 23. A telegram from General Macdonald, dated Lhasa, 5 a.m., August 19th, says:—On the 15th we reconnoitred the Kichu River for crossings and ferries. The river here is about 100 yards wide at its narrowest, but is generally split up into several channels 50 to 80 yards wide and is unfordable anywhere. The people using skin boats show that the passage would take as long as for the Sango for the whole force. On the 16th we commenced a survey of Lhasa. A reconnoitring party was sent six miles up the Trilung Valley. The Tibetans have released two Sikhim prisoners in good health who had been caught at Khambajong last year.

On the 17th the troops went for a short march up the main Kichu Valley. Col. Younghusband visited the Amban under an escort. All is quiet in the vicinity and there are no signs of any armed force within a day's march. Supplies are still arriving satisfactorily. The Sango is still in full flood and some 800 yards wide. Snow is reported at Nangartse and on the Karola.

Gyangtse, Tibet, Aug. 24. Lhasa, Aug. 21st:—The prospects of a speedy settlement is more hopeful. The longsa Penop Bhutan Raja said in durbat that he hoped Bhutan, Nepal and Tibet would join in common friendship with England. The Tibetan Regent said he cordially reciprocated these sentiments. The Dalai Lama so far from returning to Lhasa has fled further towards Mongolia in company with Dorjeit, the mysterious Russian, who has so long exercised such a baneful influence over the Tibetans' councils. The monks of the monasteries in the vicinity of Lhasa have been confined to their quarters in consequence of a fanatical attack made on Captains Young and Kelly last Thursday.

Gyangtse, Tibet, Aug. 25. Lhasa Aug. 20:—Some disturbing incidents have recently taken place. The other day an Indian officer, with the survey party, near Ahaksam, riding somewhat detached, was assailed by six Tibetan swordsmen. He frightened his assailants away by firing a revolver. A second affair, much more serious, happened on Thursday morning. Two officers of the Indian Medical Service, Captain C. Young and Captain Kelly, whilst only a few feet away from the camp close to two sentries, were rushed at by a Lama, who had a sword concealed beneath his robe. He first struck Captain Young on the back of his head and knocked him down, and then attacked Captain Kelly. The latter flung his hat into his assailant's face, then seized a rifle from a sepoy, and prodded the Lama in the arm and face. The man fell, but caught Captain Kelly and gave a severe gash in the hand, then butted Captain Kelly with his head and threw him down. After this the Lama rose and faced Captain Young, who in the interval had got up and made for the Lama with an empty scabbard which the latter had thrown away. The scabbard proved a useless weapon. The fanatic struck Captain Young a heavy blow on his head, inflicting a wound six inches long. After this he ran at a sentry who tried to force his bayonet into his body. The sentry not only failed, but had his rifle snatched away from him. The Lama flourishing his sword in one hand and rifle in the other, ran straight into the main wing of the Camp. Here he met a fatigue party of Pioneers armed with picks and shovels. The scene that followed, baffles description. The officers and men ran in from all quarters. The fanatic was knocked down many times and deprived of his arms, but again and again shook himself free, fighting with his teeth and hands and feet. He was, however, finally secured and bound hand and foot, and carried to guard-quarters spitting in the faces of the captors. On examination the man proved to be of herculean proportion, with the host and arms of a professional prize fighter. Under his robe was found a closely woven shirt of mail, which accounted for so many blows not taking effect. The wounds on his head and arms proved superficial. He was condemned to death and duly executed yesterday. Both the wounded officers are doing well and are not in any danger. Again this morning word was brought in that an interpreter, attached to the force, was lying dangerously wounded in the city. He was brought in by the armed party and found to have seven severe sword wounds. The man's story is, he was suddenly attacked by some unknown persons in a grove at dusk yesterday. He managed to crawl back to the city and was tended to till morning by some shopkeepers. These attacks are probably isolated cases of fanaticism or expressions of popular feeling. In any case supplies are still coming in freely. The market is largely attended as ever. The Lhasa officials express the greatest regret and will pay a fine of five thousand rupees levied on the city to-morrow.

Simla, Aug. 26. A telegram from General Macdonald dated Lhasa, August 21st, 5 a.m.:—On the 18th a lama savagely attacked two unarmed medical officers, Captain Kelly and Cook-Young, I.M.S., at the entrance to the camp with a sword, slightly wounding the latter on the head. The man was captured. He said he belonged to Amdung in Western Tibet and had no connection with the local monasteries, but came with the intention of killing. He was armed with a sword and dagger and was clad in a coat of mail under his red monk's garments. The case is thought to be only an isolated case of fanaticism. On the 19th instant, I reconnoitred to Penam Gangla. There were no signs of any gathering. The Nepalese Resident reports a further dispersal of the Tibetan soldiers. The Te Runpoch, now the leading man in Lhasa, called and expressed regret at the occurrence on the 18th. On the 20th, the troops marched out 5 miles west. The minimum temperature here at night is now 35 deg. The weather is improving and the Brahmaputra is going down.

The Amir of Kabul is reported to have recently received Afridi "jurgas" numbering several hundred persons. They were considered to be treated during the stay at Kabul.

It is understood that reconnoitring and survey parties will continue to be sent out in the neighbourhood of Lhasa, in order that accurate information regarding the surrounding country may be obtained.

THE PLAGUE MORTALITY.

Simla, Aug. 24. A further small rise took place in the plague mortality last week, owing to an increase in the Bombay Presidency, where 3,566 deaths occurred. Mysore had 716 deaths, Madras Presidency 475, Bombay City 42, Karachi City 2, Calcutta 3, Bengal 335, United Provinces 361, Punjab 33, Central Provinces 93, Coorg 7, Hyderabad State 201, Central India 230, and Rajputana 134.

SIMLA NEWS.

Simla, Aug. 26. The Viceroy and Lady Amthill will probably pay a flying visit to Narkanda and the famous Bagi forest at the end of September. We hear that Lady Curzon will bring out a motor car and will use the same in Calcutta this cold weather. It has been presented to her by Mrs. Leiter, and is described as a perfect car.

PROPOSED MISSION TO PERSIA.

Allahabad, Aug. 24. The proposed mission to Southern Persia which will leave India about the end of September and be purely commercial in character will be accompanied by some official or officials in Persia, but no definite arrangements have yet been made as to this. Seistan will not be visited as the commercial possibilities of that region have already been examined. The tour will cover that part of Persia regarding which we have the least information at present, and which can readily be served from the Gulf Ports.

THE MAGISTRATE AND POLICE.

A TRICHINOPOLY INCIDENT. Madras, Aug. 25. The following important order was published yesterday by the Madras Government on the case of the Magistrate-Police contemps in the Trichinopoly. The case had created a great sensation in the Presidency. The full text of the order is as follows:—The attention of the Governor is Council has been drawn to an incident which occurred in the town Sub-Magistrate's Court at Trichinopoly on the 26th of July, and he has considered it necessary to make enquiries from the District Magistrate as to the exact facts of the occurrence. From correspondence submitted by Mr. C. G. Spencer, Acting District Magistrate, it appears that on the 20th of July a complaint was made by the cantonment station house officer of Trichinopoly to the Superintendent of Police of the conduct of the town Sub-Magistrate in making an improper observation against the police prior to and while trying a police case on the 18th idem. The Superintendent of Police, Mr. Clogstoun drew the attention of the District Magistrate to the matter and asked him to take notice of it. On the District Magistrate's enquiry the Sub-Magistrate admitted the truth of the complaint, and the District Magistrate thereupon proposed that the station house officer should meet the Sub-Magistrate at the Collector's house and there receive an apology from him. To this course the Superintendent of Police objected, suggesting that an apology should be tendered in the Court of the Magistrate where the offensive words had been spoken. Mr. Spencer fell in with this suggestion, and accordingly directed the Sub-Magistrate to make a public apology in his own Court before beginning work on Monday, the 26th of July. On the morning of the 26th of July the Police Superintendent, Mr. Clogstoun, went to the Sub-Magistrate's Court, where also were assembled in uniform the inspectors and some head constables of the town and the Srirangam Police Divisions and a newspaper reporter. An Inspector of Police read out an account of the occurrence on the 18th idem, and the Sub-Magistrate read a paper withdrawing and apologising for the remarks he had made. The Police Superintendent thanked him for the apology, and withdrew. Mr. Clogstoun appears to have prevented the general public from gaining admission to the Court until the apology had been tendered. The District Magistrate admits that he knew that the Superintendent intended to be present in the Magistrate's Court when the apology was given, but did not know that a party of inspectors and head constables, who accompanied the Superintendent, were to be present.

His Excellency the Governor in Council has read these papers with much regret:—He could not have conceived it possible that an officer holding the responsible position of a District Magistrate could have allowed himself to be led into sanctioning such an occurrence as that described above. While Mr. Spencer rightly considered that unfounded aspersions upon and insinuations against the police has been made by the Sub-Magistrate and deserved his severe notice it should have occurred to him that the proper administration of justice would be rendered impossible if the police with his sanction were allowed to cast disrespect on the court in disposing of the criminal work of the town. Mr. Spencer's fault may have lain largely in weakness in giving way to the insistence of his Superintendent of Police, but as a District Magistrate he cannot be relieved of the direct and final responsibility for what occurred. As to the Superintendent of Police the Government cannot but characterise the part played by him in this affair as a grave scandal. Instead of setting a proper example to his subordinate officers Mr. Clogstoun paraded them to witness the discomfiture of a Magistrate, thus degrading the administration of justice in the eyes of his own subordinates as well as of the general public. His Excellency the Governor in Council considers it necessary to mark his severe displeasure with the officers who are responsible for this most deplorable occurrence. Mr. Spencer, acting District Magistrate, will revert to his permanent appointment as Sub-Collector and Joint Magistrate, and will not be promoted again for at least three months; Mr. Clogstoun will be reduced for six months to the top of fifth grade of Superintendents of Police. As regards the Sub-Magistrate the Government considers he has shown himself to be unfitted to hold magisterial powers, and he will be deprived of them. The Collector and the District Magistrate of Trichinopoly will be directed to appoint him to a suitable ministerial post in the District.

The Commissioner for the Port of Rangoon are inviting tenders for a loan of twenty lakhs of rupees against four and half per cent. debentures repayable at par on 15th October, 1904, for carrying out certain works connected with the Port of Rangoon.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS. THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, Aug. 22. A proclamation has been issued at Malta, forbidding the coaling of belligerent ships proceeding to the seat of war, or anywhere on the line of route, with the object of intercepting neutral ships on suspicion of carrying contraband. The "Times" understands it will be issued in all British dependencies.

Reuter at Shanghai says that the Consuls decided at their meeting to refer the question of the warships to Peking, and that the work on the "Askold" is to be suspended for forty-eight hours.

The officials at Washington state that the American warships are specially instructed not to attempt to protect Chinese neutrality. The American Admiral is not instructed to interfere with the action of the Japanese vessels. The officials are convinced that the Japanese do not intend to violate the neutrality.

Reuter at Shanghai says the American Admiral declares that the visit of the "Chauncey" to Shanghai is not connected with the Japanese destroyer.

Reuter wires from Chifu to-day that Japanese swept the Russians from Pigeon Bay and captured the northern-most fort of the western line of the inner defences. The Russian artillery prevents the Japanese occupying the fort of Pigeon Bay.

It is officially stated at St. Petersburg that the Japanese bombarded Korskorsk yesterday. The damage done was trifling.

London, Aug. 23. Reuter at Shanghai says that the Naval Court investigating the case of the British steamer "Hipsang," torpedoed by a Russian destroyer in Pigeon Bay on the 16th ultimo, holds that the "Hipsang" was sunk without just cause and reason. The Court draws the attention of the Board of Trade and the Foreign Office thereto.

The appearance of the Russian cruiser on the Cape route has evoked renewed protests in the Press. The "Times," in view of Russia's formal undertakings in reference to Volunteer cruisers says that if the cruiser is really the Smolensk the question has relapsed to an acute stage, demanding a prompt and vigorous treatment.

The Liverpool Chamber of Commerce has forwarded to Lord Lansdowne a resolution earnestly hoping that arrangements will be speedily concluded to remedy the grave detriment to British commerce resulting from Russia's contraband proceedings. The co-operation of all other Chambers is solicited.

It is stated that the cruiser seen off Cape St. Francis is the Smolensk, but possibly it is one of the converted German liners. A "Daily News" telegram from Berlin states that the German Consul at Shanghai has been instructed not to interfere in regard to Chinese neutrality.

The Russophyl Journal Kreuzzeitung admits that the Japanese demands at Shanghai are perfectly just. Admiral Ukhomsky reports that the returned vessels lost 155 in killed.

London, Aug. 24. Reuter's Chifu correspondent says that Port Arthur refugees agree that the Japanese after severe fighting on 21st occupied the Etzeshan Fort and destroyed two forts at Chockanko within the eastern fortifications. There is scarcely a building in Port Arthur not damaged.

There is much dissatisfaction at St. Petersburg over the Malta proclamation regarding coaling. The "Novoye Vremya" describes it as an act of hostility to Russia since it cannot possibly affect Japan.

The assaults on Port Arthur continue. Details received at Chifu are confusing, but indicate that the Japanese are slowly advancing.

Reuter at Shanghai says the time fixed for the disarmament or departure of the Russian warships has passed without compliance. The Japanese Squadron is still outside the harbour awaiting developments.

Reuter at Durban says it is believed the Smolensk is looking for the British steamer Ormley from New York for Tusan with railway material. The Ormley left Durban on Sunday.

Admiral Wrenius has informed a correspondent of a Paris paper, that owing to injuries received, the Askold and Grosvoil and the Diana will be dismantled.

Reuter at Tokio says that it is officially stated that the Sevastopol emerging from Port Arthur on Augustday struck a mine and listed and had to be towed to Port Arthur.

London, Aug. 25. A Daily Telegraph message from Cape Town states that orders have been given that no Russian warships are to be allowed to coal at Cape ports without reference to headquarters.

A meeting of the India and China section of the London Chamber of Commerce has been hastily summoned to-day to consider the contraband situation.

It is stated at St. Petersburg that before dismantling the ships at Shanghai, Russia insists upon Japan giving an assurance that she will not repeat the Rechiteln incident.

A Times telegram from Shanghai states that Commander Reitzenstein has received orders from the Tsar to disarm the Askold and Grosvoil forthwith, and that both lowered their flags at seven last evening.

Reuter at Shanghai, says the time limit of the Russians to effect repairs has been extended to the 28th instant.

A Paris telegram received from Saigon says that the Diana is damaged by a shell below the waterline. Another shell killed four on board and wounded 23.

Telegrams received at St. Petersburg, from Liaoyang, state that thirty thousand Japanese with 200 guns are advancing in two columns from Yingkow towards Haicheng and a third column is moving northward west of the railway.

The Russian cruiser Ural stopped the Anchor Liner Asia bound to Calcutta off Cape St. Vincent and detained her for two hours. Reuter at Tokio says that two Russian destroyers struck mines at the entrance to Port Arthur last evening. The larger boat sank. The names of the boats and the loss of life unknown.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS. THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

Three Russian cruisers are reported to be coaling from the German steamer "Valesia" at Cape July.

Reuter at Shanghai says that the orders for dismantling the "Askold" and "Grosvoil" have been officially confirmed, and the vessels will be moved alongside the "Mandjuar" until the war is over. The Japanese warships remain outside until the dismantling is completed.

Reuter's correspondent with General Kurroki's head-quarters says that fair weather has returned and the soil is drying rapidly. It is reported that the Russians are heavily fortifying Liaoyang.

Mr. Balfour, replying to a deputation from the Chambers of Commerce, said that the Government had directed urgent enquiries to the Russian Government regarding the "Smolensk" in South African waters, and it then appeared that the Russian Government had hitherto been unable to communicate instructions to the Volunteer Cruisers and hence the recent incidents. Thereupon the two Governments agreed that the Cape cruisers should find the Volunteers, and Britain had ordered two Cape cruisers immediately to seek the "Smolensk" and "Petersburg" and convey to them the Russian instructions to desist from searching. He hoped, therefore, that the incidents had ended. The deputation, he said, might rely that the declaration made in the King's speech was not mere vague language. The British Government meant exactly what it said, and the rights of the great shipping trade would not be ignored by the Government or any Government to which British interests were confined.

London, Aug. 26. The deputation to Mr. Balfour was the outcome of the Chamber meeting mentioned yesterday, to which Mr. Balfour intimated his readiness to receive the deputation immediately. Mr. Balfour in his reply declared that, while admitting that coal and food were contraband, if for warlike purposes, he disputed the Russian doctrine in reference to these and other things. Government, he said, had clearly defined to Russia the British position, from which there was no possibility of Great Britain receding. It had not, he said, been clearly proved that Russia had differentiated between British and foreign ships; but if proved, the most serious situations would arise.

Admiral Ukhomsky reports that the vessels which returned to Port Arthur on the 11th instant were the Retvisan, Sevastopol, Peresvit, Pobeda, Pobtava and Pallada, and three torpedo boats. They lost 38 killed and 307 wounded. The Commander of the Novik reports that after 45 minutes there were three holes below the waterline and two above. The steering gear and most of the boilers were disabled and he sunk her at night to prevent capture. He had three casualties on the 10th and nineteen on the 20th.

Kuropatkin telegraphs that the heat is causing a recurrence of dysentery among his force. Frequent outpost affairs are taking place south of Aushanban.

GENEVA.

London, Aug. 24. A manifesto of the Tsar on the occasion of the baptism of the Tsarevitch provides for the general reduction of Common Law sentences, amnesty for political offences except murder, abolition of the corporal punishment of the rural classes, and for first offence of soldiers and sailors, remits various arrears of taxes, assigns three million roubles for the benefit of farms not possessing land, remits fines imposed on Finnish Communists for resisting the conscription law and Jewish Communists where Jews have evaded military services.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

Bombay, Aug. 24. A fresh seamen's strike has taken place at Marsames, which has paralysed the trade. Sixteen important Companies have suspended their sailings and warships are carrying the mails. It is not expected that the strike will interfere with the British liners. The text of the Tsar's manifesto shows that the political amnesty is so limited and conditional that the benefits are few if any. Vice-Admirals Bosanquet and Douglas have been appointed to the North American and Portsmouth commands respectively.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

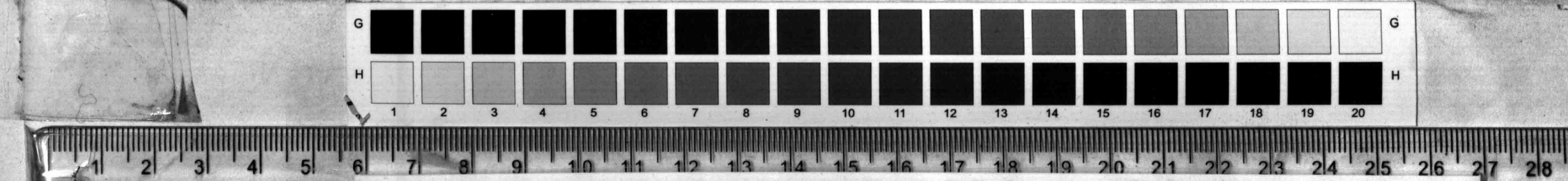
A RUSSIAN VESSEL DISABLED. Bombay, Aug. 24. According to the report from the Commander of "Asashio," "Sevastopol," while bombarding a Japanese position on land from outside of the harbour on the 23rd instant, struck mines, incurred considerably to starboard with her bow submerged in water and was towed inside.

THE SUGAR DUTY.

Simla, Aug. 25. Rules are notified by the Government of India for the identification of sugar chargeable with additional or special duty, and for the collection of the latter. They empower the Collector of Customs to accept the required information in any form he may consider sufficient, and to detain consignments at his discretion when it is not forthcoming.

SIMLA CENSUS.

Simla, Aug. 25. The final totals of the recent Simla Census have now been made up and are as follows:—Total population within the present Municipal limits, 85,250; total population in Municipal and outlying suburbs which will probably be shortly included in Simla proper, 45,587. There are only 978 persons connected with the Punjab Government, of whom 368 are now within the present limits. The proposed move of the Punjab Government to Dalhousie, would only relieve Simla of 978 persons, so the argument that the move is necessary on the score of population falls to the ground.



CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justices Pratt and Bodilly.)

THE "ASSAM TIMES" DEFAMATION CASE.

In this case, it will be remembered, a rule was issued on behalf of Babu Radha Nath Chang Kaskoti, editor and proprietor of the "Assam Times," who had been convicted under Sec. 500 I. P. C. on a charge of defaming one Nursing Das Agurwalla by the second Extra Assistant Commissioner of Dibrugarh, and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 10 when Nursing Dass was being tried on a charge of having in his possession tea, which he knew to have been stolen, the following article appeared in the "Assam Times":—"He (Nursing Das Agurwalla) seems to be a great 'manik' of tactics in doing his business, for his plan was to offer his services at first to a garden Manager for supply of goods in his garden, and when he had succeeded in this, he would then bribe the underlings of the garden and obtain through them good tea in the place of tea dust." Nursing Dass was thereafter acquitted and brought a case of defamation against the petitioner. The petitioner was tried and convicted as stated above. Against that conviction and sentence the petitioner moved this Court and a rule was issued, which came on for hearing to-day.

Their Lordships delivered the following judgment:—"We feel constrained to hold that the view taken by the Magistrate in this case is correct. The article complained of is not simply a condensed report of the evidence which was adduced in the case; had it been so the petitioner could not have been convicted; but unfortunately he seems to have made some comments upon the case on the assumption that the evidence was true. We are therefore unable to interfere with the conviction. We think that the Magistrate has taken a correct view also in adjudging only a nominal sentence under all the circumstances of the case. The rule is discharged."

A CASE TRANSFERRED.

Mr. Jackson with Babu Dwarika Nath Mitter, appeared in support of a plea obtained on behalf of Lachmi Prasad Sazawal and others, servants of the Hutwa Raj, and issued on the District Magistrate of Saran to show cause why the case now pending against the petitioners before the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Gopalganj should not be transferred to the Sudder Station. It appears that the petitioners lodged a complaint charging one Udit Narain with rioting, the common object being to take away mangoes of the Raj. The complainant Udit Narain lodged a counter complaint. The complaint of the petitioners was tried first with the result that Udit Narain was convicted but in the judgment the Sub-divisional Magistrate expressed an unfavourable opinion against the case of the petitioners.

Mr. Jackson contended that the Sub-Magistrate having expressed an opinion unfavourable to the case of the petitioners it is expedient that he should not try it and the case in 4 C.W.N. 824 was relied on.

Their Lordships transferred the case to the Sudder station of Chapra to be tried by a competent Magistrate.

NOTES FROM SURI.

(From our own Correspondent)

Suri, Aug. 25.

TAMPERING WITH A GOVT. RECORD. The elaborate and sensational enquiry by Mr. Moulvi Abdus Salek, Deputy Magistrate of Suri, into the case of an alleged tampering with a document from the record of an Astam sale proceeding in the Birbhun Collectorate the facts of which have already appeared in the "Patrika" ended day before yesterday in a report as a result of which the Land Registration Mohurrir, Kandarpa Narayan Dhar, the custodian of the said record has been at once suspended having been called upon at the same time to explain within seven days why he should not be dismissed in case his explanation be not satisfactory. A criminal prosecution is also intended to be stated in connection therewith if an approver comes forward. The whole record of the case having changed hands in the course of its being copied the enquiry could not possibly lead to the complexity of any particular individual. But murder will out. Kandarpa has been entrapped in his own snare which he unconsciously created for himself. Before the record was made over for copy Kandarpa took care to sign his name "K. D." on the top of every page which he was not in the habit of doing in the case of other records, except the page in question, evidently to create some ground of his exculpation in case of future detection. So suspicion reasonably fell upon him with the result stated above.

POST OFFICE SCANDAL.

There has for sometime been a considerable amount of sensation in connection with the Post Office scandal. The enquiry by the superior Postal authorities led to startling disclosures. Since the advent as Postmaster of a European, Mr. C. Ager, who has lately been declared an insolvent by the District Judge of Birbhun there has been a continual and deliberate fraud practised upon Government money with the help or connivance of the subordinate clerks. What has transpired during the enquiry would but remind us that had the Postmaster been other than a white god his fate would have been sealed for ever. Value-payables are said to have been shown in the Post Office books as "deposits" for months together. Mrs. Ager is said to have now and then signed her husband's name in the Post Office books. These and similar other charges of grave character are said to have been brought against the white god who is already under suspension awaiting further orders as the result of the recent enquiry. Mohini Mohan Chatterjee, the treasurer, who is also under suspension has been called upon to explain why he should not be dismissed on the three following charges viz., (1) For cutting off a defaced stamp from a parcel addressed to Mrs. Cane Brown; (2) For recovering ans. 14 from postman, Falchand Mehra, on account of collected postage and crediting ans. 9 to Government; (3) For helping the Postmaster, Mr. Ager, with money from Govt. cash from time to time till the whole sum, as is admitted by him, came to Re. 400.

AN INTERESTING DEFAMATION CASE.

MUNICIPAL SUB-INSPECTOR VS. AN ENGLISH LADY.

An interesting defamation case concluded on Tuesday before Mr. Karsondas Chhabidas, Third Presidency Magistrate, Bombay, in which one Joseph Moniz, a European Portuguese and a Sub-Inspector in the Health Department of the Bombay Municipality, charged Mrs. L. Quintaba, wife of the Assistant Superintendent of the Prince's Dock, with defamation.

The defamation complained of was that on the 9th June last, the defendant informed Mr. Hallums, Chief Inspector in the Health Department, that while complainant was duty on the 3rd June, and had attended the premises occupied by her to make certain inquiries, he said to her that he liked her, and that he on that occasion squeezed her hand. She admitted having complained to Mr. Hallums on the 9th June about complainant's conduct, but she denied having made the complaint out of malice or ill-will. It was also urged by her that the language complained of was not defamatory. The words complained of were, "He said, he liked her face and squeezed her hands."

The Magistrate in disposing of the case remarked that in his opinion the words "He liked her face" were not defamatory, but the second portion of the defamation complained of, viz.:—"He squeezed my hand" was defamatory. That imputation by itself was to lower the moral character of the complainant in the estimation of his superiors. The next question for consideration was whether the circumstances of the case were such as would enable the defendant to claim privilege. The accused would be entitled to the benefit of the section if preferred in good faith. There was not a scrap of evidence to justify the Court in finding that there was express malice. The evidence only went to prove that the complainant was guilty of a little falsehood when he said that the defendant held out her hand to him. The Magistrate considered the statement of the defendant to be deserving of more reliance than the unsatisfactory testimony of the complainant. It was hardly probable that a lady like the defendant would talk about the rent of her room with a stranger like the complainant. The Court remarked that there were several previous complaints made against the complainant, and that they could not have been the outcome of purely accidental situations. Those complaints did not go to show that the complainant was the estimable person he wanted the Court to believe him to be. It would have been more gentlemanly on his part to have asked the defendant the hour when her husband was to be found at home, and to have called at that hour. It was in evidence that there was a departmental rule to the effect that officers should not visit houses in the absence of husbands from home. It was a pity that there was no such rule. It might suit Municipal officers to visit houses when ladies were alone and unprotected, owing to the absence of their husband; but it certainly did not give pleasure to a husband to learn on his return from work that a Municipal officer had done the honour of paying his wife a visit in his absence and insulted her and taken liberties with her in her unprotected state under the excuse of being on Municipal duty. For the above mentioned reasons the Magistrate believed the accused's statements. The accusation made by the complainant not being proved, and there being nothing to show that it was not made in good faith, and as defendant was entitled to the protection of Exception 8 of Section 500 of the Indian Penal Code, the Court ordered her to be discharged.

THE UNIVERSITIES ACT.

Simla, Aug. 26.

The following notifications appear in the "Gazette of India" under the Universities Act:—"In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 27 of the Indian Universities Act, 1904 (VIII of 1904), the Governor-General in Council is pleased to define the territorial limits hereinafter set forth below as those within or in relation to which the powers conferred upon the Universities, respectively, entered against them by or under the Act of Incorporation of the said Indian Universities Act 1904, shall be exercised—Bengal, Burma, and Assam to the Calcutta University; Madras and Coorg, Hyderabad, Mysore and Ceylon to Madras; Bombay, Sindh and Baroda to Bombay; United Provinces, Central Provinces, Berar, Ajmer, Merwara, Rajputana, and Central India States to Allahabad, Punjab, N.-W. Frontier, Baluchistan and Kashmir to Punjab.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 1, sub-section (2) of the Indian Universities Act, 1904, (VIII of 1904), the Governor-General in Council is pleased to fix the first day of September, 1904, as the date on which the said Act shall come into force within the territorial limits defined in the above notification issued by him under Section 27 of the said Act as limits within or in relation to which the powers conferred upon the University of Calcutta by or under the Act of Incorporation of the said Act shall be exercised.

The following orders made by the Chancellor of the Calcutta University are also published:—"In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 12, clause (a) of the Indian Universities Act, 1904 (VIII of 1904), and with reference to the election of ordinary Fellows to be held within the period of one year after the commencement of the said Act, the Chancellor of the Calcutta University is pleased to direct that of ten ordinary fellows who, under Section B, sub-section (1), clause (a), after the expiration of the said period, to be elected by registered graduates, five shall be elected by the elected fellows holding office at the commencement of the said Act at a meeting to be held at the Senate House at 3 p.m. on Saturday, the third day and the results shall be reported by the Registrar for the approval of the Chancellor on or before Saturday the tenth day of September, 1904.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 12, clause (a) of the Indian Universities Act, 1904 (VIII of 1904), and with reference to the election of ordinary Fellows to be held within the period of one year after the commencement of the said Act the Chancellor of the Calcutta University is pleased to direct that of the ten ordinary Fellows who under Section 6 sub-section (1) clause (a) are, after the expiration of the said period, to be elected by registered graduates, five shall be elected by Masters or holders of a higher degree in some Faculty, or Lecturers, who graduated before the year 1867, the

election shall be conducted so far as may be in accordance with the practice hitherto followed in the election of Fellows, and the results shall be reported by the Registrar for the approval of the Chancellor on or before the thirtieth day of September, 1904.

A MEETING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

A meeting was held on Friday at 11 a.m. at Bevedere, under the presidency of the Lieutenant-Governor, for the purpose of taking steps for improving the agricultural condition of the Province. A number of Indian and European gentlemen were invited to take part in the proceedings. His Honour placed the following statement before the meeting and explained the object of the movement in a few words.

THE STATEMENT.

Proceedings of a meeting, held at the Shrubbery on the 14th June 1904, to consider the advisability of appointing an Agricultural Board or Association to co-operate with the Director of Agriculture in his work in this Province.

PRESENT:

- (1) His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.
(2) The Hon'ble Mr. H. Savage.
(3) The Hon'ble Mr. D. M. Hamilton.
(4) Mr. G. Hennessy.
(5) Mr. S. L. Maddox.
(6) The Hon'ble Mr. A. Earle.

1. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor stated that the object with which he had convened the meeting was to consider whether it would be advisable and possible to constitute an Agricultural Board or Association for the purpose of co-operating with the Director of Agriculture in his work in Bengal. His Honour observed that Mr. C. G. H. Allen, when officiating as Director of Land Records in the year 1902, had submitted a scheme for the reorganisation of the Agricultural Department in this province, one of the main features of which was that a Board should be constituted which would entirely control and administer all work in connection with agriculture at present dealt with by the Director of Agriculture and his staff. This proposal was not accepted, and Sir Andrew Fraser thought rightly not accepted, by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon'ble Sir James Bourdillon. In the first place, it was impracticable for Government to divest itself of its responsibility in this vitally important matter, or to allow its policy to be dictated to it by a somewhat irresponsible Board; and, in the second place, the large amount of work which has to be done would never be got through if it had to wait to be disposed of at the meetings of such a Board. This was not at all the kind of Board which His Honour had in his mind. Although, however, he considered that Mr. Allen's scheme had been rightly rejected in the shape in which it had been presented, that part of it which advocated the necessity of enlisting the sympathy and co-operation of all interested in agriculture might, he thought, be advantageously further considered.

2. Mr. Allen, His Honour observed, complained that the Agricultural Department in Bengal has hitherto been unable to make known among the people the results which have been attained by experiment. Accounts of the various operations undertaken are published annually, but they have not reached the cultivating classes, and not even in the vicinity of the various farms have improved methods of cultivation been adopted. There are many zamindars and merchants keenly interested in agriculture, but their sympathy and co-operation have not been enlisted. These complaints were, His Honour observed, undoubtedly well-founded, and the question was what steps could be taken to put matters on a better footing.

3. Sir Andrew Fraser alluded to the good work done by the Agricultural Association at Nagpur in the Central Provinces, and expressed his opinion that a somewhat similar body might be constituted in Bengal. The Nagpur Association consists of expert agriculturists, cotton manufacturers, merchants, and officials, with the Director of Agriculture as the President. The Association have rooms set apart for their use in the new Technical Institute, near the Nagpur Model Farm; and in this building are also the office and library of the Director of Agriculture. The library is supplied with all works on agriculture and trade which are available and it is open to all members of the Association. As the office of the Director is in the same building the members have also easy access to him when necessary. The members inspect experiments in progress at the Model Farm, and communicate their views on various matters to the Director either by letter or at the monthly meetings of the Association. They may individually or collectively suggest or criticise experiments. They are assigned a small grant of money for the purpose of making experiments, and sometimes they make experiments which they consider necessary or desirable, but which the Director is unable, for some reason, himself to undertake. They watch the results of all experiments made, and disseminate the results obtained in the areas in which they are interested. They also make themselves acquainted with successful methods in one district which may be usefully introduced in another. They publish an Agricultural Gazette, in English and the vernacular; and this is found to be one of the best ways of imparting information on agricultural subjects. The work done by the Association is much appreciated, and not a few people subscribe towards the carrying out of experiments and the advancement of agricultural improvements.

4. Besides the Nagpur Association, there are Branch Associations in each district, with the District Officer as President. The non-official members are chosen from the leading residents who take a real interest in agricultural improvements. Each member pledges himself to do his best for the improvement of agriculture, and promises to carry out, in his own village any practical experimental work entrusted to him. Meetings are held at which a practical scheme of work is framed and the work allotted to the several members, who afterwards report the results. The Director arranges, when possible, to depute an Agricultural Assistant to attend these meetings and deliver an address on some suitable subject. The Association is also consulted about the programme of work of the Department of Agriculture and watches and assists in any demonstration work in progress. Seed of new

improved varieties of crops, likely to suit the districts concerned, is distributed to the members who report the results of their trials. This movement has been viewed with considerable interest; and the Chief Commissioner has recently acknowledged the promising start made by the newly-established Associations in a Resolution in which he states that they "form a most useful link between the department and the agricultural community," and are valuable agencies for the purpose of "distributing selected seed and disseminating agricultural knowledge and awakening interest in discussion about the improvement of the greatest industry of the country." His Honour was of opinion that something on the same lines might be done in Bengal, and he was anxious to hear whether the meeting agreed with him and whether they had any suggestions to make.

5. The Hon'ble Mr. Hamilton said that he considered the proposal to be a good one. He was quite certain that many zamindars would be keenly interested, not only for the sake of their ratyats, but for their own good, because they would share in the general prosperity of their tenants. The Hon'ble Mr. Savage was of the same opinion.

6. His Honour observed that if the proposal were adopted, the work of the Director of Agriculture would, no doubt, be increased owing to the numerous references to which he would have to reply. On the other hand, there would be a set-off to this extra work in the fact that the large amount of information now acquired with difficulty would be much more easily obtained, and would be of the greatest assistance to him in administering his department. His Honour cited the late Mr. Tata, of the Empress Mills, Nagpur, Messrs. Shaw, Wallace and Co., who are keenly interested in cotton experiments, and others, as having co-operated zealously with the Central Provinces Agricultural Department and rendered assistance of much value. People like these should be associated with Government and be enabled to make their views known to the authorities. His Honour specially called attention to the case of the Nandgaon State in the Central Provinces as an instance of the use to which Associations such as those now under consideration can be put. Certain cotton experiments which had succeeded elsewhere in the Central Provinces were, by the help of the Nagpur Association, successfully introduced into the State referred to with the help of Nagpur cultivators and by the introduction of Nagpur bullocks.

7. The first thing to do, His Honour observed, was to form a Central Association at Calcutta. He would like to see a start made at once. The Calcutta Association could have the use of the room in the Secretariat below the Council Room. Here the Association would hold their meetings, and here the Director of Agriculture would keep his library, to which the members would have access at any time. The Veterinary Department should certainly, he considered, be associated with the scheme. Major Raymond, the Superintendent of the department in question, being appointed a member of the Association. As in the Central Provinces, no one would be appointed as a member of the Association, or of any one of its branches, unless he could show that he was keenly interested in the work to be done. The chief work of the Association would be in connection with experiments and the dissemination of results of experiments. It could, however, usefully advise Government as regards all matters affecting the improvement of agriculture and the best methods of reclaiming waste lands. The question of the formation of Branch Associations could be taken up after the Calcutta Association was fairly launched.

8. The Hon'ble Mr. D. M. Hamilton and Mr. G. Hennessy signified their willingness to join the Calcutta Association, and it was decided that steps should be taken to make a start with the least possible delay. It was not desirable to begin with too many members. What was essential was that those who were selected should be thoroughly interested in the work to be done. The Hon'ble Mr. Savage undertook to submit proposals on the subject for the approval of His Honour.

A EARLE—16-6-1904.

NOTE.

Bengal Provincial Agricultural Association. 1. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has decided, after consultation with the Member of the Board of Revenue in charge of the Land Revenue Department, the Director of Agriculture, and certain private gentlemen interested in the agricultural Association at Calcutta to co-operate with the Director of Agriculture in his work in this province; and it now remains to set forth briefly the objects for which the Association is to be established and its constitution.

2. The question of the establishment of an Association of the character referred to has arisen owing to the fact that the Agricultural Department has hitherto failed to make known among the people the results which have been attained by experiment. Accounts of the various operations undertaken are published annually, but they have not reached the cultivating classes, and not even in the vicinity of the various agricultural farms have improved methods of cultivation been adopted. There are many zamindars and merchants keenly interested in agriculture, but their sympathy and co-operation have not been enlisted. It has been recognised that all this is not as it should be, but no practical way of meeting the difficulty has hitherto been suggested.

3. On the other hand, experience in the Central Provinces shows that immense advantage has followed the creation of advisory Agricultural Associations. Splendid work has been done, for instance, by the Agricultural Association at Nagpur. That Association consists of expert agriculturists, cotton manufacturers, merchants, and officials, with the Director of Agriculture as the President. The Association have rooms set apart for their use in the new Technical Institute, near the Nagpur Model Farm; and in this building are also the office and library of the Director of Agriculture. The library is supplied with all works on agriculture and trade which are available; and it is open to all members of the Association. As the office of the Director is in the same building, the members have also easy access to him when necessary. The members inspect experiments in progress at the Model Farm, and communicate their views on various matters to the Director either by letter or at the monthly meetings of the

Association. They may individually or collectively suggest or criticise experiments. They are assigned a small grant of money for the purpose of making experiments, and sometimes they make experiments which they consider necessary or desirable, but which the Director is unable, for some reason, himself to undertake. They watch the results of all experiments made, and disseminate the results obtained in the areas in which they are interested. They make themselves acquainted with successful methods in one district which may be usefully introduced in another. They publish an Agricultural Gazette in English and the vernacular; and this is found to be one of the best ways of imparting information on agricultural subjects. Finally, they are consulted in regard to the annual programme of the Department of Agriculture, and in this manner are enabled to take a comprehensive interest in the working of the department throughout the province.

4. The work done by the Association referred to is much appreciated, and not a few people subscribe towards the carrying out of experiment and the advancement of agricultural improvements. An Association of this kind forms a most useful link between the department and the agricultural community and is a valuable agency for the purpose of disseminating agricultural knowledge and awakening interest in, and discussion about, the improvement of the greatest industry of the country. It is, therefore, proposed to see whether something of the same kind cannot be done in Bengal.

5. It is proposed that the Provincial Association for Bengal should work on much the same lines as the Nagpur Association. Its chief work will be in connection with experiments, and the dissemination of the results of experiments. It will also, however, advise Government as regards the programme of work of the Agricultural Department, as well as concerning all matters affecting the improvement of agriculture and the best methods of reclaiming waste lands. The Association will have the use of a spacious room in Writers' Buildings. Here they will hold their meetings, and here the Director of Agriculture will keep his library to which the members will have access at any time. As the office of the Director is in the same building, the members will be able to consult him personally when necessary.

6. It is proposed to limit the number of members at present to about fifteen. Only persons who are known to be keenly interested in the agriculture of the country will be asked to join as members. It is proposed that the Member of the Board of Revenue in charge of the Land Revenue Department should be the President of the Association, that the Director of Agriculture should be the Secretary, and that the Superintendent of the Veterinary Department, Bengal, should be a member. The rest of the members will be non-officials who are either expert agriculturists, manufacturers, merchants, or persons connected with the cultivation of, or trade in, important products, such as indigo, jute, cotton, tea, sugar, etc.

7. It is suggested that monthly meetings should be held. This and all other details of work will, however, be more appropriately worked out by the members of the Association themselves, and it is proposed to convene a meeting of the Association as soon as practicable for this purpose.

A. EARLE, Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal, Revenue Dept. The 27th June 1904.

A provisional committee, composed of the following, was formed to mature the scheme:—The Hon'ble Mr. Savage, President; Director, Agricultural Department, Secretary; Maharaj-Kumar P. K. Tagore Bahadur; Rai Sita Nath Rai Bahadur; three non-official Europeans, one a Calcutta merchant, and the other two Behar planters.

MATTERS COMMERCIAL.

The State of Mourhanj has taken to sericulture Mulberry plantations have been established in the State and cocoon rearing and silk reeling introduced.

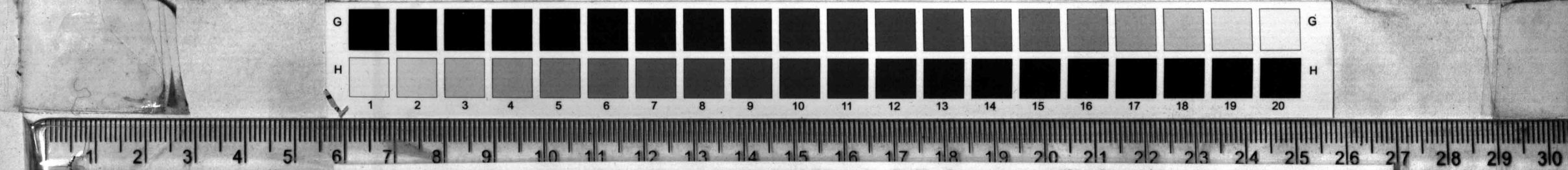
The Bengal Agricultural Department are devoting special attention to cotton cultivation in the Presidency. Experiments are being undertaken to ascertain what varieties are adaptable to local conditions and the best methods of local cultivation.

Another fibre plant which it is hoped to successfully exploit in Burma is the Manis Hemp (Musa textilis). Plants have been imported from the Andamans for experiment at the Government Gardens in the Province while large quantities of seed of the variety have also been got from the Philippines for cultivation at selected centres.

Another Orissa State, which has taken up sericulture, is that of Keonjhar, which is employing a trained man to supervise the development of sericultural operations. In other parts of Bengal, the Bengal Silk Committee is continuing its useful and valuable work in popularizing the use of healthy seed and extending mulberry plantations.

The French National Society of Agriculture has received from one of its members an interesting communication on the preservation of butter by fluoride of sodium. The writer says this substance is not hurtful unless administered in doses of 463 grains a day for animals weighing 125 pounds. From one-quarter to 1 gram (1 gram=15.43 grains) in a pulverised state suffices for two pounds of butter, which it will preserve indefinitely.

Considerable progress was made during the past official year in Bengal in the enquiry into the alleged deterioration of jute and that special investigations were made into the practice of fraudulently watering the fibre. Proposals have, we believe, been made for legislation to prevent the practice, but we do not know what result. The cultivation experiments were continued at the Burdwan farm and at Faridpur and Jalpaiguri where endeavours were made to demonstrate the growing of varieties under expert supervision. The Botanical and Economic Products Departments have been giving considerable attention to the subject of jute cultivation.



Scientific Notes.

SCIENCE IN JAPAN.

The "American Inventor" says:—"The scientific world is indebted to Japan for three notable discoveries for the saving of human life. A Japanese bacteriologist, Kitasato, discovered the bacillus of lockjaw, which led to the discovery of anti-toxin, which is regularly used as a preventive of the disease. Another Japanese scientist, Shiga, has isolated the bacillus of dysentery. It is hoped that this will result in an anti-toxin which will be used in this disease which vaccination is so small-pox. The third discovery is the most remarkable of the three. It seems that there are in the human body organs called the adrenal glands. A Japanese chemist, Takamine, extracted from these glands a peculiar substance known as adrenalin, now much used in the practice of medicine. It is the most powerful of all chemical agents for arresting hemorrhages of any kind, no matter where located, and frequently saves lives where internal bleeding takes place which can be reached in no other manner."

"OUR PLACE IN THE COSMOS."

Among the articles in the current, "Edinburgh Review" is one dealing with Life in the Universe. The writer comes to this conclusion:

Unquestionably the trend of modern research is to encourage the opinion that the solar system is set apart among the stars, and the earth among the planets, as if for the express purpose of harbouring in safety the frail craft bearing the burthen of life. But demonstrative evidence on the point is not at hand, and cannot be looked for. Arguments "a priori" are futile. They rest on arbitrary assumptions. All that we are quite certain of regarding our place in the Cosmos is that the genus Homo, from the Man of Canstadt to the most transcendental philosopher, is earthbound. No second island in space is attainable by him in his present condition.

His habitation, it is added, begins to seem inconveniently narrow; "but there is small chance of adding to it by annexation—there are no more worlds for him to conquer."

ELECTRICAL ORE FINDING.

A practical test has been made with the electrical ore-finder, and the result gave satisfaction. The principle of the process is simple. Electrical impulses are sent into the ground to be examined, resembling the taps or ticks of an ordinary message. These sounds pass from one electrode to another, and at any point in the area affected can be detected by a telephone receiver placed in communication with the ground, with this peculiarity—that if the sounds are not audible, there is reason to suspect a metallic lode which has taken them up. The trial was made at Coniston, in North-West Lancashire, the problem being to find a lost lode of copper, which had been "faulted"—that is to say, dislocated—by a displacement of the rock strata. The ore-finder succeeded in locating the lode, and it was found later by blasting down under the spot indicated. The inventors of the apparatus, Mr. Daft and Mr. Williams, an American and an Englishman, were complimented on the success of the experiment. Further tests are to be made in England and in Australia for missing lodes of gold.

UNSTABLE "TERRA FIRMA."

An eminent geologist—Professor John Milne—specially devoted himself to the study of earthquakes, and helped to devise highly sensitive methods of recording the movements in the earth's surface.

The first thing discovered was an interesting confirmation of the great law of uniformity which underlies all modern science. We have learnt that all phenomena shade into one another by nice gradations; nothing stands alone, or, as the old philosophers said in their dim guesses at truth, Nature does nothing at a leap. Everything, when we understand it, drops into its place in a beautifully ordered series, ranging from the awe-stricken cataclysm to the commonest events of daily life. From the tea-kettle to the Atlantic flyer, from the lucifer match to radium, from the rumble of a heavy cart in the road to the Lisbon earthquake, there is always a chain of intermediate cases to be displayed.

Thus we talk of earthquakes as a surprising exception to our basic conception of the earth's solidity; but the truth is that the earth is neither still nor stable. The delicate seismometers which have been erected at observing stations all over the world no sooner got to work than they proved that the earth's surface was constantly pervaded by tremors and shiverings—confirming the old notion that the earth was a living creature which produced earthquakes, hurricanes, tidal waves, and other calamities in the vain hope of clearing off the human fleas that infested its skin! Professor Milne's conclusion is that "considerable areas of our planet are on the average shaken every half-hour."

PROGRESS OF AERIAL NAVIGATION.

A review of the progress of aerial navigation which has been written by M. Ostavi Chanute is extremely valuable at the present time, because M. Chanute, a practical aeronaut, has never allowed his views to be distorted by prepossessions in favour of one mode of flight or another or of one machine or another. One of his observations is that the best shaped navigable balloon yet constructed was that which was made by M. M. Krebs and Renaud, of the French War Department, as long ago as 1855, and he thinks that this flying machine was superior in most respects, save that of motor equipment to the well-known balloons of M. Santos Dumont which have been built since. He also believes that better results than have hitherto been attained would have been reached by the Lebaudy airship had it not been destroyed; and the construction by the Lebaudys of another airship on the same lines is therefore an event of considerable interest. M. Chanute leaves no doubt that it is the improvement of the motor which is and will be the largest factor in the coming flying machines, and this factor will apply with equal force to the airships of Santos Dumont, Lebaudy, and Barton, or the aeroplanes of Professor Langley or the Brothers Wright. In a general forecast of the flying machine's future he remarks:—"The machines will eventually be fast . . . but they are not to be thought of as commercial carriers. To say nothing of the danger, the sizes must remain small and the passengers few, because the weight will, for the same design, increase as the cube of the

dimensions while the supporting surfaces will only increase as the square. It is true that when higher speeds become safe it will require fewer square feet of surface to carry a man, and that the dimensions will actually decrease, but this will not be enough to carry much greater extraneous loads, such as a store of explosives or big guns to shoot them. The power required will always be great, say, something like one horse-power to every hundred pounds of weight, and hence fuel cannot be carried for long single journeys. The North Pole and the interior of Sahara may preserve their secrets a while longer."

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN JAPAN.

Professor McIntosh, reviewing in the "Zoologist" the work which is being done in Japan in scientific ichthyology, contrives to pay that sophisticated nation a rather double-barrelled compliment. On the one hand he is full of praise for that spirit of scientific research there which in so short a space of years has given them a world-wide reputation as able and scientific inquirers. On the other hand—in order to introduce an effective antithesis to this state of things—he recalls the incident of a generation ago, when his "silent and sentimental people," as they were then thought to be, were capable, with quick humour, "of first removing the sponge from the upper end of the Glass Rope Sponge, of then inserting the denuded tip into a hole bored by Pinolas in a rock, and finally, of selling the whole to the authorities of the British Museum as a Glass Plant," which grew out of the aperture, as it were, wisp upon wisp. It is more satisfactory and salutary to dwell on the present educational spirit of Japan. "The quaint and more or less imaginary representations of the fishes of Japan—in such wise does the professor speak of the miracles of art of the Japanese painters and draughtsmen—have given way to a new order of things, in which fisheries research is being carried out in the Imperial Fisheries Bureau of Tokio under Professor (Kishinouye). . . . One is indeed struck by the thorough way in which the scientific investigations of the various commercial products of Japanese waters—such as fishes, trepangs, molluscs, annelids, corals, edible medusae, and sponges—is carried out. It is an index to the enterprising nature of the people." And so says Sir Norman Lockyer of other branches of Japanese activity; and in the German comic paper "Ull" there is rather a striking cartoon of the "Japanese as Russia sees him," and the "Japanese as he is." In the first panel of the cartoon we have the familiar representation of the Yellow Devil—all claw and fang. In the second the Japanese, as he really is, sits in a laboratory with books at his hand, scientific models at his feet, and a retort, labelled "Shimose," at his side.

SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION IN INDIA.

In August, 1902, the Government of India appointed a Board of Scientific Advice, whose function is that of a central authority in connection with the various Scientific Departments. Its duties are to ensure that the work of scientific research is distributed to the best advantage; to see that each investigator confines his researches to the subject with which he is most capable of dealing, and that energy is not dissipated by useless duplication of enquiries or misdirected by lack of inter-departmental co-operation. It is also its duty to see that he claims of abstract science are not given undue precedence over those of the more immediately important demands of economic or applied science. The Board is presided over by the Secretary to the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department, and its members comprise the heads of the Meteorological, Geological, Botanical, Forest, Survey, Agricultural and Veterinary Departments, with such other scientific authorities as may be invited to serve upon it. The members meet ordinarily twice a year, the work of the past year and the proposals for the programme of the coming year being considered at one Meeting, while at the other the programmes are finally decided.

Since its establishment, the public has heard very little of the doings of the Board, but we have to-day received its first Annual Report, for the year 1902-03. The Report, which has been compiled by Dr. D. Prain, the Secretary to the Board, occupies twenty-five pages of large print, and is described as "a brief review of the results obtained in all lines of scientific investigation in or regarding India for the year 1902-03 based upon the Annual Departmental Reports submitted to the Board and upon papers published by individuals." Trigonometrical and Topographical Surveys are first dealt with, the details of which are rather too technical to be interesting to the "lay" reader. However, with regard to the survey of the Sambhar Salt Lake, at the instance of the Northern India Salt Revenue authorities, the following extract will show what difficulties the surveyors have to contend with:—"The levelling in the lake was very difficult, as the bed for the most part consisted of soft sticky mud in which the observers, sometimes sank over their knees. In order to make the level steady, a plank 12 inches square by 1 inch deep with a small hole in the centre was put under each log, and these planks were kept from slipping outward by long wooden stakes driven into the mud. The observer had these wooden planks to stand on, radiating out from a centre under the instrument through the spaces between the legs. A staff was held on a large tent-nail driven in the centre of the plank, and the plank was pressed in the mud till the top of the nail was level with the top of the mud." The Forest Surveys covered 5,035 square miles, of which 1,306 were in the Madras Presidency. The work of the Cadastral and Traverse and Marine Surveys is summarised, and we note that

considerable progress was made with the new 32-mile map of India. Astronomical work, Magnetic Survey and Meteorology form the subject of the next sections of the Report and Seismography is briefly alluded to. The section devoted to the Geological Survey occupies four pages, and a similar amount of space is devoted to Applied Geology. The Zoological Survey, Applied Zoology, Veterinary Pathology and Bacteriology, Botanical Survey, Applied Botany, Chemistry and Applied Chemistry are all dealt with in turn, a bird's eye view, if we may so describe it, being thus given of the scientific work that was accomplished during the year.

It is interesting to note that the chief contribution to the Botanical Survey of Northern India during the year was a very full collection, with vernacular names and economic notes, of the plants of the Banda District, by Mrs. A. S. Bell, "who may, it is hoped, ultimately prepare for publication a list of the determinations that have been effected on her behalf at Calcutta after she has completed a comparison now being made by her at Kew of her specimens with those of the late Mr. Edgeworth, I.O.S., who many years ago gave close attention to the extremely interesting flora of Banda and Bundelkhand." Another lady who is an enthusiastic botanist is Mrs. Bourne, the wife of the Director of Public Instruction in Madras, and we believe we are correct in saying that her specimens number several thousand.

HEAVY FLOODS IN MONGHYR.

(From our Own Correspondent)

Monghyr, Aug. 21.

DISASTROUS INUNDATION.

It seems that Providence is not satisfied with the work of destruction that is going on all round in our ill-fated country, and therefore it has devised a new scheme to hurry on the fatal work, by excessive flood. Although the rains of the current year have not been unusual so far as Behar is concerned, yet the heavy downpours in the upper provinces are responsible for the disastrous inundation that has overtaken this part of the country. The river Ganges, which was slow-rising for the past few weeks, rose suddenly last week and without the least notice covered a considerable part of the country with a vast sheet of water. News of disastrous floods are daily pouring in. Hundreds of villages on both sides of the river are practically under water; and thousands of poor villagers have been rendered homeless and reduced to beggary owing to their houses having fallen down and all their properties washed away. Numbers of dead bodies of men, women and children as well as of cattle and other animals can be seen floating down the stream causing grief and pain in the minds of the sight-seers who are utterly incapable of rendering any sort of help even to half alive drowning men.

MR. OLDHAM ON THE RESCUE.

The inhabitants of villages under the Gogri Thana appear to be most distressed and our good Collector, Mr. Oldham, on hearing the news of the disaster, has not lost a single moment in rendering help. He has been personally visiting the villages with boats and rescuing homeless villagers by sending them to safer places. Further, he has taken with him a sufficient quantity of food grains to be distributed to the distressed people. Under his special order the District Superintendent of Police has chartered a steamer for the rescue of people who are in imminent danger of being washed away. Great credit is due to Mr. Oldham for the prompt manner in which he has been answering to a call of duty even at the risk of his life.

BEGUSARAI BUND BREACHED.

There is a bund in the Sub-division of Begusarai which protects the town and a considerable tract of the Sub-division from flood. There having been a breach in the bund about 3 or 4 days ago, the whole of the southern part of the Sub-division has been under water. The Civil Court buildings, the Police line, and other public offices have been over-flooded and all work is at a standstill and if water does not recede in a day or two the people of that part of the Sub-division as well as of the other parts of the district will be completely ruined.

APPREHENDED FAMINE.

Moreover, it is apprehended that there will be a severe scarcity, if not actual famine on account of the failure of the bhadoi (bhutta) crops owing to the flood, which will affect the rice crop also. It is well known that the bhutta or makai is one of the staple food-grains of the Behar peasantry and the total failure of the crop will bring about disaster and ruin to the province. Already the flood has done its work of destruction, and if the water retedes in 2 or 3 days a portion of the crops will be saved to the hungry poor people.

NARROW ESCAPE OF THE COLLECTOR.

I have already stated that Mr. Oldham has been doing his duty at the risk of his life. While inspecting the breach of the bund referred to above he accidentally slipped and fell into water and would have been drowned but for timely help rendered to him by a Chowkidar and a Police Sub-Inspector who were near by.

IN AID OF THE DISTRESSED.

Babu Shyma Charan Mittar, Senior Deputy Magistrate in charge, has opened a subscription fund for the distressed villagers, to which all the sections of the people of the town are contributing according to their means.

A RESCUE PARTY.

A number of young and energetic and benevolently disposed gentlemen of Belabazar, Monghyr, headed by Babu Bhupal Chandra Majumdar, a pleader of the local bar, have formed themselves into a volunteer party. They have been constantly watching by turn at different Ghats of the town with telescopes to see if any human bodies are floating down the stream, and trying at considerable risk of their lives to save any miserable wretch from the watery grave by taking boats in mid-stream.

Arrangements have been made, we hear, to increase the speed of passenger trains on the Barsoi-Kisengung Branch of the Behar Section, Eastern Bengal State Railway, from 15 to 20 miles an hour. The acceleration will doubtless be much appreciated.

NOTES ON THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

A PERFECT INFERNO.

Port Arthur, according to the stories of refugees which are being telegraphed from Chefoo to London, is a perfect inferno.

Not a pane of glass is left intact in the whole town, and the hospitals and houses are full to overflowing with the wounded. According to these accounts, the most desperate fighting has been going on at Wolf Mountain and at the eastern ports. Permission has been given to civilians to get away if they can, and many rich Russians are leaving in Chinese junks.

A Chefoo message of August 4th says: The Japanese position at Port Arthur is exposed to the fire of the Russian forts, and the Japanese must advance or else evacuate their present position.

CONFIDENCE AT ST. PETERSBURG.

I am enabled to affirm that the War Ministry is in possession of information, the sources of which are unknown to me, and the gist of which is that, although several thousand Russians have fallen around Port Arthur during the recent sanguinary engagements, there is no immediate danger of the fall of the fortress, says a St. Petersburg correspondent of August 4th. The reports that General Stoessel has lost the principal fortified positions, excluding the Golden Hill, are said to be utterly groundless. The forts of the northern and north-western front are almost all held by the Russian garrison, which dealt terrible destruction to the enemy during their recent attacks. The Japanese advanced like beasts heedless of death and insensible to pain, and were mowed down like grass. The investing army is now considered too weak to renew the onslaught for a considerable time to come; while Admiral Togo's squadron cannot combine with the land forces owing to the distance from which it must fire.

INSIDE PORT ARTHUR.

Hector Fuller, the first and last newspaper correspondent to enter and leave Port Arthur during the siege, contributes a thrilling chapter of experiences to his journal, the "Indianapolis News." In view of the profound interest centring around the fortress, special interest attaches to the impressions he formed during the five days he spent there last June.

"I went to Port Arthur (he says) saturated with pessimistic ideas concerning the future of the place, but instead of a starving garrison I found a city still in touch with the outside world, receiving all the supplies it needs, well-armed, well-equipped, and in good health and spirits. An immense amount of work has been accomplished in the course of the last four months, and the hills are so strongly fortified, and have been so protected with loose stones, barbed wire, and so forth, that I don't believe an attack from the rear should certainly say that the outer fortifications at the rear of Port Arthur could not be taken by assault without the loss of at least 40 per cent. of the attacking force.

"Nor from the seaward side does the prospect seem more inviting to the Japanese. The harbour was only supposed to be blocked. A fairly strong navy was recuperating in the bay, its men and officers spoiling for a fight. All the powder wasted so far by the Japanese navy against the town has done no damage to speak of, and the place is so strongly protected by its outer hills that I doubt whether any bombardment from out at sea can hurt it much. I think it will be a long time, indeed, before the Japanese take Port Arthur."

Mr. Fuller estimates that the garrison at Port Arthur numbered fully 50,000 well-disciplined men. He sent his despatch from Chefoo on June 20. He is now ordered home because of a violation of the Japanese rules, which involved the return of his passports to the authorities.

THE RED SEA RAIDS.

The "Official Messenger" (St. Petersburg) published, on August 2nd, the following statement by the Russian Government regarding the seizure of the P. and O. Company's steamer Malacca by the Russian Volunteer cruiser St. Petersburg in the Red Sea. The statement says:

"From the beginning of the Russo-Japanese war the Imperial Government took measures to prevent the transport of contraband of war to Japan by vessels of neutral countries. In the regulations sanctioned by the Czar on Feb. 14, 1904, which Russia proposed to follow during the war, a list was given of articles regarded by us as contraband of war. It was also declared that the military and maritime authorities would reserve to themselves the right of rigidly executing the decision contained in the regulations for naval prizes sanctioned by the Tsar on March 27, 1895, and in the instructions confirmed by the Council in the Admiralty on Sept. 20, 1900, regarding the procedure for stopping, visiting, and seizing, and for carrying off and delivering over vessels and cargoes seized."

"The vessels St. Petersburg and Smolensk of the Volunteer Fleet, having received a special commission, the term of which has already expired, on proceeding to their destinations, acted in accordance with the above decisions, and while passing through the Red Sea stopped and visited all suspected vessels then encountered in those waters. It was under these conditions that the commander of the St. Petersburg stopped, among others, the British vessel Malacca, the captain of which refused to show the ship's papers relating to the cargo, a refusal which led to the seizure of the vessel and the decision to send it to Port Alexander III., Libau, with a view to throwing light on the matter.

"Nevertheless, in view of an official statement of the British Government that the Malacca was carrying British State cargo, the Imperial Government, acting in agreement with the British Government, decided that a fresh visit should be paid to the seized vessel at the nearest port on its route in presence of a British Consul. The visit took place at Algiers. The British Consul-General officially certified that the military stores on board the Malacca continued to be the property of the British Government, and that the rest of the cargo was not contraband of war. Taking this attestation into consideration, the Imperial Government decided to liberate the cargo and the vessel.

"This decision must not, however, be interpreted as a renunciation by the Imperial Government of its intention to despatch alike cruisers and warships in general to prevent the carrying of contraband of war for our enemy."

The "Calcutta Gazette" contains the following Resolution on the Report on the administration of the Police Department for the year 1903.

WORKING OF THE POLICE.

There was no change in 1903 in the sanctioned strength of the superior staff of the police force. Neither the superior staff nor the subordinates are sufficient for the police work to be done in this Province. Some progress was made during the year in replacing head-constables by Sub-Inspectors. The recruitment of these officers continues, however, to present difficulty, so much so that in the Northern and Western Ranges the number of qualified candidates who appeared at the competitive examination was not equal to the number of vacancies. About half only of the candidates recruited last year were obtained by competitive examination. With regard to the future recruitment both of the superior staff and of Sub-Inspectors, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes to be able before long to announce revised rules.

The training of probationary police officers both of the superior and subordinate ranks at the Bhalgalpur Training School received much attention during the year, the course of training has been made longer, and efforts have been made to render it more practical. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to observe the praise bestowed by the Inspector-General on the work done by Mr. Swain the Principal, and Babu Dino Bandhu Bhaumick, the Superintendent of the School.

Judged by the return of punishments inflicted, the conduct of the police force in 1903 was, on the whole, satisfactory; judicial and departmental punishments both show a gratifying decrease, the figures being the lowest of the past decade. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Inspector-General that frequent light punishments tend merely to harass without doing much good. Officers should punish with reluctance, but where punishment is necessary it should be sufficiently severe to be deterrent. Charges of torture against the police were 19 as against 8 of the previous year; of these, 15 were declared false, and in no case was a conviction obtained under a graver section than 323, Indian Penal Code (causing hurt.) Charges of extortion decreased as compared with preceding years; and punishment was inflicted judicially or departmentally only in 12 cases. Mr. Carlyle remarks with regard to the charges of extortion made against the police:—"The number of cases proved is, I think, small, considering the number of police in Bengal. Of course many cases must occur in which no complaint is made, but I think, on the other hand, there is no doubt that in some districts charges of extortion are deliberately brought falsely, as a weapon of offence against the police. In Backergunge 15 such cases were brought in 1902, and 12 in 1903. In not a single case was the offence proved, and though some of the cases were doubtful, the majority were false."

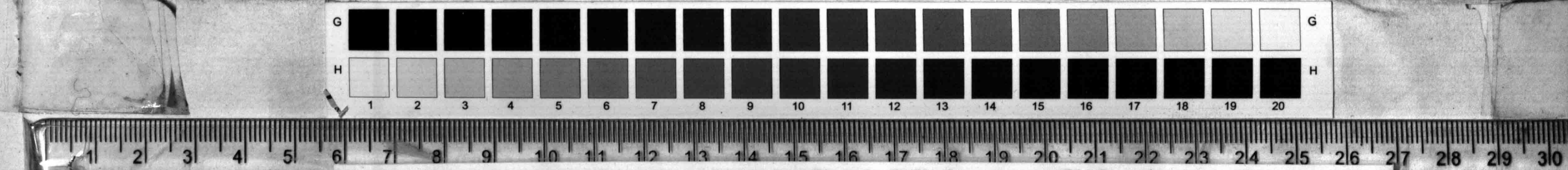
It is the clear duty of the Magistrates of Backergunge to sift such charges thoroughly, and, if they are found demonstratively false, to prosecute the complainants. The Magistrates and the police have also a right to expect the co-operation of all legal practitioners in repressing false complaints.

The Inspector-General reports unfavourably on the work of the town police generally, and more especially with regard to the town chaukidars. There is little doubt that in towns these latter are unsuitable substitutes for constables, whose work they are really doing. All the advantages of the chaukidari system are lost when, as in many of the Municipalities in Bengal Proper as distinguished from Bihar, the so-called chaukidars are foreigners and wholly without local knowledge; while, at the same time, they have frequently as hard work to do as ordinary constables, but are paid less efficiently trained and less supervised. Where the available force for night duty is so small that the arrangement of the beats does not permit the town police officer to have at least one night in bed after two nights on duty, it is hopeless to expect efficient work and difficult to punish bad work. Relief may sometimes be given in the rearrangement of the beats and by concentration of the available force on particular points. His Honour accepts in the main the conclusion of the Inspector-General that the employment of town chaukidars should be discontinued, and regards the replacement (more or less gradually) of this class of men by constables throughout the Province, save in those so-called towns which are really villages, as a necessary reform.

The importance of continuous attention to the administration of the village watch cannot be exaggerated; and the Lieutenant-Governor welcomes Mr. Carlyle's assurance that the village police are steadily improving. His Honour agrees as to the importance of proper control of the village police and of their proper recruitment. The careful selection of the village panchayets and treatment of them with tact and consideration are as essential. Sir Andrew Fraser regards the development of village government as probably the most important reform that lies before Government in this Province, and he has determined to place an experienced officer on special duty during next cold-weather to examine the subject in all its bearings.

One of the observations with regard to chaukidari administration made in last year's Resolution was that it is the duty of Magistrates to limit the number of chaukidars to strict requirements, and to take opportunities such as those afforded by vacancies, for reducing and amalgamating charges. It is doubtful whether this remark has generally attracted the attention of Magistrates and District Superintendents. It is not noticed by the Inspector-General that the total number of village chaukidars was increased during the year by 1,440 men. The total annual emoluments of the whole force of 153,185 chaukidars are shown to amount to nearly 70 lakhs; that is a chaukidar on all average receives Rs. 4-4 a month. Only 5,348 of the chaukidars are remunerated by "chakran" lands. The sum of the taxation is considerable though it does not represent as much as two annas a head for the rural population; and it is imperative that the number of chaukidars should not be unduly increased. It is even more necessary that the tax should be fairly assessed, so that it may not be burdensome on the poor. It is unnecessary, however, to discuss these matters further. They will be fully considered in the course of the examination of the subject in the cold weather.

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The total amount paid in rewards to chankidars has fallen from Rs. 62,813 to Rs. 60,072; but this decrease is due to the fact that rewards for regular attendance at the thanas have been largely discontinued.

The fact that the average reward for the whole Province was only about Rs. 3-8 indicates that there is still a tendency to fritter away the resources of the Reward Fund in petty rewards rather than to concentrate them on substantial rewards for really good work.

There are still some districts where the total amount paid in rewards was very small. In Jessore with 4,084 chankidars only Rs. 624 was distributed in rewards, while in Chittagong, where there are 2,446 chankidars, only Rs. 109 was distributed.

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Dr. J. CHOWDHURY, B. A., L. M. S., Superintendent of Vaccination, Calcutta Corporation, writes:—"I have great pleasure in testifying to the efficacy of your Santan Rakshak. The bottle which you gave me for trial was most satisfactory and astonishing results in several cases of prolonged labour amongst my friends. I may safely recommend it to the public."

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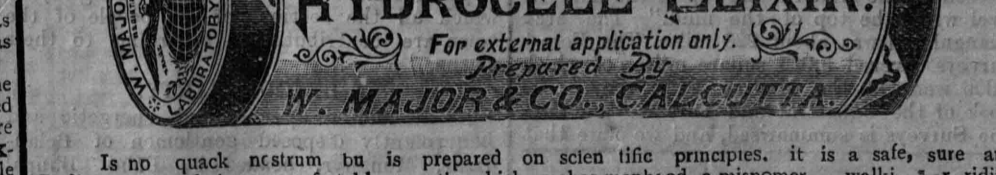
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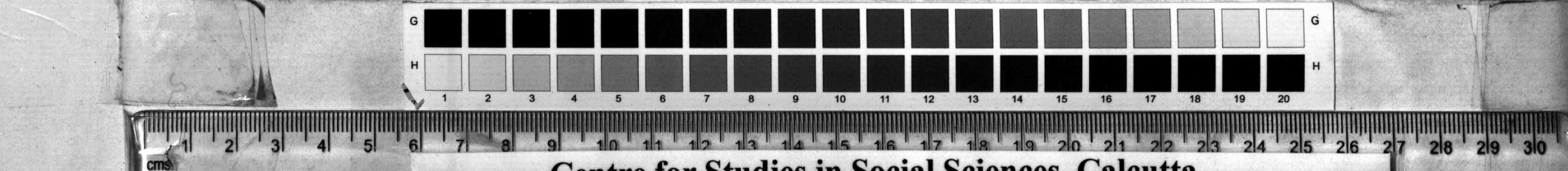
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CAN WE DEVELOP INDIA?

POSSIBILITIES NEGLECTED BY ENGLAND, BUT OPEN TO AMERICAN ENTERPRISE.

"Orientalist" writes to the New York "Sun":—
I have been much impressed with the singular indifference on the part of the British Government in India to the commercial prosperity of that Empire, and also to the peculiar apathy of the commercial world in the United States regarding the enormous possibilities of American trade in British India.

This is all the more remarkable because British India owes its existence to commercial enterprise, and not to the spirit of military aggression. The London East India Company was incorporated on the last day of the year 1600 solely for the purposes of trade, and the early voyages to India were joint stock enterprises. When, in 1615, King James sent an ambassador to the Emperor Jehangir at Agra, it was with an honest desire of improving the prospects of British trade and without the remotest intention of establishing an Empire. Even Oliver Cromwell was enthused with the attractive possibilities of trade in what was then a far distant and almost unknown country. When, in 1698, the old "London Company" made way for the historic "East India Company," with its capital of two millions sterling, it was organized as "The United Company of Merchants Trading with the East Indies."

And yet, by some means or other, as Mr. Birdwood remarks in a recent paper, both Englishmen and Americans look upon everything connected with India as simply cuttings from the pages of the "Arabian Nights." Expeditions to Afghanistan or Tibet are of interest, but no thought of India's commercial possibilities occurs to the average English speaking mind, whether on this side of the Atlantic or the other. Neither American nor English capital is attracted toward India.

The late Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, who is supposed to know something of the commercial methods of Chicago, just before he left India advised the British Government to create a new department at Calcutta—a "Department of Commerce and Industry." Most people would imagine that there would have been a department of this kind in existence. But there has only been "an Intelligence Bureau of Commerce," and nothing more.

This incident of itself indicates that apathy and indifference to which I refer. And yet the possibilities of trade and commerce with India are immense. A hundred years ago there were one hundred and fifty millions of people without socks, and a very large proportion of them without clothes. Now there are three hundred millions of people in India, all more or less aspiring to clothes, and even socks! This is only a crude illustration of the growing requirements of the people. Why should city tradesmen trouble their heads about selling misfit carpets and misfit clothes at less than cost price, when they can ship them to Bombay and Calcutta and get any price they want? The wants of the people of India are world-embracing from the American clock to the American needle. There is scarcely a native residence in the country where you do not find an American clock, and kerosene oil is rapidly superseding the vegetable oil which has been indigenous to India from long before the time of the Vedas. Every man, woman and child in India wears white cotton clothes, and the only question is, shall these clothes be manufactured at Manchester, Belfast or Glasgow, or at Providence, Richmond or Omaha—shall they be made of cotton from India or America? At present the United States regards British India as its rival in trade. Both countries are large producers of wheat, rice and cotton. In 1903 there were 65,000 bales of India cotton afloat for Europe, as compared with 52,000 bales of America cotton. The stock of cotton in Bombay was 204,000 bales, as compared with 164,000 bales in the various parts of the United States. When we bear in mind that there is no restrictive tariff in India, it is very evident that in that large tract of land lying between Burmah and Siam, Afghanistan and Ceylon, American ingenuity can not only supply wants already created, but create wants to meet the needs of the Oriental mind. What Japan has done in the course of years in creating wants, the various tribes of India can do if the country of Hindustan is thrown open to commercial enterprise.

Mr. Birdwood, in the paper to which I have referred, says some pretty hard things regarding the Anglo-Indian official. He makes statements which if they had been made by an American would be altogether discredited. He says English officials in India dislike trade and commercial questions. And he adds, "to put it plainly, their opinion of the ordinary capitalist, and much more of the financial agent, is low." The rulers of districts, the Magistrates of courts, and civil officers in control of military expeditions are men who have had no commercial training and who have no commercial habits. They are highly educated men who try to serve their country, but who are looking forward to a pensioned retirement and who are not likely to trouble themselves about the development of native industries. Of course they can look after the manufactures promoted in the State prisons, and some small enterprises originating in the city or district in which they hope to make their name and fame; but they have absolutely no conception of the great enterprises of commercial countries, whether it be their own country or any other.

Meanwhile the capitalist holds aloof. It will be absolutely necessary for the British Parliament to take some important step toward the development of the commerce of India and to encourage capitalists, if anything

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is to be undertaken by joint stock companies or syndicates. Even the English merchants of Bombay and Calcutta all look to a rapid accumulation of wealth and to an early retirement to England. As Mr. Birdwood remarks: "The India merchant man is scarcely in evidence, and the Englishman whose money is needed is only conspicuous by his absence." The American capitalist, I venture to say, has never given the subject a single thought.

A new body of merchant adventurers must be brought into being, men knowing Hindustan and her enormous possibilities, and with capital sufficient to bring into lucrative prominence some of those latent sources of wealth which exist in India. Syndicates of combined capital should be formed.

But what is most needed is the man. In South Africa it was not only the fruitful dreaming of Cecil Rhodes, a man of university education and culture, but it was his strong personality which was the great factor in the growth of the White Man's Africa.

There is no labor problem in India. There are millions of people ready to work, and work well, who would look upon 25 cents a day as untold riches. What is needed is enterprise, that enterprise which has built the American railroads and opened out the great West with the use of British and American capital.

Nor need the climate of India deter the speculator. For six months of the year the climate of the plains is everything that can be desired; and during the other six months the lofty ranges of the Himalayas and the Nilghiris, and the beautiful vale of Cashmere, supply that measure of health and comfort which we find in the Adirondacks and White Mountains at home.

The native of India would welcome the American speculator. Being a born gambler himself, he would welcome anything in the way of venture. Even the agriculturist would readily exchange the poverty of farming for the prodigious remuneration of the mills. The official prejudice, to which I have referred, would have little effect on the progressive American. At present commercial enterprise in India is more or less at a standstill. Of course, within the last few years some progress has been made. All kinds of cloth and other articles of clothing are being manufactured, and manufactured in large quantities; but still there is no great spirit of enterprise in the country. And no wonder, for the average Englishman, whether he is in Parliament or on the street, takes infinitely more interest in a small battle in Tibet than he would in the opening of some enormous commercial industry at Poona or Cawnpore.

BIG SNAKES IN CAPTIVITY.

Information about the boas and pythons in the collection of the New York Zoological Society is given by Raymond L. Ditmars, curator of reptiles, in the July issue of the society's bulletin.

Owing to their large size and brilliant colors, the boas and pythons, representing the family "Boidae," are among the most interesting inmates of the reptile house. Forty-eight specimens of these showy serpents, representing eleven species, are now on exhibition. The collection of boas and pythons contains not only the huge pythons of tropical Africa and India, and the gorgeously hued "Boiguacu" of South America but lowly forms as well, such as the rubber boa, a diminutive burrowing species of the western United States, and the remarkable sand boa, or "two-headed" snake of Egypt.

In the New world, the largest of the boas is the anaconda, or water boa, of tropical South America a species alleged to attain a length of twenty-five feet or more, but specimens of such dimensions appear to be so exceedingly rare that they never find their way into captivity. Two fine specimens of this aquatic snake are on exhibition in the reptile house. The largest specimen, measuring sixteen feet in length, recently gave birth to thirty-four young. The young snakes are being carefully fed, and it is thought that the majority of them may be reared. At time of birth they were twenty-seven inches long, and of much the same coloration as the parent. Like the adult, they are very vicious and resent handling.

The birth of these little snakes illustrates a characteristic predominant among the boas, the majority or possibly all of which are viviparous, bringing forth their young alive. The pythons, on the contrary, lay eggs, over and about which they coil, so remaining until they hatch, after some six or eight weeks' time.

Another New World boa, one of the most beautiful of serpents, is a snake well known by its scientific name. This is the common boa, both technically and popularly known as the boa constrictor, a native of tropical South America and the West Indies. Three handsome specimens are on exhibition. Owing to its good temper and docile nature, this species of boa is eagerly sought by snake "charmers," but it is not, however, really common in captivity.

The largest species of serpent now living is the regal or reticulated python (python reticulatus), which attains a length of at least twenty-four feet, and possibly greater dimensions. This splendid serpent is well represented in the Reptile House by five specimens, two of which are more than twenty feet in length, and weigh nearly two hundred pounds each.

In captivity the regal python prefers to feed on poultry, and can engulf entire and without difficulty an eight-pound "rooster," in full feather. Two such fowls usually constitute a substantial meal, but a very hungry snake will consume four chickens of this size, and be ready for more within ten days' time. During the first few months of confinement very large specimens of this snake appear to suffer from the restraints of captivity. They steadily refuse food, and if energetic measures are not employed, they become emaciated and gradually starve to death.

Whenever a large serpent is thus languishing it is necessary to feed it by force and thus awaken its sluggish appetite. Young rabbits are killed and tied together with brown twine, the snake is held by the keepers in as straight a position as possible and by means of a pole the meal is forced down its throat a distance of about six feet. Food thus administered usually changes the snake's demeanor towards captivity. With the meal once digested, the appetite for food usually returns.

A fine specimen of the African rock python in the Reptile House, is only nine feet and a half long, but it slightly exceeds in weight a specimen of the regal python fourteen feet long. The body is a delicate shade of tan. Down the back is a series of large, olive-brown saddles, and on each side of the head is a broad, pinkish band. Few species of the large snakes so quickly become docile in captivity, or are more hardy if properly cared for than this African constrictor. It is the snake most frequently exhibited by circus performers, and owing to its good nature and its ability to endure rough handling in transit, it is a prime favorite with travelling showmen. Large numbers of these snakes are captured annually, and shipped from Africa to various parts of Europe and America.

HOW I BECAME A HUMORIST.

I had written fiction for which my warmest friend could not feign a liking. I had soared in poetical flights that not even the most daring editorial imagination cared to follow.

I had lost myself in philosophical speculations that made my readers rejoice at the loss and pray that I might never be found. All had been to no purpose. Failure had written her autograph on every blank page of life's erstwhile gilt album. And my intentions from my youth up had been so good! I had belabored fiction, poetry, philosophy, with such unremitting earnestness! I could not dig, to beg I was ashamed, and I had never been trained to a useful trade.

At last in desperation I told the story of my failure with absolute fidelity to fact, knowing that its very frankness would disarm suspicion of its autobiographical truth. In writing thus I hoped not only to relieve the strain on my overstrung nerves by complete sincerity, but also to relieve the strain on my understrung purse by means of the appeal that "realism" makes to the modern mind. My confession was no sooner read by the editor of my choice than a check for twenty-five dollars was sent me post-haste.

Immediately on the appearance of my article I was hurled at me from every side the charge of being an American humorist. My paternal Scotch blood was up in an instant; my maternal Puritan backbone stiffened itself. I might as well have had no ancestors and have come over from Cork in the steamer. Was this my reward for simple truthfulness? But the notion was curiously widespread, singularly persistent, as ineradicable as couch grass. "We want to see more of your work," wrote the editor of the "Age." "Send us everything that you have not yet placed."

I am a merciful nature (despite my ancestry), and I held my hand; I made a careful selection of story, poetry, and philosophical essay. "These are not in your line," the editor replied. "You have struck a rich vein of pure humor. We have seen nothing better for years than the sketch we printed. Send something more of the same kind."

"We have seen your story in the 'Age,'" other editors wrote, "and we should be glad to have the opportunity of publishing something from you in the near future." But no editor would accept anything "serious." Motley was the only ware.

A SERIOUS PREDICAMENT. Laughter comes hard to one of my heritage, but I was forced to smile in secret at the seriousness of my predicament. The horse leech's two daughters were nothing to the editors, who cried: "Give! Give!" and hurled back at me in exasperation the productions that with all effort and good will they could not label "humorous."

My oldest acquaintances almost tripped over each other in their delight at discovering that I was entertaining. "Isn't it a surprise to find that she is humorous?" I heard them ask each other. "I should never have dreamed it." "Nor I!" "I should," said another, more knowing. "Several years ago some one told me that she knew a lady who had a friend who said once that she had a funny side to her, though you never would think it."

"Really?" they all exclaimed in breathless chorus. Under the influence of their surprise and pleasure I felt myself undergoing a change, softening, mellowing inwardly quivering, stirring and growing and ready to shoot forth into quips and cranks. Happily I restrained myself, and the Indian-like passivity of my countenance stood me in good stead, for my meriment might as readily have been misunderstood as the strict truthfulness of my story of humorous imputations.

But whatever I may not have been in the past, the frankness of my friends and acquaintance was fast making of me a humorist in fact as well as in fancy. For—and this is my discovery—truth is the source of humor. "O wad some power the giftie gie us To see ourselves as others see us!" Whoever has once been granted that vision must be forever after a humorist. Whoever has once seen truly the size of his place in the world has henceforth securely in his keeping a private joke of sufficient immensity and intensity to color and flavor an infinity of humorisms.

From my experience I have evolved a few guiding principles. "Tell the truth and shame the devil," is a relic of crude medievalism. For it I substitute: "Tell the truth and have the laugh on your side." Before that laugh devils blue or black will flee dismayed. The following flash of insight sounds like some one whose name has escaped me: "Truth is of all things on earth the rarest; so incongruous is it with the conventions of this our world that the smallest patch of truth upon the web of life awakens that perception of incongruity in which the sense of humor has its root."

Another dictum has almost the Shakespearean ring: "Your truth-teller is your only humorist." But for the purposes of an everyday, hard-working, bread-winning humorist, there is nothing like an aphorism in the modern manner: "Facts are funnier than fiction."

That last motto I have pinned on my wall, to it I have pinned my faith, by it I will survive or perish. "Facts are funnier than fiction." The difficulty is that in order to see the fun you must know the inside facts, but facts do not ordinarily seem funny to those who are inside them, people in such close quarters being liable to feel physically cramped and mentally preoccupied. It must have been necessary for Jonah, for instance, to attain a certain degree of detachment from the whale before he could fully appreciate the humor of his situation. The sug-

gestion of the frog in the fable to the boy who was stoning him still further illustrates this point. "It is fun for you, but it is death for us," said the frog, who was not able to detach himself sufficiently from the fact to appreciate the fun. He was potentially a humorist, because he knew there was fun somewhere if only he could find it. The fully evolved humorist combines in his own person the point of view of the boy with that of the frog. I am that humorist.

A reception was given in my honor, and I was asked to speak on the subject, "How I Became a Humorist." "My friends," I began, "the secret of my success is simple. I could not help it." (Laughter and applause, and murmurs of, "Isn't she too delicious?") "I am by nature intensely truthful" (continuous laughter, so that I almost despair of being able to go on with my speech), "but undraped truth is not tolerated in polite society." (Murmurs of "Good! Good!") "I learned to clothe the truth in meaningless masks and misleading mantles that gave no clue to the form within. We all know how to do that!" (Laughter and applause.) "But a sudden hunger for sincerity seized me. It is a hunger that can be appeased more cheaply than some other kinds. I determined for once in my life to tell the truth, and I became a humorist." (Continued applause.) "For, my friends, in this world of ours there is no joke so irresistible as the truth." (Laughter loud and long.) "Try it for yourselves and see."

I stopped there, for it seemed cruel to continue the strain upon their risibilities of what they were pleased to consider my humor. I knew, also, that if I did not stop they would soon stop me in their eagerness to present their friends and to compare the quality and intensity of their own sense of humor with mine. "It is such a rare treat to meet some one who sees the funny side of things, just as I do myself," each of them confided to me. "Most people have no sense of humor."

"Oh, Miss Truefak!" demanded a woman I had met the week before, grasping me by both arms and shaking me gently. "Why have you buried yourself all these years? Any one that can make people laugh like you can ought to consider it her duty to be funny all the time."

"It is so fatiguing to be funny!" I answered out of a full heart.

"Oh, you dear, delightful thing!" she cried, at a loss for words to express her relish of my drollery.

"You could be so deliciously funny," one of my dear friends said to me, "if only you would give up trying to be serious. You have worked so hard all these years; but it is of no use. Nature meant you for a humorist."

"Then she has bungled her job!" I said rather savagely.

"No," she replied, "but she has saddled you with a Puritan conscience. Convince yourself that it is not wrong to be as humorous as you feel, and let yourself go. Write something even funnier than your last."

"Be it, Brute!" I murmured as I turned away.

It is impossible to escape my fate. I am an earnest soul, yes, even strenuous, so far as my strength permits. The one object of my life (next to living) is to write a novel with seven purposes that shall rid the world of all its deadly sins. But I am driven by dire necessity, by public opinion, by private affection, to play a part for which I am not fitted. And there are those who envy me.—Margaret Cooper McGiffert.

The sum of Rs. 3,94,000 has been allotted by the Government of India for loans to municipalities in the Punjab during the current year.

The scope of the Punjab Veterinary College is to be enlarged by the transfer to it of the teaching staff and students of the Ajmir Veterinary School.

The crop prospects in the Punjab have improved owing to the recent rain, but there are still many districts where more moisture is urgently needed.

The celebrated case Shankar Das vs. Maxminck has after all come to a close after nine years. Judgment has been given by Mr. Irvine, the District Judge, Lahore, in favour of Lala Shankar Das. The District Judge has decreed the claim in full for the sum of Rs. 15,000.

The British India steamer Pachumba from Rangoon with the Akyab mails struck the Reliance shoal, twenty-five miles south-west of Kyaukpyn at 4 o'clock on Saturday morning. Four propeller blades are broken and the steamer is quite disabled. She is anchored in deep water near the shoal. Her passengers mails have been landed by launch and assistance has been sent from Akyab. It is presumed that she experienced the recent cyclone in the Bay.

A Coorg correspondent writes on the 16th:—On the 1st inst. a Thiya was brought to the Dispensary at Gonicoval who had been very severely mauld by a bear in Ballahalla jungle near Old Ponampet. Bears have not been known in these parts for many years. The man was going along a jungle track when he came suddenly upon a male and female bear, and the male attacked him instantly. He was able to give a clear account of what had happened. After his wounds were dressed he was sent on to the Hospital at Veerajpet. It is doubtful whether he will survive.

As regards crystal hunting, writes a Kulu correspondent, though the old Rajbara mine has not yet been re-opened, yet torches pushed through gaps in the stones that block it show that the adit runs into the hill for upwards of a hundred feet. An old man of nearly ninety states that it was from this mine that the old world Rajas of Kulu derived their large crystals. It must have worked for a very long time, as the late Babu Natu Ram, E. A. C., when Munzarim of Waziri Rupi during the minority of the late Rai Dhalip Singh, father of the present Jagirdar, told me that whilst examining the archives of the Kulu family, still preserved in Sultanpur, he had come across an original perwana of the Emperor Akbar crossed to the "Zemindar of Kulu" as H. I. M. styled the Raja ordering the immediate despatch of several maunds of fine large crystal to Delhi. The half-way dak for the crystal carriers between Saicer and Sultanpur is known to have been at Hosla on the left bank of the Beas.

The Burma Government have the question under consideration and are taking opinions. Mr. J. P. Hewett arrived in Simla on Monday, and assumed charge as Officiating Home Member.

The Karachi Chamber of Commerce is likely to be unrepresented on the Commercial mission to Persia.

With regard to the proposed Indian Railway Board, we understand that a communication on the subject from the Secretary of State is likely to be issued shortly.

HAMMERS AND EGGS.

I have seen hammers, weighing many tons each and operated by steam, that would crack an egg without crushing it, and yet at one blow smash a lump of iron as big as your head as flat and thin as this sheet of paper. There are several such hammers at Essen, in Prussia, where the German Emperor's big guns are made, and at Armstrong's foundry, by the river Tyne, in England.

I have looked at these hammers with admiration and awe. They are things to take one's hat off to Oh, to have the power of a thunderbolt combined with muscular control that would enable me to take a moth between my thumb and finger without brushing the flour from its wings! And health, too, of course, health which should never, since I began to breathe, have been modified by an ache, a weakness or any physical suggestion that this condition would ever end.

But t're! if wishes were horses beggars might ride!

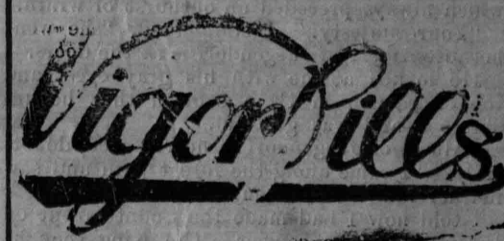
Whether the Creator so inteded it I cannot say, but every human life falls short of the ideal.

Here is an extract from a letter written by Mrs. H.C. Oosthuizen, who lives at Stand 876, Richt Street, Burgersdorp, Transvaal, on April 14 of this year, 1904, in which she tells you exactly how she suffered and what the chief symptoms were. If you are suffering from pains in the stomach, or kidneys, or from rheumatism, you have any of the symptoms she describes, it would be well for you to act on the recommendation she gives when she tells you what cured her. She says: "For nearly fifteen years I suffered from kidney complaint. I was hardly ever free from rheumatism, pains and backache. I became so ill at last that while in the Women's Camp at Bloemfontein, during the war I was taken into hospital and there remained for over two months. The treatment given me by the hospital doctors gave temporary relief and I was discharged from hospital. The rough conditions under which we were living at the time away from all home comforts did not tend toward building up my already shattered state of health. Having some friends in the camp who had been cured by Mother Seigel's Syrup, I visited them and from them heard the wonders of that remedy. I purchased two bottles and began to feel my health improve. I continued using the Syrup until I was completely cured."

There is no mistaking that story—it is a plain and simple one. But perhaps you would like to know more about the wonderful curative effects of this remarkable medicine in another case—this time the patient being a man. If so, read the accompanying extract from a letter written on March 27th, this same year, 1904, by Mr. A. Nordolin, of the Malay Location, Johannesburg. He says: "For nine years I suffered from severe pains in the vicinity of the kidneys, lost my appetite completely, and could only take milk and beef tea; anything more substantial would not remain in the stomach. I became so ill that I was forced to take to my bed. A doctor treated me for almost two months, but without success. On arriving at Cape Town at the outbreak of hostilities, a Malay friend told me of the wonderful qualities of Mother Seigel's Syrup. One bottle relieved me, and now I am never without a bottle in my house."

Only one bottle, he says, cured him, but he has such confidence in the remedy that he keeps it always handy. He can eat and enjoy and digest his food now. Without fire, no heat. Without digested food, no strength. That's Nature's law. Relief and cure for digestive disorders reside in Mother Seigel's Syrup. Cases on which excellent doctors have looked in despair are daily cured by it, and it is constantly adding to the working strength and happiness of the world.

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No other medicine will give you relief as
IMMEDIATE—MAGICAL—MARVELLOUS

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No need wasting word—try and judge.

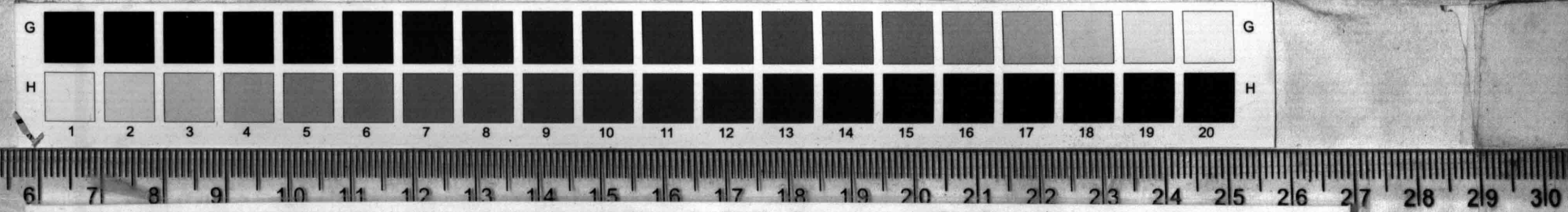
VIGOR PILL
is invaluable in all the different varieties of
seminal and organic diseases and wasting
diseases. In removing poison from the body
—in enriching the impoverished blood
—in bringing back to the old or prematurely
old the vigor and strength of glorious
manhood—in restoring joy to the cheerless—
in giving tone to the system—it is unequalled,
unrivaled, unsurpassed.

VIGOR PILL
removes the evil effects of youthful indiscretion,
abnormal excess, dangerous abstinence
—rejuvenates the old—reoperates the wasted
frame—sharpen the memory—purifies the
blood—wonderfully increases the power of
retention—arrests the decay of age—brings
on appetite.

Try VIGOR PILL once and you will see
VIGOR PILL always.

NUMERABLE CERTIFICATES—no fear of imposition.
We say less than VIGOR PILL
achieves.

MANAGER,
Bharat Vaisjanilaya,
41, Bazar Street, Calcutta.



THE KING AND I IN GOTTESBERG CASTLE.

(From the "German.") It was about 4 o'clock in the afternoon when I, Hubert von Hausach, first discovered the danger which threatened the castle of Gottesberg, and thanked God that my master, the King, was not with us.

The hours crept on slowly—more slowly than even in my life before. The steps of the sentinels were the only sound that broke the stillness. In vain I tried to persuade myself that the castle could not be stormed by a band of highwaymen.

THE PHTHISIS MICROBE.

PROFESSOR VON SCHROEN AND HIS DISCOVERY.

A correspondent of the "Westminster Gazette" writes from Naples on June 24th:—Professor von Schroen yesterday received me with the utmost courtesy. If I may, I should like to record a personal impression of the Professor himself.

Prof. von Schroen next took me to his microscope and showed me, sharply defined by violet colouring, the beautiful lace-like intricate network of transparent rounded tubes which is the fatal microbe of phthisis.

Long ago Professor von Schroen declared Koch's discovery of the tubercle bacillus to be not the highest but the lowest rung of the scientific ladder of the future.

The next departmental examination of Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners, Cantonment and Magistrates and probationers for the Political Department, will be held at Lahore on the 10th October.

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NO AGENT "EBONY" OR "Indian Hair Dye,"

Fast and permanent. Changes grey hair into jet black or brown. Stands constant washing. Does not stain the skin. Odourless. Price 2 phials with two brushes Re. 1-2-0.

"No Doctors to Treat Me!"

"In my distant village home, and the consequence is, that the baneful effects of Malaria, have reduced my health to the present state. I am shattered, weak, pale, emaciated and uncared for in my own home."

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