

Amrita Bazar Patrika

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

VOL XXXV,

CALCUTTA, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1934.

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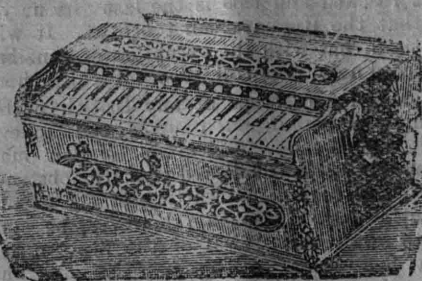
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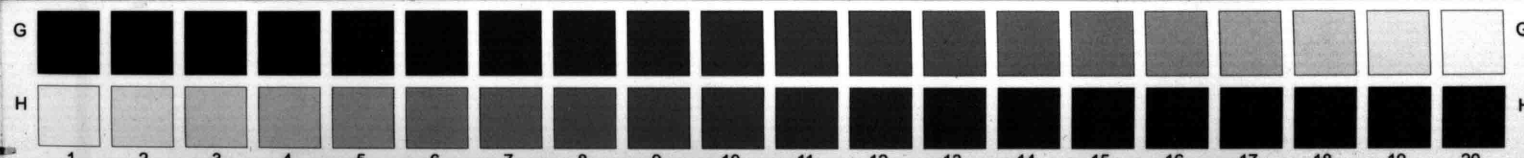
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BHAGALPUR NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Bhagalpur, Sept. 12.

THE BENGALIS IN BEHAR.

Your Bankipur correspondent is doing a great service to the cause of the Bengali community in Behar by his excellent and well-timed articles on this subject in your columns. And he has sounded his tocsin of alarm not a moment too soon. How we all pray it may be effectual in bringing about a consummation so devoutly to be wished for, viz., the promotion of fellow-feeling and good will inter se in the Bengali communities in Behar and their awakening to the necessity of uniting to safeguard their own interests. Wishes, however, are only a small part of the qualification necessary to secure the end in view, and, thanks to the culpable apathy of our brethren to all matters relating to the improvement of their present deplorable situation, all our wishes and prayers in this direction have been hitherto uniformly baffled. And the evil complained of by your Bankipur correspondent is more—much more—rampant here in our town than perhaps anywhere else in Behar. There is a palpable want of solidarity among the components of the Bengali society—the want of that cohesive force which builds up microscopic atoms into mighty fabrics—the total absence of an "esprit de corps" which was so observable here but a couple of decades ago. Over and above this—and this is perhaps unique in Behar—we have here social faction or Daladali with all its concomitant evils—that Daladali which is the bane of the societies of Lower Bengal villages and the absence of which is said to be one of the relieving features of the Bengali societies in Behar and up-country generally. The result is that all sympathy, fellow-feeling and good-will are conspicuous by their absence, whether among neighbours or members of the Bar or official colleagues. Each views the affairs of the others with cool indifference, knowing not that this exclusiveness will ultimately recoil against himself and make our fallen race all the more slighted and hated not only by the Europeans but our Behari brethren as well. Here also there is a growing feeling among the Beharis that the Bengalis have reigned here long enough and that it is high time they should make room for the children of the soil in every sphere. This feeling is already being given effect to by a gradual elimination of the Bengali element in some quarters and we must be prepared for more. I sincerely hope that the new spirit which animates our Bankipur brethren and which is already manifesting itself in such desirable and hope-inspiring embodiments as the Bengali Association, Library, etc., recently started here will animate ourselves also, and I earnestly appeal to my brethren here to follow suit in this laudable attempt to save ourselves before it is too late.

THE LOCAL COLLEGE.

The T. N. Jubilee College authorities have at last been roused—no doubt by the recent Government Resolution on Education as well as some unfavourable remarks passed on the college staff by Mr. Fedier in the course of his last inspection tour here—to the necessity of improving the personnel of the staff as well as the finances of the Institution. The Head-mastership of the school department having lately fallen vacant, the committee have appointed Babu Khagendra Nath Chatterjee, M.A., at present junior Professor of English Literature in the College, to the vacancy on an increased pay. Babu Khagendra Nath had at first joined the Institution as Head-master and proved a most efficient and successful Head-master. So we have every reason to hope that with the return of its able Head-master, the school will attain to its former prosperity. Some other changes in the college staff are also being contemplated. As regards the finances, Mr. D. N. Sing, Bar-at-Law, the worthy and liberal-minded son, of the illustrious founder of the college has, with a view to improve them, placed the splendid plot (measuring about 9 or 10 local bighas) opposite the Commissioner's quarters at the disposal of the committee who have notified it for sale. A suggestion, by the way, would not be out of place here. May our distinguished and public-spirited townsmen, Babu Ramani Mohan and Sourindra Mohan, purchase it and construct therein a park for the public, to be called after their illustrious father, the late lamented Rai Suryanarain Sing Bahadur? Such a deed would be well worthy of such worthy sons of a worthy father. The money to be spent would be nothing when compared to the worthiness of the object, to the incalculable public benefit to be rendered as well as to the everlasting public gratitude and fame to be secured thereby. The size and situation of the plot mark it out for a park and our town, big as it is, is without any park and our recreation-ground for children and youths. The race-course is too far off, while the Sand's compound, which might otherwise have been an excellent recreation-ground has become almost forbidden ground to the poor "natives," thanks to the indefatigable zeal of Mr. Swaine. I hope my suggestion will not, after all, be in vain.

OFFICIAL.

We have had some official changes here of late. Mr. Sakhatat Hossein, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner, has gone away on leave and been succeeded by our Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Babu Basanta K. Bose, who, I need hardly tell you, has been a very welcome change. Mr. Hossein might have been an able officer for aught we know, but he was anything but popular here. Another official change worth noticing but which, unlike the former, we heartily regret, is the transfer from this station of Dr. Jogendra N. Ghose, lately Assistant Surgeon here. Dr. Ghose, besides being an ornament to the service to which he belongs (as evidenced by his rapid promotion to the rank of a Civil Surgeon in which capacity he has been transferred to Jessore) combined in himself professional talents of a high order with a suavity of manners and kindness and generosity of disposition rarely to be found in these days. It will be long ere we find another Assistant Surgeon like him and we cannot but view his departure from our midst as little short of a calamity, especially at a time when the plague has established its strong hold here and when there is a dearth of good physicians in our town. Rai Krishna Chandra Banerjee, Bahadur, Inspector of Works, P.W.D., has been transferred to Dacca. The reason assigned for the transfer is that his services will be needed in connection with some new works contemplated there. We all expected that the Rai Bahadur being a senior and distinguished officer, would be retained here as Superintendent of this circle—a post to which he has the most indubitable claims. But his sudden transfer on such a flimsy ground and to an unhealthy district has rather taken us aback. Is it because it has been considered impolitic to retain him here inasmuch as he would then have many European officers as his subordinates? Lastly, Mr. Abinas Chander Chatterjee, Assistant Superintendent of Telegraph, is going away on transfer to Shillong. Mr. Chatterjee has managed, within the rather short space of his stay here, to make him popular to all who came in contact with him. It is with the deepest regret that we bid him "au revoir" and wish him a happy and prosperous career.

THE BANEILLY RAJ.

A BIG AND SENSATIONAL FRAUD.

A big fraud perpetrated on the Baneilly estate by one of its Amlas has lately been detected, and created quite a sensation here. It is alleged that the said Amla—a Mahomedan—withdraw from the Raj Treasury Rs. 9,000 for depositing revenue in respect of a Mahal, which was really Rs. 9 only which he deposited, and misappropriated the balance. The Collector being at present the Receiver of the estate, a vigorous investigation is going on, and, if rumour is to be believed, it has led to the detection of similar other instances of embezzlement systematically committed by several of the Raj Amlas and aggregating to over a lakh of Rupees,—as a result of which some of them have been suspended. This rumour, even if partially true, no doubt discloses a system rotten to the very core.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Several cases of plague are being reported from the outlying parts of the town.—The Municipality has, (probably as a result of the Lieutenant-Governor's late visit) suddenly been possessed by a superabundance of zeal for collecting its taxes as evidenced by Notices of Demand being served right and left on almost every rate-payer of the town, from the Commissioner downwards. No distinction is being made between the willing and regular payer and the habitual defaulter or between the respectable and non-respectable rate-payers. I hope the august body will mind restraining this inordinate zeal before it reaches bursting point.

THE AGARPARAH RAILWAY STATION RIOT CASE.

A sensational riot case which cropped up at the Agarparah Railway station was heard in the Court of Mr. Ram Anugraha Narain Singh, the Police Magistrate or Sealdah, on Wednesday. The defendants in the case were some respectable youths, named Ambica Churn Mukerjee (1), Akhoy Kumar Chatterjee, Tejas Chander Chatterjee, Poonim Behari Chatterjee, Ambica Churn Mukerjee (2), Anadi Nath Mukerjee, Ram Churn Mukerjee, Gopal Chander Dutt, Hari Churn Das, and Hardhane Mukerjee.

The case was conducted by Babu Komadim Kanto Soome, Court Inspector, G. R. Police. The facts, as alleged, are these. A Mohomedan student, named Basarath Hossein, complained to the station master of Agarparah to the effect that he had been assaulted in the train between Agarparah and Belghoria stations by a youth, named Gopal Chander Dutt, and also asked the station master to notice that Gopal Chandra was going away by the off side of the train which was then standing in the station. On this complaint the station master ordered one Rasul Sing, a constable attached to the Bengal Police, who was on duty there and a porter, named Jan Ali, to arrest Gopal Chandra as he did not stop to show his ticket when ordered by the station master to do so. Gopal Chandra was then arrested and brought to the Railway Station. The Station master asked him to show his ticket. He showed a ticket which was issued from Calcutta for Titagarh. He was placed under the charge of a policeman and the matter was wired to the G. R. Police Sub-Inspector A. T. Mustaphi, at Barrackpore.

In the meantime a train came up from Calcutta. One Ambica alighted from the train and told the constable to let Gopal Chandra who was in his custody. The constable did not listen to him. Ambica Churn threatened him. Fifteen minutes after this another train arrived from Calcutta when the other defendants named above alighted from the train and assaulted the constable with his umbrella and rescued Gopal Chandra from his lawful custody, and then they all cleared out. The G. R. P. Inspector, Mr. A. T. Mustaphi, took up the enquiry which resulted in the arrest of the above named ten youths. The defendants were placed on their trial under sections 147 (rioting), and 353 I. P. Code (obstructing a public servant in the execution of his duty) and 225 I. P. Code (rescuing a prisoner from lawful custody).

Babu Promotho Nath Mukerjee with Babu Hari Churn Mukerjee appeared for the defence. After the complainant and six witnesses for the prosecution had been examined the case was adjourned to the 23rd instant. The defendants were ordered to be enlarged on their personal recognisance of Rs. 500 each.

Could Scarcely Walk.—Mr. G. S. Purton a resident of Kyneton, Victoria, Australia, says: "Some time ago I was attacked with severe pains and stiffness in my legs, which affected me so that I could scarcely walk, when I was recommended to try a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm by our local chemist, Mr. Stedwick. I have used it once a day since, and have experienced wonderful relief. I am indeed grateful for the good it has done me and shall be happy to recommend Chamberlain's Pain Balm to anyone suffering from a similar complaint." For sale by

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NOTES ON THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

Now that the Baltic Fleet has actually sailed, if the reports are to be believed, we are chiefly interested in the route it will take to reach the China Seas and the time it will spend on the voyage. According to the latest account the Canal route has been abandoned and the fleet will proceed by the Cape calling at Brest, where it will coal in the roadstead from its own colliers, and at Tenerife and Las Palmas in the Canary Islands, where it will coal again. Its next calling place is set down as Zanzibar, not a very probable destination as it involves a considerable detour and the island being under British protection no coaling facilities need be expected; in any case, however, the fleet would require to coal at sea between the Canaries and the West African port. From there another very long stretch intervenes involving several stoppages for coaling at sea, till Saigon is reached and this is the last "friendly" port that the Russians can touch at. It will be noticed that with the exception of Zanzibar an exceedingly doubtful place of call, there is no mention of stops at any British ports, a course which if acted upon will relieve us of a good many difficulties. Japan may or may not seek to raise diplomatic obstruction to any coaling or refitting of the enemy in neutral ports; she may, however, be content to await the arrival of the fleet in the China Sea before taking any action. The wait will necessarily be very prolonged. It is calculated that the minimum duration of a voyage from Kronstadt to Vladivostok, at an average speed of eight knots, would be 70 days, and allowing for the various delays it is thought to be impossible to cover the distance in less than 90 days. Eight knots no doubt seems an excessively slow speed for warships, some of which are capable of continuous steaming for long periods at more than double the rate. But the speed of a fleet is the average of its slowest vessels, and not only are some of the warships old and slow but the torpedo craft have a very small coal capacity and need to replenish their bunkers frequently. The slow vessels carrying small supplies may of course be left behind with orders to catch up after coaling, but that would consume the coal quicker and little would be gained. Coaling at sea, again, except in calm weather is difficult and tedious and the Russians have had the smallest practice in it; in fact, the Russian navy has never had any general reputation for good seamanship although individuals and particular crews have on occasions shown themselves adepts. Nor is it to be wondered at seeing that the bulk of their ships in European waters are laid up for months together. Regarding the coal capacity of the fleet it may be remarked that the Alexander III. class, which will have to bear the main fighting if the Japanese are ever encountered, are supposed to be able to do 8,000 miles at ten knots, while the "Sissoi Veliky," Imperial Nikolai and Alexander II." can only manage 2,000 miles, and some of the other vessels even less. We need not go into the enormous natural difficulties confronting the Russian Admiral further than to remark that his newest and most powerful vessels have been completed hurriedly, have had but the scantiest trials and are manned and commanded as a whole by second-rate men, for the pick of Russia's navy is still shut up in Port Arthur.—"Pioneer."

BOMBAY LAND REVENUE.

ORDER BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The following Press Note has been issued by the Government of Bombay:—"The Government are not yet in a position to issue final orders on the subject of suspensions and remissions of land revenue. It is, however, necessary that a definite pronouncement should be made at once regarding the course which is to be adopted in the present year, in which there are grounds for apprehending an extensive failure of the early crops. The instructions now issued are to be clearly understood as applying only to the present emergency, and as liable to such modifications as may be necessary hereafter when this Government receive the decision of the Government of India on the proposals that have been laid before them. Subject to these remarks the following orders are published for general information and for the guidance of District Officers, and Collectors should take effective measures for making the orders known throughout their districts. When a Collector has ascertained by local inquiries that owing to partial or total failure or destruction of crops on account of drought, or from any other cause, it will be necessary to suspend the collection of the land revenue in any area, he is authorised to grant suspensions to all occupants, agriculturists and non-agriculturists alike, without inquiry into the circumstances of the individuals, where the area affected is homogeneous, or where villages are very seriously affected, suspensions should be announced for such tract or villages without detailed inspection. The Collector should forthwith report his proceedings, stating fully the reasons for his order and the extent of its application with all other particulars to the Commissioner, who should inform the Government at once of the amounts to be suspended. The Collector should cause occupants whose land revenue is suspended distinctly to understand that such suspension is provisional only and that it will be decided subsequently whether the revenue suspended shall be ultimately remitted or collected. To petty namdars, who themselves cultivate inam lands, suspensions may be granted in accordance with the foregoing orders, which, however, do not apply to other inamdars. Remissions should be granted to bona fide agriculturists and to those non-agriculturist occupants to whose cultivating tenants it is possible to secure, by a guarantee given by the occupant, a corresponding remission of rent. There should be no inquiry into the circumstances of the individuals, except for the purpose of deciding whether the occupants are within the category."

RAIN IN THE DECCAN.

HOPEFUL CHANGE.

DROUGHT STILL UNBROKEN IN GUJARAT.

The weather reports for the past two days show that there has been a general fall of good rain over Central India, the Deccan and Southern India, but, unfortunately, not a drop has fallen yet in Gujarat. An area of abnormally low pressure was reported over the Madras Presidency yesterday, which produced rain all along the coast from Cochin to Bombay, over the whole of the Deccan, in Berar, and at Sangor, Jubbulpore, Hoshangabad, Khandwa, Nagpur, Cawnpore, Jhansi, Jaipur, Hyderabad (Deccan), Bellary, Cuddapah and Madras. The important and heavy falls reported up to 8 a.m. yesterday morning are:—3.00" at Aurangabad, 2.39" at Ratnagiri, and between one and two inches at Akola, Poona, Ahmednagar and Sholapur.

The weather report of the 12th instant shows that further good rain had fallen over the same area up to 8 a.m. this morning, and that the conditions still remain favourable, the depression having advanced from the east landwards.

GOOD RAIN IN POONA AND ITS VICINITY.

After a lengthened period during which the absence of a rain was much felt, Poona had the benefit of a really good shower early yesterday morning. It drizzled a little about seven o'clock on the night previous, and the gathering clouds denoted a downpour. This was fully borne out, for at about one yesterday morning the long-absent rain came down plentifully. It rained continually till about 5 o'clock in the morning, and altogether Poona was 1 inch and 90 cents the better for it, that amount being gauged at the Sassoon General Hospital. The rain in Poona is stated only to be a part of other good showers that fell at the same time in different parts of the Poona District as well as in Satara and portions of the southern Mahratta country. The rain has been greatly welcomed after its protracted absence, and if a few more showers should continue to fall, the jowari crops, which are now in imminent danger may still be saved. The cultivator is having a very anxious time of it, for the bajri crops are all gone and acute distress must prevail in the near future if jowari, the other staple product in the Deccan, is not saved by good showers of rain at present much needed. The sky was overclouded a good portion of yesterday, and it looks as if more rain will fall.

Poona, Sept. 12.

A short, sharp shower occurred about day-break. The sky is overcast, and the barometer has fallen. The Bombay Command Office Sports, which had to come off this afternoon, have been postponed on account of the weather.

GOOD RAIN IN THE SHOLAPUR DISTRICT.

PROSPECT OF A GOOD LATE CROP.

Sholapur, Sept. 11.

There has been a more powerful current evident since Friday last, which has resulted in a good rainfall, well dispersed throughout the district. Although it is too late to save the bajri and moong dhall crops, which have withered owing to the drought, in some places there is a very fair prospect of the jowari and other late crops being a success if the rain continues for a couple of days more. The sky is overcast with clouds, and there are frequent light to moderate showers recorded all through the district. The Scena, Bori and other rivers, which presented a sorrowfully dry appearance up to date, are all running quite full now. The prospect is altogether a most hopeful one, and experts maintain that two days' more rain will avert a famine.

Nariad, Sept. 11.

The rain still holds off, and the prices of food-stuffs and butter have greatly increased. Relief works are to be opened up in each taluka. There is no water in the Khari river and the flow of water in the Meshwo and Shedi rivers has ceased. The Watrak may continue to run for a couple of months yet. All the ponds are dry, and it is more a water famine that is dreaded than a scarcity of grain, as this latter can be brought in from elsewhere.

All the standing crops, except cotton, are suffering. Tobacco, bajri and jowari are being irrigated by a few cultivators who have wells in their fields and sufficient means to fetch water.

The state of the crops and the condition of the people is being watched by the District officers.

Amreli, Sept. 11.

A welcome change in the weather set in to-day, and, to the great relief of the people, it began to rain in the morning. During the day about two inches were registered. This timely break has aroused renewed hopes, and the joy of the cultivators is unbounded.

KATHIAWAR.

Jamnagar, Sept. 7.

Light showers of rain are reported to have fallen at Chital, Bhadia, Sardhar and other surrounding districts.

Morvi, Sept. 7.

The crops here are still in fair condition, and, if there is a good downpour of rain, prospects will improve considerably.

Ahmedabad, Sept. 11.

With the exception of a light shower that fell on Friday last, there was no rain during the week, and the prices of food, fodder and "ghee" are rising. It has been arranged to open the relief work of Deo-Rathal tank, in the Sanand taluka, and of the Aniali tank, in the Dhandlika taluka, from the 12th and the 19th instant, respectively, under the supervision of Mr. Spencer, Assistant Engineer. It has also been arranged to open similar works in the talukas of Viramgam, Daskroi and Ghokha. The mamlatdar of the Sanand taluka has commenced granting "takavi" advances.

Baroda, Sept. 11.

No rain has fallen here yet. Mr. K. K. Dadachanj, Dewan of Baroda, has started on a tour in the territories of the State to ascertain for himself the condition of the crops and the people.

FAMINE RELIEF PREPARATIONS.

The Political Agent, Mahi Kanta, convened a meeting of the "Karbarhars" of the States under his Agency on the 5th instant, to consider what steps should be taken in connection with the opening of famine relief works.

It was resolved that the riots and labourers were not in need of any relief at present, and that the matter be deferred for a month. In the meanwhile it was decided that the cultivators should be instructed to utilize well and river water where available, and proceed with sowing operations.—"A. I."

A FINE ARTS EXHIBITION.

Sir Hugh Shakespear Barnes, Lieutenant Governor of Burma, has sanctioned a proposal to hold an Exhibition of Pictures and Photographs by amateurs resident in Burma concurrently with the Provincial Art Competition which will open in the middle of next January. Committees have been formed and rules framed on the model of the Smla Fine Art Society's Exhibition. Several private individuals and some of the Rangoon firms have offered prizes, and the list will soon be completed and published for general information.

LASCAR RESCUED AT SEA.

The "Stornberger," which arrived in Madras Wednesday, has on board a lascar rescued in the Red Sea under the following conditions. At nine o'clock one night a human cry was heard from the sea. The vessel's engines were reversed, and when her way was stopped a man was discovered moaning in the sea. He was rescued in an exhausted condition, but when he recovered he said he was a fireman on board a Harrison Liner and had jumped over board to escape ill-treatment by the tindal. When rescued he was 200 miles from land and had been more than five hours in the water.

DISTRICT PLEADERS' EXAMINATION.

In view of the fact that about a hundred candidates pass the final LL.B. examination of the Bombay University every year, which entitle them to act as pleaders, the Chief Justice of Bombay has been inviting opinions of the District Judges and legal practitioners as to whether it would not be advisable to abolish the examination for the District Pleaders which is held by the High Court. The Bombay Pleaders Association has been invited by the Chief Justice to pronounce its opinion on the question, and a meeting of the Association will be held this afternoon to consider the question.

ASSAULT BY A EUROPEAN.

Writes our Malabar correspondent:—A poor Mopla patient of the local Hospital, while washing himself recently in the Hospital verandah, was, it is stated, assaulted by a Sergeant, of the local Volunteer Rifles. This proud son of Mars lives in a house adjoining the Hospital Compound, and the gallant Sergeant's wife did not, we are told, particularly approve of the practice of patients washing their diseased limbs in the open, often clad in zephyr. The Mopla has lodged a complaint against him in the Assistant Magistrate's Court. The case is pending trial.

COST OF THE TIBET EXPEDITION.

The "Advocate of India" says:—It is possible that in time the country will develop trading possibilities, of which there are as yet few signs. In any advantage accrues as all from Lord Curzon's action, it will benefit the Empire as a whole, and not India alone. It is, therefore, to be hoped that when the bill is presented, the Imperial Government will see its way to pay at least a part of the cost of the Mission. It is wrong that the full charge should be pressed on India, and wrong from a point which does not admit of dispute—India cannot afford such imperial pones. This is the ne feature alone of the Mission which need occupy our attention. Let England bear the cost, and she will not hear a complaining voice.

TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT.

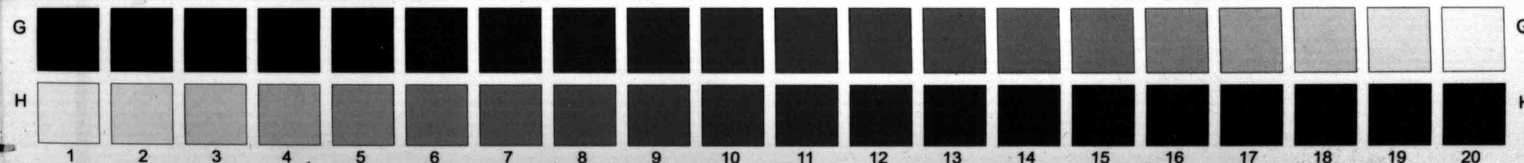
Babu Tansuk Roy Agarwalla, a Marwari Merchant of Dibrugarh got some twelve rupees worth of goods from the neighbouring shop of Babu Jethmal Agarwalla. Next day demand was made for the price which was paid. Subsequently Jethmal sent a demand for one price more. The purchaser, however, protested saying that only half a pice was due, but that according to the custom of the mercantile community here his could not be taken into account. High words ensued after which the price paid was returned and Jethmal's man left. On Friday as Tansuk Roy was passing by the shop of Jethmal a row took place between the parties. Cross petitions were filed in court in which charges of assault, insult and hurt were brought against each other. It is said that the parties have already spent hundreds over this affair.

A CASE OF POLICE EXTORTION.

A case of police extortion has been filed before the senior Magistrate of Madras. The accused Rajagopal, is a constable in the "B" Division, City Police, and the complainant, one Venkatchela Mudali, a resident of Black Town. The complaint against him accused is that he, on the 12th August last, put the complainant in fear of injury, and eventually extorted from him the sum of annas three. The story for the prosecution goes that on the day in question, while the complainant was returning from the Customs House, he was arrested by the accused in Namayanappa Nak Street for committing a nuisance on the public road. The accused who was then in plain clothes, subsequently offered to let the complainant go if he was given four annas. The complainant borrowed some money from two persons who were passing along the road and paid the accused three annas, and then he was allowed to go away. The complainant, however, instead of returning home followed the accused at some distance till he came across a passer-by, who gave the accused's name and number to the complainant. The case will be called on for hearing before long.

The Idea which some people have that chronic diarrhoea is incurable is a mistake. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy not only gives immediate relief but will effect a permanent cure. It never fails and is pleasant to take. For sale by

Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., Abdul Rahaman and Abdul Karam, Calcutta.



NET RESULT OF THIBET EXPEDITION.

We said yesterday that the Thibetan expedition had ended in the same manner as did the transaction of the Vicar's son, who, after disposing of a horse, brought in return home a pair of glittering but valueless spectacles! For, what we find, is that Colonel Younghusband, after expending so much money and blood is coming back with a scroll—an enormous sheet of paper containing the treaty—which was sealed on the 4th instant by the Thibetan Regent, who was perhaps created as such by the expedition, so that it might enter into negotiation with some responsible body in the absence of the Grand Lama.

The terms of the treaty show that the expedition had enough of this business, and it was in a great hurry to run back home. As a matter of fact, it had absolutely no work to do, and the Thibetans were fleeing it with a vengeance by selling their wretched articles of food to the troops at enormous prices. The prospect of wintering at Lhasa was also not at all pleasant; and the situation of the small army, isolated there during the whole of the cold season, was full of dangers. The expedition was thus prepared for any treaty. The invasion of Thibet is the third stupendous blunder of the Government of India.

The Government had men and money in 1839, and there was Shah Suja, the ex-King of Kabul, in India, for the purposes of intrigue. The temptation was great; the only difficulty was Runjit Singh. But he was glad, when it was proposed to him, that the white people from the West was going to invade the country of his old enemy, the Afghans. Preparations for invading Afghanistan were at once made; and a magnificent army, with Shah Suja and a treasury chest, filled to the brim with money, accompanied the expedition. Dost Mohamad, the "usurper," was made a prisoner; Kabul was occupied; Shah Suja installed; and thus Afghanistan became a part and parcel of the British Empire in the East.

But while Dost Mohamad was playing chess in Calcutta with the Hon. Miss Eden, his son, Akbar Khan, organized a conspiracy and attacked the British army which was at the time in possession of Kabul. We all know how this magnificent army was afterwards cut to pieces; and, with the exception of one man, not a single European returned to tell the tale of the horrible massacre of the British troops in Afghanistan. The treasure was divided among the Afghan insurgents.

There was another expedition undertaken to avenge the insult. The insult was avenged; the expedition came back to India; and Dost Mohamad was quietly let loose in his country to do whatever he liked with it, the British Government vowing never to meddle again with Afghan affairs.

But when Lord Lytton came out here as Viceroy, and Lord Beaconsfield became the dictator in England, the palms of these two statesmen began to "itch." They wanted to play the same game over again, forgetting the terrible disaster of the last campaign and the vow that had been taken of leaving Afghanistan alone.

And history repeated itself with a vengeance during this campaign. Precisely the same thing happened that had occurred before. This expedition cost over thirty crores of Rupees, and the Government of India bound itself to pay a large subsidy to the Amer. That was the net result. It was understood that the Government of India had acquired sufficient wisdom and would not again plunge into a similar undertaking. But this Thibetan campaign is only another edition of the Afghanistan expedition, though on a smaller scale. Finding the passage to the North West frontiers of India blocked, the restless fire-eaters of India turned their eyes to the North.

All these blunders were committed for a very good reason. There is a huge standing army of which the country is not in need. But if India does not need it, the soldiers need some occupation. The occupation, however, means money, and, in India there is no dearth of it. That is to say, there is none to protest if India's money is misused,—it is absolutely at the disposal of those who control the army. And this brought about the Afghan wars, and this is the sole cause of the Thibetan expedition.

Our readers ought to remember the story of the twelve brothers. They were healthy and strong, and had a competence. The only thing from which they suffered was ennui; in short, they did not know how to kill time. So one day, when they had nothing to do, and when they were dying by inches for want of work, a brother proposed to cremate their old mother. So these twelve brothers, full of exuberant spirit, carried their shrieking old mother, who was not in her death-bed, nay, who was in perfect health, to the burning ghāt to cremate her, simply because they did not know how to spend the superabundance of their energy.

The Thibet expedition is simply due to the fact that we have an efficient standing army of which we have no need, and a supreme ruler, who can, at his sweet will, dispose of the public revenues in any way he chooses. It is these circumstances which lead the India Government to these repeated blunders.

"Yes, but why do we Indians suffer?" complains the Indian. It is because the Indian is apathetic, stupid and without self-respect. He will not only not protest against injustice, but cheerfully acquiesce in it. During the Abyssinian expedition, it was one Englishman who succeeded in rousing England to realize the iniquity of making India pay for English wars. The Indians never even protested, except through their newspapers, against the gross wrong of making India pay for this Thibet expedition.

As regards the result of this expedition, we find the Government of India is exactly in the same condition as it was before. Surely the expedition has triumphed, but its victory reminds us of the achievement of the warrior who travelled in the country, with his beautiful and devoted wife, in search of adventures. As a swordsman he was irresistible, and his challenges were not therefore generally accepted. He was resting with his wife on a certain occasion, and recounting his exploits to a wondering audience, who had assembled around him. One of them was, however, wistfully gazing at his beautiful wife and giving a twist to his well-preserved and trimmed moustache.

Now this was a sign of defiance; and the warrior having noticed it, rose with his drawn sword and exclaimed, "Do you mean to

fight with me? Where is your sword? Bring it at once." The man, thus addressed, had, however, not the least intention of fighting; so he excused himself with the remark that, as there was a woman present, he would never draw his sword before a lady. "Is that so?" saying which he cut off the head of his wife.

The man had now no help but to surrender with the remark that he was willing to confess defeat without a fight. The warrior was mollified but he demanded, raising his sword, "Well, I am satisfied, but you must untwist your moustache." This the man gladly did, and the warrior left the place triumphant, leaving the dead body of his wife. The Thibetans have untwisted their moustache, and the expedition is satisfied and returning in triumph. If the warrior had to slay his wife to establish his honour, the expedition had also to massacre several hundred people for the same purpose, namely, to make the defiant Thibetan Government untwist its moustache.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
AND
THE DUTY OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS.

MR. SHIRLEY TREMEARNE, when seconding the motion of Mr. J. G. Apar to adopt the report of the Special Committee, appointed to review the administration of the Calcutta Corporation, remarked that it was the recommendation of the Committee to alter the present constitution partially that made Mr. Allen, the Chairman, to take a hostile attitude. This we can hardly believe; for, surely he is not less liberal than Sir Henry Harrison or Sir Richard Temple. On the other hand, we know, he sincerely wishes for the progress of the people of this country for whom he has a genuine affection.

Now, it was Sir Richard Temple who gave us the old constitution, in deference to the opinion of the vast majority of the citizens of Calcutta; how, we may relate in a future issue. And it was Sir Henry, who as Chairman of the Municipality, tried the Temple system for many years, considered it as the best suited to the circumstances of the town, and re-affirmed its principles in an eloquent speech when it was subjected to the scrutiny of the Government in 1888. Why should Mr. Allen oppose the partial restoration of this old constitution which the whole of Calcutta demands, which had the support of such distinguished officers as are named above, and which is embodied in the report of the best six members of the Corporation, three of whom are Europeans and three Indians?

The present system, which has been introduced by the Mackenzie Act, practically obtained in this city, though in another form, in the seventies; that is to say, the Executive, as now, had then also entire control over the Municipal affairs of the town. The non-official Indian community was at the time represented by a strong minority, whose voice was however totally ignored. Though the number of Anglo-Indian Commissioners was very large in the Municipality, yet the Europeans could not be induced to pay any attention to Municipal affairs. They however never ceased to grumble, and a small number of them such as Messrs Roberts, James Wilson &c., offered strong opposition to the doings of Sir Stuart Hogg, the then Chairman of the Municipality and practically the autocrat of Calcutta. In this opposition, they had the hearty co-operation of the small band of Indian Commissioners.

As now so at that time, the Municipality was, to all intents and purposes, an official institution. Every item of Municipal oppression, which grew in volume and intensity, was thus very naturally fastened upon the Government. Many of the European Commissioners resigned and taking advantage of their resignation, the "Indian Daily News," the then organ of the non-official European community, denounced the farce of Municipal government that then prevailed. One of the strongest Commissioners of the period was Mr. Black; not only did he resign but he used insulting expressions to the then Lieutenant-Governor in his letter of resignation.

The Government was at last obliged to confer the boon of elective system upon the citizens. The rate-payers were given the privilege of returning fifty out of seventy-five Commissioners, and the elected members of the Corporation were made the masters of the situation. After a successful trial of a quarter of a century, the system was knocked on the head, and replaced by the present one. Under the new system an appearance of self-government is kept up in so far as it is provided that 25 out of 50 Commissioners are to be elected by the Wards, and the remaining 25 nominated by the Government and the two European trading and commercial bodies. But the kernel of all self-government has been taken out by reversing the proportion on the General Committee, in which the number of Ward representatives is to that of the other members in the ratio of one to two.

Which means that when real power is concerned, the rate-payers will be represented by four, and the officials and Europeans by eight. But when the tamasha is to be performed, the rate-payers and the Government will be equally matched! This may be a good joke; but, to ask the rate-payers to accept it as a reform, is to put them down for idiots.

In short, under the present method, the Municipality is placed under three independent forces, namely, the Chairman, the General Committee, and the Corporation; and, as expected, they constantly come into collision with one another. There would have been some sense in this arrangement if the Corporation had the power of criticising and vetoing the doings of its Committee and the Chairman. But, no, it must exist simply as a figure-head, and practically, as a subordinate to the other two authorities. Such an unnatural arrangement prevails nowhere in the world. The inevitable result is that, the executive is having everything in its own way.

The recommendation of the Special Committee to make the Corporation the supreme authority, and to place the General Committee and the Chairman in a subordinate position is thus absolutely needed to remove the unworkable character of the present system. There is now something like a fight of the ducks going on in the Municipality. Three of these birds will never agree to live in the same place without pecking one another. In the Municipality there is no harmony between the Chairman and the General Committee, or the General Committee and the Corporation, or the Corporation and the Chairman. And thus it is all chaos and confusion there, the executive officers getting more and more oppressive and high-handed, and many of them more and more corrupt, while nobody knows

where the huge amount of fees, at least a large portion of it, squeezed out of the rate-payers, is finding its way. We trust, every Commissioner will adopt the report of the Special Committee in its entirety, specially the small recommendation for a representation to the Government, for a partial restoration of the previous constitution.

"CONFLICTING INTERESTS."

There are two considerations which guide the Government, when selecting members for the public service. One is "efficiency," and the other is "conflicting interests." Thus Europeans are imported in preference to the natives of the soil on the ground that efficiency requires it. A European will do better than an Indian in the Military, or the Police, or the Survey department; and, therefore, the contention of the Government is that members from the European community should be preferred to those of the Indian, when these departments are to be manned. And thus are the natives of the soil ostracized from many branches of the public service on the ground of efficiency.

On the other hand, the Indian population is composed of communities of different degrees of civilization. Chota Nagpur is a backward Province, and it cannot turn out efficient men for the services. And, therefore, the Government, which is very impartial and has to take into consideration the interests of every community in the country, has to prefer an uneducated man from that Province sometimes to an educated man of Bengal. The Government thus finds itself in the midst of these two conflicting interests. The Government has to sacrifice conflicting interests for efficiency, and efficiency for conflicting interests; and this the Government has been doing freely, without blushing for its inconsistencies, since the last half a century.

If efficiency requires that Europeans must be imported, why is efficiency sacrificed and an incompetent man preferred to one who is competent, when the natives of the country are concerned? It is, because, replies the Government, we have to be just above all, and we have to look to the interests of backward communities. If that be the case, why do you import Europeans in preference to the children of the soil at enormous costs to this Government? Efficiency requires it, says the Government. The Government is in this manner ceaselessly contradicting itself.

When the Mahomedans represent, that as they belong to a backward community, therefore, incompetent men of their community should have preference to competent men of more advanced races, the Government sternly rebukes them with the remark that efficiency of the department cannot be sacrificed under any consideration whatever. Yet "conflicting interests" is going to form an important factor in the change contemplated by the Government, namely, the competitive examination for the Provincial Service should be abolished and nomination introduced into its place.

And how is this competency of a candidate to be ascertained? The only way open is competitive examination. Well, if that be so, why did the late Sir J. Westland provide that while natives of the soil should have to pass an examination to enter the financial department, the Europeans and Eurasians would have the privilege of entering it without going through any intellectual test? The reply is that the Europeans and the Eurasians cannot pass examinations successfully with the Babus; that it is not fair to ostracize them from the service because they fail in competitive tests; and that the mere passing of an examination is not always a test for efficiency.

The case then stands thus:—

- (1) Efficiency requires that Europeans must be imported from England in preference to the natives of the soil who are a backward race when compared with the former.
- (2) If a Chota Nagpur man is more incompetent than a Bengali Babu, yet preference is to be given to the former, because he belongs to a backward community.
- (3) It is true, a competitive examination is the only way available of securing efficient members for the public service, yet the Europeans and Eurasians should be taken in many departments without any examination at all.
- (4) The Government has to reconcile "conflicting interests," and, therefore, the system of competitive examination, as it exists, should be abolished altogether.

The Government has furnished reasons for its last move, namely, the demolition of the competitive examination for the public service. It says that the University examination is enough to test the merits of a candidate; and a second competitive examination is, therefore, mere dissipation of energy. In this view we would perfectly agree if the Government had stuck to its own proposition that it would be guided by the results of the University examinations. But no; the candidates are to be selected not according to the comparative merits, but by certain officials, according to their sweet will. This proposition lays an axe at the root of the other proposition that when the University has a competitive examination of its own, a second competitive examination for the service is not necessary.

And why does the Government choose to select members for the service not according to merit but according to the sweet will of some of its officials? The answer is that it has to reconcile "conflicting interests."

That this principle of "conflicting interests" is a mere plea is well-known to Sir A. Fraser, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal; nay, it was known to all his predecessors, and to all Viceroy who preceded Lord Curzon. When the Mahomedans of Bhagulpur, the other day, prayed for special favours, because of their backwardness, His Honour sternly rebuked them. In the same manner, the same reply was vouchsafed whenever the same unreasonable request had been made.

Fancy the absurdity of the whole thing. A. belongs to a community which is backward. A. has therefore not educated himself. But A. is an educated man and belongs to an advanced community. And A. should be given preference to because he is not as advanced as B. is! This is absurd.

The competitive system which is going to be abolished secured to the members of advanced communities some advantages. If the Government is desirous of replacing the present system by another, let not these advanced communities be deprived of the advantages they enjoyed before. It is but fair that these advantages should be secured to them, and then all complaints on this score would be removed.

How is it that if the people bring a complaint against an official, the chief ruler sides, as a rule, with his erring subordinate and not his people? How is it that if a charge is brought against the Police, the Magistrate, as a rule, sides with the latter? How is it that if the rate-payers of Calcutta complain against the oppressive practices of the Municipal employees, Mr. Allen, the Chairman, thinks it his duty to afford protection to the latter? The reason is, the country is governed by officials and they have formed themselves into a caste. It is the ruled who maintain the rulers, and the duty of the latter is to live for the former. The chief ruler of a Province considers that the officials are somewhat in the position of the members of his own family, while the people are outsiders. Nay, the chief rulers also make a distinction in the case of their own subordinates: those belonging to the Executive Service are their pets, and those in the Judicial Department are looked down with indifference. Thus the Deputy Magistrates, though subordinates of the Magistrates, are not so near or dear to them as the Police are. In short, in a dispute between the people and the official, the Government, as a rule, sides with the latter. In a dispute between members of the Judicial and Executive service, the Government is more for the second than the first. When there is a dispute between the Deputy Magistrate and the Police, the Magistrate, as a rule, will throw the former overboard. Yet the people are more important to the Government than its subordinates, and the Deputy Magistrates more necessary to the Magistrates than the Police. One reason why the Police has acquired this ascendancy over District Magistrates is that Police Superintendents, with rare exceptions, are all Europeans, and the Deputy-Magistrates, Indians. The latter are now practically the subordinates of the Police.

So, in a dispute between the Executive and the Judicial, the latter are nowhere. At least the impression prevails that the Government is more partial to the District Magistrate than to the District Judges. This impression prevails both among the people and the Judges themselves. It is impossible to ignore the fact that the officials in the Judicial Department are not so indulgently treated as those of the Executive. Mr. Pennell was dismissed without even the usual compassionate allowance, but perhaps he had offended grievously. But what of the quarrel between Mr. Roe and Mr. Lee? They were both at Rajshahy, the former as Magistrate and the latter as Judge. The Government went so far as to try to secure the co-operation of the High Court in securing the degradation of the Judge. Yet he was in the right, and all the offence came from the Executive officers; who did not scruple to charge Mr. Lee with having fostered riot and riots! There was, the other day, a quarrel between a Magistrate and a Judge, both Indians. It was the Judge who was made to suffer severely. Perhaps he deserved punishment, and we know that Sir A. Fraser is not the man to be unjust or harsh in his punishment. Yet we cannot but feel that the punishment meted out to this Judge was very, very severe, considering that he is an old and very distinguished officer of strict morals. Possibly, as a newcomer to this Province, Sir Andrew knew very little of this Indian Judge who is one of the best we have got and for whom the country has great esteem. Perhaps Sir Andrew is not aware that the treatment accorded to the Judge has very much pained the educated public.

MR. VINCENT C. HENDERSON, the Chinese Commissioner of Customs at Rangoon, is full of contempt for the trade between Thibet and India. "The total trade value," he says in his Yutung trade report for 1903—"Import and Export—for the year 1903 was only Rs. 1,373,365, roughly about \$90,000. The utility of expatriating at length on such a peddling trade will be apparent." And it is to open this petty trade that the Thibet expedition was ostensibly undertaken which has cost hundreds of innocent men and about a crore of Rupees! It seems, however, that the mouths of many commercial people in England actually watered at the prospect of finding gold, copper and lead mines in Thibet. For, this is what our New York correspondent writes to us by the mail to hand:—

"So my prognostications about Thibet have come true. I see by the London 'Financial Times' of July 20 that nine companies for exploiting Thibet had been registered.

The Copper Mines of Thibet Ltd.
Lhasa Gold Mines, Ltd.
Lhasa Exploration Co., Ltd.
Lead Mines of Thibet, Ltd.
Thibet Mining and Finance Co., Ltd.
Thibet Mining and Minerals Co., Ltd.
Thibet Exploration Co., Ltd.
Thibet Corporation, Ltd.
Goldfields of Thibet, Ltd."

We have yet to see whether these gold-hunting expeditions will really get to work or they will disappear with the return of the military expedition to India. It is now quite evident that the Thibet expedition owes its origin, amongst other causes, to the pressure brought to bear upon the Government by influential Englishmen interested in commerce. It is therefore manifestly unjust to throw the cost of the expedition upon the Indians who have absolutely nothing to do with it. This point has also been made very clear by the terms of the treaty which lay down that the trade between England and Thibet should be restored. Now the Indians carry no trade in Thibet, and not a pie of the cost can therefore be legitimately fastened upon them. The cry raised in the beginning that it was to checkmate the Russians that the expedition was necessary has long been found to be a false cry.

A story is told in the "Tithibi" about the Gaikwar of Baroda, which is worth noticing. The Hindu feeling as well as Hindu custom was that if a man was seen starving at the door, no member of the family would break his fast until the hungry man had been satisfied. Frequent famines in India have however very much deadened these noble feelings of the Hindus. But see how a Hindu Prince feels for his subjects. Escoffier is a famous chef (baburchee) in London. He is chef of the Carlton and eight other Ritz hotels. He was telling of the great man whom he had attended. About the Gaikwar he told the following story:—

"A queer incident happened when the Rajah of Baroda was here. He came in one evening with five Indian ladies and several children. He ordered hardly enough for two people, and I sent up word asking that else he would have, so that I could get it ready. He replied, 'Nothing more, thanks.' After-

wards he said to the manager, 'You see, the people in my country are very hungry; many are starving; for there's a famine.'"

It means this that as men were starving in his country, His Highness and the members of his family had not the heart to take a full meal. That is the proper feeling which should be entertained by those who enjoy sovereign power.

An important High Court judgment, in the case of Halimnissa vs. the Secretary of State, is published in the last "Calcutta Weekly Notes," which is reproduced in another column. It is of great importance to defaulting land-holders whose property is sold and purchased by the Collector at the revenue sale, for arrears of revenue. In the present case, a valuable property, worth at least Rs. 1,100, was purchased by the Collector of Noakhali for ten rupees under very extraordinary circumstances. The plaintiff, a Mussalman lady, defaulted to pay the rent and cesses due on account of the August instalment of 1900. The property having been advertised for sale, her agent offered to deposit the arrears before the sale, but the Collector refused to receive the money. The property was afterwards put up for sale, and there were only two bidders, the Collector and the agent of the defaulting property-holder. The Collector began with a bid of one rupee; the agent of the defaulter followed with a bid of 10 rupees. Thereupon the Collector enquired whether, besides the agent there was any one willing to increase the bid. As no one came forward, the Collector forthwith closed the bid, though the agent was apparently willing to increase the bid till it was sufficient to cover the arrears realizable.

The plaintiff appealed to the Commissioner, but her appeal was dismissed. She then sought the protection of the High Court; and we are glad that their Lordships have not only decreed the plaintiff's suit, but characterised the circumstances under which the property was sold as "ugly," and observed that "between the astuteness of the Collector and the folly of her agent, the plaintiff has suffered real hardship." Their Lordships have also passed severe strictures upon the unfairness of the practice of the Collectors of systematic purchases of defaulting estates on behalf of the Government at revenue sales, in these words:—

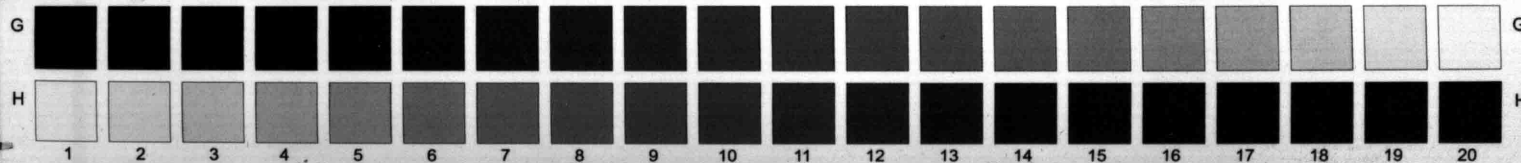
"We must further observe that the evidence discloses that purchases are made by the Collector on behalf of the Government systematically in the District of Noakhali, which practice is hardly to be regarded as satisfactory, or one contemplated by the law. As pointed out in para. 4, section 6 of the Rules made by the Board of Revenue under Act XI of 1859, the power vested in the Collector by section 58 must be exercised with discretion. It seems to us to be hardly desirable that purchases should be systematically made on behalf of the Government by the Collector who himself has the conduct of the sale and whose duty it is to see that it is conducted with absolute fairness and impartiality."

Now this was exactly the procedure which a writer in the "Englishman" suggested the other day to adopt in order to gradually nullify the Permanent Settlement. Indeed, the Government can quietly take the kernel out of this Magna Charta of the Zemindars by two means. One is to impose cesses upon land: already this has been tried with success in the matter of the Road and the Public Works Cesses. The other is the plan adopted by the Collector of Noakhali, namely, to purchase all defaulting landed properties, fairly or unfairly it does not matter. They are, however, very short-sighted people who would have the Permanent Settlement demolished. Just now the Bombay Presidency is in the throes of a famine. Here the Ryot-taree, and not the Permanent Settlement, obtains; which means, the Government, and not private Zemindars, as in Bengal, is the land-lord of the ryots. Now if a famine were to break out in Bengal, the chief brunt of meeting it would fall upon the Zemindars, and the Government would be thereby saved a good deal of cost and trouble. But, in Bombay, the Government will not only have to do everything, but disgorge a large amount of money, it has taken from the ryots to preserve them from starvation. The fact that Bengal has never been overtaken by a real famine since the Permanent Settlement was introduced here ought to open the eyes of these men to the truth that this measure is a great protection against that calamity.

Our New York correspondent is very glad to learn that the National Congress this year intends to make something like a definite demand for some sort of self-Government, like the one the Americans have given to the Filipinos. We have already made our readers acquainted with the boons which the Filipinos have got from their present rulers. But the Bombay Congress has also another definite work to perform. It should take up the subject of famine for its deliberation more vigorously than before. The impending famine in the Bombay Presidency will enable them to do it very effectively. The world, we mean the English public, has yet no definite idea of what a famine is like, especially a famine in India, where some 20 to 30 millions of people are overtaken at one swoop. Special information should be collected about the way the famine is being grappled with, and photographs taken of the afflicted; and the matter thoroughly discussed in the Congress. If this is done, the calamity, which has now become permanent in India, may attract the serious attention of the English public. This is the opportunity of proving the fallacy of the Government theory, namely, that drought or over-population has nothing to do with the famine, but that it is due to heavy taxation, necessary for the annual drain, which is impoverishing the people more and more.

We learn by the mail to hand that, a movement has been set on foot in England to devise a plan for the trial of Indian Princes, accused of criminal offences. This is what the "Western Morning News" of Plymouth says on the subject:—

"The native Princes of India claim the right, as British citizens, to trial by their peers. A jury of twelve good men and true, formed of Indian chieftains, would be an imposing array. In the last weeks of the Session a petition was presented by Indian gentlemen in London and Cambridge asking for the recognition of this privilege. They say they have noticed with great surprise and grief that the loyal ruling chief of a territory extending over two thousand miles, and containing over 200,000 inhabitants, has been dethroned and subjected to all the disgrace being declared an accessory to the murder of



his uncle, on the complaint of those deeply interested in his ruin, and upon the report of two salaried European servants of the Indian Government, although he protested from the first, and still declares that he was wholly innocent of the charge. The petitioners contend that the Maharajah was entitled to be tried by his peers, that is to say, by a free and independent jury of chiefs selected by ballot, and that his trial by two salaried officials was a violation of the Royal Proclamation.

Strange as it may sound, the Indian Chiefs, though sovereign Princes, are in several respects in a far worse condition than even the meanest subjects in British India. The rulers of Indian States cannot meet one another like ordinary people, without the permission of the British Government in India, and they must be accompanied by their Political Agents when such a meeting takes place. They cannot nominate a heir or adopt a son, or appoint a Dewan without similar permission from the British Indian Government. With regard to their trial, they are entirely at the mercy of the same Government. When Mulhar Rao Guikwar was charged with having poisoned Col. Playne, the Resident attached to Baroda, he was tried by a Commission, composed of three of his peers, and three Englishmen. Since then not a single Indian Prince was allowed the privilege of trial by his peers. In the above paragraph, the case of the Maharajah of Panna is alluded to. Fancy he was tried by two Englishmen, selected by the same Government, which was in the position of the complainant. The Maharajah pleaded his innocence to the last; as a matter of fact, he had no motive to commit the foul deed attributed to him; but yet he was found guilty. The decision was received with indignation and surprise by the Indian public; for, judging from the evidence disclosed at the trial, the general impression was that the Maharajah would be acquitted. Now whether the Maharajah was guilty or innocent, such a view of the trial would have not been taken if he was entrusted to the peers of His Highness. By denying the privilege to the Indian Princes, the British Government has thus unnecessarily taken a serious responsibility and the odium attached to it, upon its shoulders. The other day a petty Jantia Chief was tried in a still more extraordinary manner by the Administration of Assam. He was tried by a single European Judge without the help of even two Assessors, convicted of murder upon evidence which would have been rejected by any court of justice, and sentenced to be hanged. The Chief Commissioner confirmed the conviction, though he kindly commuted the death-sentence to that of transportation for life, and the Jantia Chief has appealed to the Government of India against the decision. Here is a matter in which the very liberty of the Indian Princes is involved and the movement therefore deserves their hearty support.

As an instance of the vigorous way in which the municipal administration is carried on in Calcutta, we may point to a question put, and answer given, at the last municipal meeting. Dr. R. G. Kar asked the following questions:—

(a) Is it not a fact that the two tanks at Raja Rajbullah Street, Ward 1, were condemned by the Health Officer and the owners called upon to fill them up?

(b) Is it not a fact that the owners not having complied with the notice was twice prosecuted and fined, and if so, will the Chairman be pleased to give the dates when the fines were imposed?

(c) Is it not a fact that the tanks are so situated that there is no approach to them from any street and as this is being represented to the then Chairman, Mr. Greer, all further proceedings were stayed against the owners?

The Chairman replied:—

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes, the owners were prosecuted twice. In the first case a fine was imposed on the 23rd September 1902. The second case was instituted on the 31st March 1903, and was withdrawn under Chairman's order of 28th July 1903.

Mark the beauty of the arrangement. The proprietors of the tank were asked to perform an impossible feat and were punished twice for their failure to do so! The Municipal Chairman was no doubt satisfied about their innocence or else he would not have withdrawn further proceedings against them. It is in this way that the wretched Municipality is carrying on its affairs; yet, the Government will not change its present constitution, and revert to the old system!

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

[From our own Correspondent.]

London, Aug. 26.
WHY THE PLAGUE BROKE OUT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A few of the readers of the "Daily Graphic" dissent from the views thus eloquently expressed, and a correspondent, Mr. L. R. Abercrombie, has written to say so. His letter contains four points which may be summed up:—

(a) That Sir Mancherjee was wrong in attributing the anti-Asiatic feeling to the White League; and that the outbreak of plague is due to the presence of British Indians.

(b) That few British firms have given credit to the Indians, and that these are becoming fewer every day owing to the fact that such accounts generally end unsatisfactorily.

(c) That British Indians will flood the Transvaal, and that no one can compete or live near them for sanitary reasons.

(d) He defies Sir Mancherjee to show that the authorities have shut their eyes to an outrage, or that the present Government has favoured the whites at the expense of the Indians.

Mr. Abercrombie would find these statements harder to prove than to set down, and his labour would be wasted for later correspondents, notably Mr. S. B. Gadgil and Mr. George V. Godfrey, has exposed their hollow-ness and insincerity. Mr. Godfrey is a barrister, at present living in England, but a year ago in January 1903 he headed the deputation to Mr. Chamberlain at Pretoria in order to place the Indian position before him. After analysing Mr. Abercrombie's argument in the order given above, Mr. Godfrey proceeds to deal with it point by point.

"In regard to the White League, may I ask what does the name itself signify, and what are its declared objects? It is a common knowledge in the Transvaal that the White League is a body working with missionary zeal against the activity and enterprise of the Indian trader. It is no surprise to me that the plague broke out in the Indian location,

The wonder is that it did not break out earlier. When a municipality fails to provide sanitary arrangements, when no drains are constructed, no lights supplied, when the roads are dusty or sandy tracks, never cleaned, and the geographical situation of the location is such as to form a common drain for all the surplus water of the surrounding country, who is to be blamed?"

This charge against the municipal authorities has been made before, but never in such definite terms as these, and Mr. Godfrey declares that he can support this and his subsequent statements with documentary evidence. With regard to the second point he has no difficulty to show that it is not merely groundless but also that it is palpably absurd. For Mr. Abercrombie believes his own statement by saying that large numbers of Indians are still trading. The inevitable inference is that British firms still supply them with goods because they are honest and straightforward business men.

With regard to clause 'c,' writes Mr. Godfrey, "on July 5th, when the Transvaal Legislative Assembly were discussing Mr. Bohrke's motion restricting the liberty of Indians, Mr. Duncan, the Colonial Secretary, showed that all the Indians now in the country were bona-fide refugees, except four individuals. Where, then, is the justification for this cry of Indians flooding the Transvaal? I approach clause 'd' with mingled feelings of indignation and grief. I would even pardon authorities blinking at outrages by others, if only to preserve the peace, but when the police, instructed and supported by a higher authority, begin to arrest a whole community in the small hours of a cold winter's morning, then I think the members of that community—the Indians of the Transvaal—may well say, in the memorable words of Sheridan, 'All this has been accomplished by the friendship, generosity, and kindness of the British nation. They have embraced us with their protecting arms, and lo! these are the fruits of their alliance.' These poor unfortunate Indians, including respectable merchants, were taken to the police-office, only to be there told that they had to change their passes. I witnessed the sequel in Johannesburg, and am here to tell how shamefully the whole thing was carried out. The greatest blot in Lord Milner's administration is the publishing of Government Notice No. 366 in April of 1903, perpetuating Law 3 of 1885, with the Volksraad amendments, legislation which the Imperial Government persistently opposed. I can point out cases where the present Government have exceeded the rigour of the old law. Such, in brief, is the state of things regarding the treatment of British Indians in a British Colony; and it makes one blush to think that it is all done in the name of the great and liberal British Constitution."

The worst of it is that no one can feel absolutely certain the Colonial Office will defend the Indians against their oppressors. True, Mr. Lyttelton has admirable sentiments and he has not hesitated to express them. But is he the sort of man to hold to them when pressure is put upon him from South Africa. The minimum wage fiasco over Chinese labour cannot make us over sanguine. Nevertheless it is well not to meet trouble half way. A great trust lies before him and if he would be just he must show no sign of weakening or hesitation. He has taken his stand and he must maintain it firmly.

A NEAR APPROACH TO HUMBLED.

Lord Radstock contributes a long letter to the "Times" describing the progress of Christianity in India. With the religious aspects of his letter I do not wish to deal. But one of his arguments on the secular side is so extraordinary and ill-advised that it cannot be allowed to remain buried in a column and a half of small type. He admits that English people are 'rightly or wrongly' instructing Indians in political history and inculcating in them a desire for representative institutions. He goes on to say:

"It need hardly be pointed out that the growth of non-Christian education creates a craving for increased political power, while it utterly fails to give either the power or even the ideal of subordinating private interests to the great principle that the good of the masses should be the first care of all governors, or legislators and paramount to any consideration of personal profit."

And again:

"But when the spirit of Jesus the Lamb of God reveals Him to them and forms the Christ-life in them the spirit of love and peace resigns—instead of a struggle for personal advantage and political power."

Does Lord Radstock realise the effect this frank avowal will have upon the people whom he proposes to convert? Instead of lauding his religion as one which must purify and invigorate the various activities of Indian life, he puts it forward as one which will deaden the healthy spirit of independence, self-help, and personal endeavour. He asks the members of other religions to renounce their creeds for his in order that they may lose their desire for representative institutions and their aspiration for political power. But what if they do not wish to lose these ideals? If they hold—and they hold rightly—that no nation is worth its salt that does not desire some control over its destiny, they will find Lord Radstock's argument singularly unsatisfying. But does Christianity, indeed, produce this deplorable result, does it always deprive a country of all interest in itself? Let Lord Radstock look to the history of his own people if he wants an answer to the question. The English are a Christian people. But they 'engage a struggle for personal advantage and political power'; they are interested in political history and they show a fanatical love for their representative institutions. There is more 'craving for political power' in an Englishman than there is, unfortunately, in a Hindu. Yet then Englishman is a Christian and the Hindu is not. What, then, does Lord Radstock mean? Consciously or unconsciously—I think, unconsciously—he means this. That if the Government will give every assistance to Christian missionaries, the latter, in their turn, will do everything to consolidate the administrative monopoly which at present controls India. Flatly, in face of their own Christian histories they will teach an unsuspecting people that Christianity is antagonistic to patriotic zeal or national regeneration. They will teach the innocent Indian that he must do as he is told and think as he is told to think; that a religious man should have nothing to do with secular affairs or worldly matters. This will teach him that the Christian religion has somehow an esoteric connection with the British Raj in its present onerous and un-reformed condition. The missionaries, on Lord Radstock's programme, will teach the people to remain contentedly ignorant, contentedly submissive, and contentedly unprogressive.

They will perpetuate the twilight of quietism which has lain so long and so heavily upon India. This is Lord Radstock's proposal; but it is greatly to be hoped that the missionaries will not allow themselves to be led astray. Let them treat the Indian people as they treat their own. When a political agitation arises they should not at once search for the lowest motives to account for it. Let them, as any reasonable man would do, seek the best in it and try to help and encourage the pure motives and high ideals they find. And in doing this they need not thrust their own interests too obtrusively forward. Sympathy and tactful help are things most needed in India and missionaries can do good in their own sphere. But, first, they must forget Lord Radstock's letter and all its implications.

MR. J. E. O'CONNOR GOES TO IRELAND.

There seems some subtle and hitherto unrecognised connection between the Indian and the Irish Civil Services. When Sir Antony MacDonnell returned home on his retirement from service in India, it was not long before he was appointed Under-Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and now another important post has gone to another retired Anglo-Indian. It has been announced that Mr. J. E. O'Connor has been appointed Superintendent of Statistics and of Intelligence in the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland. I hope in his new sphere of labour Mr. O'Connor will not entirely forget India. His address at the Society of Arts in the spring of this year shows him to possess a truer appreciation of the Indian situation than do many Anglo-Indian civilians, who are perhaps better known. No reforming movement has ever begun and ended in a Society of Arts address. Mr. O'Connor ought not to forget in the Emerald Isle the errors he has exposed in the present administration of India.

THE TILAK CASE.

When the Bombay Government refused Mr. Tilak's moderate and reasonable demand for compensation for the long persecution to which he was subjected, he rightly determined that the matter should not be allowed to rest there. He has addressed a memorial to Mr. Brodrick, urging his claims to reparation for injuries received. His petition he, I understand, been submitted through the Bombay Local Government and will not, at the earliest, reach London until the middle of next week. Mr. Tilak's case is particularly strong and his claim can only be ignored by a miscarriage of justice similar to those which he has experienced before. Nevertheless, it will probably be some little time before any conclusion is arrived at and whilst Parliament is adjourned there is no means of hastening the process by a few judicious questions such as those put by Mr. Schwann during the recent session.

Scraps.

The Mymensingh road obstructing scandal has not yet been settled, so says the "Charumihir," the local paper. It will be remembered that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal expressed his opinion that Mr. Judge Lee had no authority to obstruct the road in question. Everyone expected, after such a pronouncement from the ruler of the province, that the matter would end there. But no. We are told that Mr. Lee has now sought the help of the Public Works Department in his quarrel with the people in regard to this road. It is a pity that a good officer like Mr. Lee should take part in obstructing a path which has been used as a public thoroughfare by the people.

Election fever is now raging in all the provinces of India. We have our municipal elections, election of fellows and election of members to the local and Supreme Legislative Councils. At present canvassing is going on in Calcutta for the forthcoming election of fellows. In the United Provinces there will be a great stir over the forthcoming council election. The U. P. Government has addressed a circular letter to all the Municipal Boards and District Boards enjoying the privilege of sending members to the Provincial Council to elect delegates for the election of Councillors. A similar intimation has been given to the Chambers of Commerce and the Syndicate of the Allahabad University.

"An esteemed correspondent" of the "Tribune" after describing the Scene of a Ash-tami sacrifice he witnessed in a temple in Nepal, asks "Is there a parallel in this wide world to such a thing?" He himself answers the question in the affirmative and relates the following case already noticed by us, in support of his statement. Recently, before the Sessions Judge of Allahabad, eight persons were put on their trial on a charge of murdering a fellow villager and then throwing the dead body into the river, under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code. The Judge found the murder proved and found it also necessary to hand somebody. But not being able to find out which one of the eight persons had given the finishing stroke, the learned Judge has sentenced all the accused to be hanged by the neck until death, evidently thinking that the right man to be hanged must be one of them! By the way, this is not the first time in India that this barbarous method of punishment—abolished long ago in all other civilised countries—has been resorted to under the auspices of the British Raj.

Every right-thinking man will admit that the Arms Act is a blot in the British administration of India. It shows that the rulers distrust us; it is a reproach on the loyalty of the people. Its baneful effects are now visible in every direction. Forbidden to handle a weapon, the people and their cattle are a constant prey to wild animals and the loss of human life on this score is no mean. They cannot protect their harvest from depredations of wild bears and other animals. It has done evil in another direction. It has emasculated the whole nation. Enter a village and instead of that strong-built, jolly, bright faced generation of old you will find emaciated, and diseased people. The spectacle is heart-rending indeed! The unarmed condition of the peasantry in the United Provinces can be gathered from the following figures published in connection with the operation of the Arms Act. In all forms 26,494 licenses were granted last year. The suggestion of the Commissioner of Allahabad for the re-introduction of a system of harvest licenses for the Lalitpur Sub-division was not accepted, as a similar experiment in 1892 had not been successful. The number of licenses in force under the Explosive Act at the close of 1903 was 2,164. Licenses to sell ammunition numbered only 46. The number of offences under the Act showed an increase from 380 to 386, the number of weapons confiscated rose from 348 to 400, the amount of fines exacted increased from Rs. 3,056 to Rs. 3,890 and the amount paid in rewards rose from Rs. 2,027 to Rs. 2,391.

High Court—Sept. 16.

VACATION BENCH.

(Before Justices Harington and Parjitor.)

A CAPITAL SENTENCE CASE.

In this case seven persons, viz. Patu alias Abdul Karim, Kafaluddin, Abdul Alim, Abdul Kadir, Osi, Abdul Hosain and Rahisuddin, were charged with rioting armed with deadly weapons under section 148 I.P.C. and with murder committed in the course of such riot under section 302 I.P.C. A special charge under section 302 was made against Patu and another under section 324 against Abdul Kadir. The cause of this riot was a girl commonly called Mongaler ma. She looked about 16 or so and was rather pretty. She lived with her old father Mahomed Anis and mother Shua Chand, and her brother Abdul Rashid, who was killed in the riot. The house of her uncle Asimuddin was contiguous to hers. The accused Abdul Alim lived in the same village and not far off, and very likely he had seen the girl and taken a fancy to her. The other accused were also neighbours. In May 1903 there was a talk of marriage between Abdul Alim and the girl, but her father broke off the negotiation because Alim's elder brother died. This caused ill-feeling and the Magistrate saying that Abdul Alim and his brother Abdul Kadir and others were going to take away the girl by force and asking that they should be bound down to keep the peace. A police enquiry was made and a notice was issued to the persons named, warning them not to meddle with the girl. By this means peace was preserved for the time. After a year the girl's father arranged to marry her to a man in the village of Noogon, on Monday the 9th May. On the afternoon of Saturday, 7th May, her father Mahomed Anis and uncle Asimuddin were sitting in the front room of Anis' west house. Anis is a feeble old man over 70, and his brother is over 60. The girl with her mother Shua Chand aged about 55 were in the back room of the same house. Suddenly the front door opened and Abdul Kadir came in with a dao and lathi. At the same time, Abdul Alim, Patu and Osi came in by the back door. Mahomed Anis stood in front of Abdul Kadir and received a cut from his dao on the arm. Asimuddin received a lathi blow, but closed with Abdul Kadir and they went out by the back door struggling together. Meanwhile the other three had seized the girl Mongaler ma by the arms and hair. She caught hold of her mother and both were carried away by the back door struggling together. In the yard opposite the back door, there was a confused struggle. Mahomed Anis went to rescue his daughter and got lathi blows from Patu and Abdul Alim. The girl's brother Abdul Rashid had been out and arrived at that time. He went up to rescue his sister and it was alleged received two lathi blows one from Abdul Alim on the neck and one from Patu on the head. He fell on the ground, and the accused's party then dragged the girl away. Thereafter it was found that Abdul Rasid was lying unconscious. He was then removed to hospital where he died the next day. On these facts the accused persons were placed on their trial before a Deputy Magistrate of Brahmanbaria, who committed the case to the Court of Sessions. The trial was held at the Sessions Court by Mr. W. Brown, with the aid of two Assessors. The learned Judge agreeing with the Assessors convicted Patu and Abdul Alim under section 302 and section 149 I.P.C. and sentenced them to be hanged. Disagreeing with the Assessors the Judge found Kafaluddin, Osi, Abdul Hosain and Rahisuddin guilty under sections 302 and 149 and sentenced them to transportation for life. Agreeing with both the Assessors he found all the accused guilty under section 148 I.P.C. and Abdul Kadir guilty under section 324 I.P.C., but passed no separate sentence for these offences.

Mr. P. L. Roy with Mouli Shamsul Huda appeared for the defence. Babu Dwarka Nath Mitra appeared for the Crown.

Their Lordships after hearing both sides reduced the sentences passed upon Patu and Abdul Alim to that of transportation for life each. The sentence passed upon Abdul Kadir was reduced to one of ten years' rigorous imprisonment. The sentence passed upon Osi was reduced to one of five years' rigorous imprisonment. The sentences passed upon the other three accused persons were reduced to one of four years' rigorous imprisonment each.

ALLEGED POLICE OPPRESSION.

Babu Jyoti Prasad Sarvadhikari moved on behalf of one Haladhar Bhumi, complainant against an order of Mr. Lang, Deputy Commissioner of Manbhoon dismissing the petitioner's complaint under Sec. 203 of the Cr. P. Code, and directing his prosecution under Sec. 182 I.P.C. The learned vakil said that on the 15th of July the petitioner lodged a complaint before the Senior Deputy Magistrate of Manbhoon stating that on the 16th of July, the Sub-Inspector of the Police outpost Hura with a large number of constables, chowkidars and other men surrounded the 'bari' of the petitioner, took away by force his daughter and granddaughter, two young women, and also some other women from the neighbouring village detained them at the Police outpost for 5 days, and put them in a room where they were stripped naked, beaten and variously maltreated. All this was done with the object of getting information regarding certain persons who were absconding offenders and who were supposed to be relations of these women. The senior Deputy Magistrate after taking down the examination of the complainant put up the case before the Deputy Commissioner as the complaint contained serious allegations against the Police. The Deputy Commissioner on the same day passed orders directing the complainant to prove his case before the 1st of August. On the 23rd July last the petitioner produced before the Deputy Commissioner four out of the five women who had been taken away by the Police wrongfully confined and severely maltreated and prayed that their evidence might be taken and that they might also be medically examined. The Deputy Commissioner, without taking their evidence, sent them to the Assistant Surgeon for medical examination and report. The Assistant Surgeon examined them and submitted his report on the 24th in which he described the nature of the injuries which consisted of marks on the thigh, back, buttocks and of marks as if caused by some blunt hard

APPEAL BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

This was an appeal preferred by the Local Government against an order of acquittal passed by Mr. Lee, Sessions Judge of Chittagong, in favour of one Kshettra Mohon Acharya.

Kshettra Mohon Acharya and Ishan Chandra Acharya were employed by the Assam Bengal Railway Company at the Port Station, Chittagong. The Port Station is situated at the jetty, which is about a mile's distance from the Civil Station, Chittagong. Kshettra Mohon was the pointsman, while Ishan Chandra was the Chowkidar. They used to live together in the same house at Chittagong. Every evening they used to go to the Civil Station together. On the 12th of November last the Station-master of the Port Station sent through the chowkidar a bag, locked and sealed, containing the Company's cash and notes amounting to Rs. 777-10, to be delivered at the main station. The chowkidar and the pointsman travelled together. The money was never delivered to the Station-master. The next morning it was found that these two men had absconded and the empty bag was found at the door of their lodging. On the 18th November these two persons appeared at the Post office at a place called Ooka. There they wanted to deposit in the Savings Bank the sum. But according to the rules the Post-master could not accept more than Rs. 200. They then deposited Rs. 200 each. Out of the sum deposited at the Post office there were Rs. 140 in Currency notes. These notes had been made over to the Chowkidar by the Station-master. At the Post office these notes were endorsed by the pointsman. Meanwhile a warrant was issued and a proclamation was duly attached to the notice boards at all important stations. On the 11th June last Kshettra Mohon, the pointsman, surrendered. The other man, the chowkidar, is still at large. Kshettra Mohon was tried by a Deputy Magistrate of Chittagong, who convicted him under section 411 I.P.C. (receiving stolen property with guilty knowledge) and sentenced him to one year's rigorous imprisonment with a fine. Against this conviction and sentence Kshettra Mohon appealed to the Sessions Judge. The learned Sessions Judge, although accepted the facts of the case, was of opinion that the facts did not prove guilty knowledge. He accordingly acquitted Kshettra Mohon.

Their Lordships after hearing Mr. Douglas White, Deputy Legal Remembrancer, who appeared for the Crown, directed the District Magistrate to forward all the exhibits in this case to this Court.

UNLAWFULLY CONFINING A GIRL.

Babu Dasarathi Sanyal, with Babu Amarendra Nath Bose, moved for the admission of an appeal on behalf of one Prosanna Bewah, who had been convicted by Mr. Harward, Sessions Judge of Howrah, agreeing with the unanimous verdict of the jury, under section 368 I.P.C., for unlawfully confining a girl, named Saroda Dassi and sentenced her to seven years' transportation. The appellant was tried along with two other persons named Haru Dhara and Sirajuddin; they were convicted of abducting the girl for an immoral purpose under section 366 I.P.C. and were sentenced to seven years' transportation each. The girl's story was that she came from her husband's house to her mother's at Ramkrishnapur to bathe in the Ganges. The accused Haru Dhara lived in an adjoining house. He agreed to take the girl to Kalighat, where the girl was very anxious to go. On the day of occurrence the girl left her mother's house, without her knowledge, with Haru Dhara. They hired a ticca gharry at Howrah, Sirajuddin got into the carriage on the way. They came to the other side of the river but instead of going to Kalighat the party came to Natherbagan in Calcutta and got down from the carriage. Haru Dhara then made the girl pay the gharry hire and left her in the house of the appellant. Both Haru and Sirajuddin left the house pretending to get another carriage. The girl was received by the appellant. She began to cry. Some neighbouring shop-keepers came into the house. One of them informed her mother about this. The girl was then taken home. An information to this effect was lodged with the Police. An enquiry having been made the appellant was placed on her trial along with two other persons with the result stated above.

Their Lordships admitted the appeal on the question of sentence.

We hear that sanction has been accorded to the purchase of six—Bye's patent large platform trolleys with India-rubber tyres—for the use of the Traffic Department of the line.—"T. Engineering."

According to the latest return of the irrigation operations connected with the "Khari" or autumn crops in the Punjab, the cotton crop area at the end of July was 765,377 acres and that of indigo 9,793 acres.

We hear that it has been decided to open a second construction division on the Dhubri-Gauhati extension of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, in view to pushing on the work more vigorously than heretofore.—"T. Engineering."

Indian Engineering understands that sanction has been accorded to the provision of an additional room with a verandah, and the raising of the roof of the existing rooms in the station building, to be completed during the current financial year.

Swami Ram Tirath has postponed his tour in Europe for the present and that he is coming back direct from America to land some time this month in Bombay. Narayan Swami who returned from his European tour in the last month and is at present at Ootacamund will join the Swami at Bombay.

The following case of a double tragedy is reported from the Panjab Side. An educated young Mohammedan, Fazl Din, B.A., who was a student of the Extra Assistant Conservator class of the Forest Department, was killed by a tiger. When the news reached Jhind, his brother, Feroz Din, was so affected by it that he sought death by putting his head on the railway line, where it was cut off by a passing train.

Arrangements have been made by the Bengal Agricultural Department for the distribution of a very large quantity of Egyptian, Sea Island American and South Indian cotton seeds. Last year's experiments from seeds distributed by the department do not appear to have been very promising. They were carried out at Gopalganj, Barh, Rangpur, the Hazaribagh Reformatory School, and the Cossipore Practical Institution, as well as by some indigo planters in Behar. The unsatisfactory result of the experiments was due to the lateness of the sowings and the scantiness of the July rainfall last year in the centres chosen for the experiments.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Public Works Department.—Babu Porosh Charan Chatterjee, Assistant Engineer, second grade, Rajshahi Division, is granted leave on medical certificate for two months.

Opium Department Examination.—The second half-yearly departmental examination of the Assistants of the Opium Department will be held on 4th and 5th November next.

Viceroy's Council.—His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to appoint Rai Bahadur Sri Ram as an Additional Member of the Viceroy's Council. His appointment will be notified early next month.

Regulations of Police.—The Lieutenant Governor authorises the extension of section 34 of Act V of 1861 (an Act for the Regulation of Police) to the Municipality of Azimganj, in the district of Murshidabad.

Punitive Police.—The Proclamation dated 23rd August last regarding the quartering of an additional police force in the villages of Bara-Urma, Chota-Urma, Lateoli, Namosal, Bramdih and Bhaluessa, in the district of Manbhum took effect from the 1st of September last.

Police Stations.—The undermentioned police outposts in the districts of Tippera, 24 Parganas, Noakhali, Backergunge and Malda are declared as police stations for the local areas:—Tippera—Nasirnagar and Bancharampur. 24 Parganas—Mohestolla, Matiahar, Protapnagar, Kakdip, Saugor, Sarupnagar and Chatal. Noakhali—Companigunge, Siddhi, Rangali, Raipur, Senbag and Pashuram Hat. Backergunge—Daulatkhali, Betogi, Barguna, Mirzagunge, Tajunuddi, Rajapur, Badartuni, Bama, Kowkhal Nazirpur and Muladi. Malda—Bamangola, Habibpur and Manik Chak.

Tables Turned.—It will be remembered by the readers of the "Patrika" that sometime ago, one Mrs. Cook charged a Mahomedan youth named Shaik Abdul, with making indecent gestures towards her. That case was dismissed. The youth then applied for sanction to prosecute Mrs. Cook, for bringing a false charge against him. Before he could get the sanction, Mrs. Cook obtained permission to substantiate the original charge. This matter came on for hearing on Wednesday before Mr. W. A. Bonnaud, second Presidency Magistrate. The case was partly gone into and was adjourned to the 28th instant.

Examinations in Idiom and Pronunciation.—An oral examination in the knowledge of English idiom and pronunciation, will be held at the office of the Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division, on the 30th September next. Candidates should send in their names, together with the certificates of the University examinations which they have passed, in registered covers, on or before the 24th September. A similar examination will be held in the office of the Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi Division, at Jalpaiguri on Friday, the 7th October next, at 11 a.m. Candidates should send in their applications on or before the 3rd October next, stating the University examinations they have passed.

Registration Department.—Babu Bhutan war Mahanti, Rural Sub-Registrar of Gop, in the district of Puri, is appointed to act as Rural Sub-Registrar of Pipili, in the same district, during the absence, on deputation of Babu Jagadananda Patnaik. Babu Akshaya Prasad Das, B.A., is appointed to act as Rural Sub-Registrar of Gop. Maulvi Syed Reza Kuli Khan, Rural Sub-Registrar of Dhaka, in the district of Champaran, is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Jamui, in the district of Monghyr. Maulvi Ahmed Mir, Rural Sub-Registrar of Perihar, in the district of Muzaffarpur, is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Perihar, in the district of Muzaffarpur. Maulvi Fazal Karim is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Kotchandpur, in the district of Jessore.

Suicide.—People may wonder in this country, writes "the Calcutta Weekly Notes," why it is that juries as a rule in returning a verdict of suicide qualify it with the expression, "whilst of unsound mind." "The Law Magazine and Review," in reviewing criminal statistics, furnishes the following explanation with regard to such verdicts:—Juries still continue to have a not unnatural distaste for finding verdicts of "felo de se," notwithstanding the abolition of the original cause of this reluctance. Schopenhauer observed this, for he says in his "Essay on Suicide":—"With suicide is allied especially in brutal bigoted England, a shameful burial, and the invalidation of the testament, for which reason the jury almost always bring in a verdict of insanity." It is true that the "shameful burial" is now done away with; but Coroner's juries are still prone to return a verdict of "suicide whilst of unsound mind" out of a sympathetic regard for the feelings of the relatives of the deceased. At any rate, the number of the verdicts of "felo de se" is 1902 was 42 only. The increase, continuous during the last fifty years, in the number of suicides and attempted suicides, is interesting as showing the development of the modern tendency to hysteria and neurasthenia which has left its mark on the literature of the country. The concluding remark of our contemporary are also very true.

Departmental Examination.—The second half yearly departmental examination of Assistant Collectors and others serving in the Orissa Division will be held at the Orissa Commissioner's Office at Cuttack at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 10th November next, and the two following days. In connection with the second half-yearly departmental examination of Assistant Magistrates and others to be held on the 10th November next and the two following days, it is notified that there will be a local centre at Dacca for officers employed in the districts of the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions. The examination will be held in the Commissioner's Court room at Sadar Ghat and will begin at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day. **Weather and Crops.**—The following is a report on the state of the season and prospects of the crops for the week ending the 6th September 1904.—Moderate rain in all districts. Harvesting of early rice, transplanting of late rice, plucking and manufacture of tea, and cutting of jute in progress. Insects are damaging late rice in parts of Sibargar. Prospects of early rice indifferent in Lower Assam; fair in other districts. Tea thriving. Prospects of late broadcast rice, sugarcane, and cotton fair and of jute poor. Cattle disease prevalent in four districts. Prices of common rice—Sylhet 19, Dhubri 16, Silchar 15, Gauhati and Tezpur 14, Nowgong and Dibrugarh 13, and Sibargar 12 seers per rupee.

Bank Rate.—The Directors of the Bank of Bengal at their meeting on Thursday made no change in the rate of interest or discount.

Indian Railway Board.—The Secretary of the Indian Railway Board will be Mr. Drew, formerly of the Superior State Railway Revenue Establishment. His pay is fixed at Rs. 2,000 per mensem.—"I. Engineering."

The Hon'ble Mr. Shirres.—The Hon'ble Mr. L. P. Shirres, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial and Municipal Department, arrives in Calcutta to-day and proceeds to Darjeeling on the 19th instant.

Lillooh Station.—We hear that sanction will shortly be accorded to providing three additional cross-overs for the new sorting yard at this station, the necessity having been explained by the Traffic Manager of the line.—"I. Engineering."

Jhajha Station.—We hear that sanction has been accorded to an estimate for the rearrangement of the watering arrangements at this station at a cost of about Rs. 34,000, to be met out of the current year's Budget grant of the line.—"I. Engineering."

Alleged Perjury.—On Friday, before Mr. D. H. Kingsford, F.C.S., Chief Presidency Magistrate, one Chakari Lal was tried on a charge of selling cocaine without license. Accused was fined Rs. 100, in default to suffer two months' imprisonment. The defence examined two witnesses; and after the case was over, the Court ordered the two witnesses to show cause why sanction should not be granted against them on a charge of perjury.

Theft by a European.—On Friday, before Mr. W. A. Bonnaud, second Presidency Magistrate, Captain H. Serbery of the S.S. "Gogovala," charged one Andrew Little John with the theft, between Singapore and Calcutta, of six bottles of brandy. Mr. Mahapatra conducted the prosecution and examined a few witnesses. The Court found the accused guilty and sentenced him to undergo one month's rigorous imprisonment.

Civil Medical Department, Bengal.—Senior Assistant Surgeon Debendra Nath Day, of the Nator Sub-division and Dispensary, in the Rajshahi district, is allowed privilege leave for three months, combined with furlough for one year. Third grade Assistant Surgeon Harendra Kumar Das, doing supernumerary duty at the Rampur Boalia Dispensary, is appointed to act at the Nator Sub-division and Dispensary.

Police Transfers.—The following are the latest transfers among the Inspectors of the Calcutta Police:—Inspector Craiss having returned from leave, is posted to Park Street Thana, vice Inspector W. Mulcahy transferred to the Detective Department as Arms Act Inspector. Inspector Ahmed Khan, of the Detectives, is transferred to Sukea's Street Thana, vice Inspector N. Ghose transferred to Burtollah, vice Inspector B. N. Mukerjee transferred to Beliagatta vice Inspector P. N. Mukerjee, on sick leave.

A Step-Mother Roughly Handled.—On Friday, before Babu G. C. Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, one Adam Sirdar of Canning Town was charged with having mercilessly assaulted his step-mother. The father of the accused who died recently left some money with his wife, the complainant. The accused having got a scent of the matter asked his step-mother to deliver the money to him. On her refusal the accused struck her on the head with a heavy club, causing a severe wound and then turned her out of the house. The Magistrate after considering the tender age of the accused sentenced the accused to three months' rigorous imprisonment.

Subordinate Educational Service.—Babu Syama Charan Gupta, B.A., Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, Backergunge is appointed to be Head Master of the Bethune Collegiate School. Maulvi Abdul Latif is appointed to act as an Assistant Master in the Anglo-Persian Department of the Calcutta Madrasah. The following arrangements are sanctioned, with effect from the 15th November next:—(1) Maulvi Kabiruddin Ahmed, B.A., Deputy Inspector of Schools, Faridpur, is appointed to be Deputy Inspector of Schools, Rangpur; (2) Babu Tarini Kisor Bardhan, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Rangpur, is appointed to be Deputy Inspector of Schools, Faridpur; (3) Maulvi Fajazuddin Ahmed, B.A., Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, 24-Parganas, and now officiating Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, Midnapore, is appointed to be Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, Faridpur; (4) Maulvi Tahzeb Ali, B.A., Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, Midnapore, and now officiating Head Master, Anglo-Persian Department, Calcutta Madrasah, is appointed to be Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, 24-Parganas; (5) Babu Sarada Prasad Banerjee, Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, Faridpur, is appointed to be Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, Midnapore; (6) Maulvi Alifazuddin Ahmed, M.A., Deputy Inspector of Schools, Hooghly, is appointed to be Deputy Inspector of Schools, Burdwan; (7) Babu Bacharam Ganguli, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Birbhum, is appointed to be Deputy Inspector of Schools, Hooghly; (8) Babu Hira Lal Pal, B.A., Deputy Inspector of Schools, Midnapore, is appointed to be Deputy Inspector of Schools, Birbhum; (9) Maulvi A. S. H. Hossain, B.A., Deputy Inspector of Schools, Burdwan, is appointed to be Deputy Inspector of Schools, Midnapore; Babu Barada Prasad Sarkar, Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, Burdwan, is appointed to be Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, Backergunge; and (11) Babu Hara Kanta Bose, B.A., Assistant Head Master, Faridpur Zillah School, is appointed to be Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools Burdwan.

The return march of the Forces from Lhasa. and the movement to India of troops, holding the line of communications in Tibet will begin coincidentally.

The East Indian Railway traffic during the past five months has been much larger than during the corresponding period of last year. The total earnings from the 1st April to the 27th August, 1904, aggregate Rs. 2,99,32,000, against Rs. 2,78,15,497 in the same period of 1903, being the substantial increase of Rs. 21,16,593. But the East Indian Railway will have to look to its laurels as the North-Western Railway is fast catching it up. The gross earnings of the latter, from the 1st April to the 27th August, 1904, amount to Rs. 2,55,54,000, against Rs. 2,06,81,055 in the corresponding period of 1903, being the enormous increase of Rs. 48,72,945. The total earnings of the State and guaranteed lines for the five months in question aggregate over 14 crores, namely, Rs. 14,50,46,700 against Rs. 13,48,05,832 in the corresponding five months of 1903, being the very handsome increase of Rs. 1,02,40,868. This augurs well for a prosperity Budget for 1904-05 for the new Railway Board to deal with an entering upon its new duties.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, Sept. 15. General Kuropatkin, in his detailed report of the battles since 26th August, says that the two days' retirement from Aushan, Llandausan and Anping on Liaoyang were attended with incredible difficulties in mountains and marshy country. The guns at Aushan stuck in the mud and had to be abandoned. General Ruktkovsky, commanding the rearguard, and Colonel Derasben were killed in the desperate attempts made to save the guns. When he noticed Kuropatkin's turning movement, Kuropatkin resolved to concentrate his army and outflank and hurl back General Kuropatkin on Taisho. The Japanese seizure of important positions at Sykwantun delayed the attack as the Russians were compelled to make desperate and repeated assaults to regain the position. Orloff held a strong position at Yentai, which was intended as a base for the general attack, on advancing against the Japanese, his force lost their bearings in the tall millet, and were repulsed. The Japanese immediately on the 2nd instant seized the whole range of hills and established an extremely strong position. The Russians on the same night abandoned Sykwantun, which was the axis of Kuropatkin's turning movement, and a retreat to Mukden was inevitable. Despite Kuropatkin's furious attacks on the 3rd and 4th, the retirement was orderly, and nothing was abandoned from the 30th ultimo till their arrival at Mukden.

London, Sept. 15. General Kuropatkin mentions in his despatch that General Fomin was killed at Yentai. The "Standard" says that the Japanese have no reason to be discouraged at the result of the Liaoyang fight, and if Marshal Oyama failed to repeat the achievements of the greatest Captains of Military History, he inflicted a heavy blow on the prestige of the enemy.

The "Times," discussing the financial position of the combatants believes that the continuing drain on Russia then on Japan who seem prepared as scientifically in the financial sphere as in the fighting services.

London, Sept. 15. It is announced at St. Petersburg that the Baltic Fleet stays some time at Liban before proceeding.

Besides the "Derwen" mentioned yesterday, the Russian cruiser "Terek" stopped the British steamers "Margitroebel" on the 6th and "Treherbert" on the 12th instant.

The Captain of the "Tena" has intimated to the American authorities that he desires to dismantle and remain at San Francisco till the end of the war.

Reuter wires from Nagasaki that a British vessel supposed to be the "Lucia," blockade running at Port Arthur, has struck a mine and sunk. Only one man was saved.

London, Sept. 16. Kuropatkin wires that there was no fighting on the 14th instant and that a strong Japanese advance guard had advanced five kilometres north of Yentai station.

London, Sept. 16. General Stoessel wires that the Japanese have been reinforced on the west front of Port Arthur and continual bombardment is going on. "Our losses," he adds, "are insignificant."

London, Sept. 16. The Officers and crew of the Lena are to be allowed on parole by the United States.

London, Sept. 16. Reuter at Mukden wiring in the 16th says that the panic condition prevailing immediately after the battle of Liaoyang has entirely disappeared. The Russian army is concentrated here and business is resumed.

London, Sept. 16. Alexieff reports that fighting took place in Kamtohatka in July between militiamen and Japanese fishermen who had proclaimed a Japanese protectorate. The Japanese lost heavily and were driven off.

London, Sept. 16. Kuropatkin's report is favourably commented upon by French Military Critics and has revived hopes in France of Russia's eventual success.

London, Sept. 16. The Daily Telegraph referring to the Japanese surprise at the supposed change of British views says that while British admiration for our allies and faith in their ultimate triumph remain undiminished, it would be puerile to ignore the fact that the Russians have done better than was anticipated.

London, Sept. 14. A London paper announces that evidence has been published of a secret understanding between Russia and Germany, according to which the Port Arthur fleet was to have taken refuge at Kiaochow, whence, after repair, the combined Russian and German fleets would sail forth and dictate terms to Japan. The plan, it is alleged, failed in consequence of Irkotsky's lack of courage: hence his recall and court-martial.—"Statesman."

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

Colombo, Sept. 15. Admiral Mahan, the American naval and military expert, is of opinion that, if the Japanese plan of intercepting Kuropatkin westward off the railway proves successful, it will involve an utter material disaster to the Russians, irrespective of the moral effect.

The Japanese besieging Port Arthur are employing one thousand Chinese in filling the Russian defensive moats with sandbags, digging trenches, and constructing earthworks.

Kuropatkin recently urged Stoessel to hold out for another month, promising him to bring five hundred thousand Russians to raise the siege.

The Czar has conferred on Stoessel the St. George's Cross for bravery. His Majesty has also decreed that every month's service, rendered by the officers in Port Arthur, are to be reckoned as a year, dating from May last.

Russian refugees at Tientsin state that the Japanese have entered Port Arthur, and that non-combatants had taken refuge in the Golden Hill and Liaotshan forts.

It is reported at Tokio that the Japanese have captured the Port Arthur waterworks at Chonesifing.

Eleven Russian cruisers have been reported off the coasts of Spain, Portugal France and Africa, searching for contraband.

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

Allahabad, Sept. 16. Colonel Deane, Agent to the Governor General, North-West Frontier Province, is now paying a short visit to Simla.

No British Political Resident will be appointed in Tibet but measures will be taken to secure Indian traders' interests in that country.

Lines for the Hazara Pioneer Battalion are to be taken in hand at Quetta forthwith. The Regiment will probably spend sometime at Sibi under canvas during the coming cold weather.

The Telegraph Department will resume their attempt to establish wireless telegraphy with Port Blair on the 1st November. It is hoped that communication will be completed before the end of the year.

During the ensuing working season it is intended to put up 5000 more miles of telegraph wire in India in order to meet the growing demands of the traffic due to the reduction of tariff.

Some high speed page printing instruments are due to arrive shortly which should be of great service on the more important main lines.

Simla, Sept. 15. The Government of India have sanctioned the scale of small arm ball practice ammunition allowed annually to British Cavalry in India being increased from 150 to 200 rounds per man. The present annual allowance of ball ammunition for British and Indian officers of the Indian Army is also increased from 60 to 82 rounds per officer.

Simla, Sept. 15. A fall of fresh snow fell on the mountains near Gulmarg on the 14th.

Rangoon, Sept. 15. The Lieutenant-Governor has rejected the petition for clemency to Mrs. Bride, Mrs. Wade, J. Bride, A. G. Wade and his two sons who were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment by the Chief Court in connection with the recent arson case.

Bombay, Sept. 15. The Government of Bombay have issued a Resolution in reference to the measures to be taken in the event of a fodder famine. The Governor in Council presumes that Commissioners have already issued orders as regards the opening of forests to grazing, but they should be reminded that this should be done as soon as necessity in any district discloses itself. Permission to take anjan leaves and the like should also be granted on the same condition. As to grass, probably it is nowhere quite ready yet for cutting, and, for the present, what can be done is to ascertain where good grass is available and put on guards to have it preserved. This is being done in some districts and should be done in all in which there are forests which may contain grass suitable for cutting. Orders as to the pressing of fodder are given. The attention of all Commissioners, Collectors, and Conservators is invited to the desirability of encouraging private enterprise to import fodder into deficient districts and to submit any recommendations they may have to make regarding the aid of Government being given to such enterprise. Attention also is drawn to the Government Resolution on the subject of cattle-camps, and Collectors are requested to arrange for the opening of such camps as soon as necessary in all districts in which they were formerly, or may now be, found suitable.

At Poona this morning the sky is overcast. A strong wind is blowing but rain is not falling. Reports from stations along the Southern Mahratta Railway show that heavy rain has fallen at Sheddal, Kudchi, Londa, Castle-rock, Marmagao, and Bijapur, and light showers at Dharwar, Hubli, and other stations. The rain has been most opportune and has revived many withering crops. If more rain falls soon, famine may be averted.

Bombay, Sept. 16. News from Surat, dated September 16th, states that since writing yesterday the flood is rising steadily in the river Tapi, and to-day the water has been allowed to pass into the City ditch through the Makai bridge. The flood has made its way into the Castle by the Railway culvert on Fulgoda road and also flooded the sluice in the protective works near the Fatek gate where the water entered. Protective measures have been taken. Communication with Rander and Katargam has been stopped. Information has been received that heavy rain has fallen at Chikalda and Malegon and crowds of people are going to view the flood from the river's bank.

Mr. Morrison, the Collector, has saved the lives of some people who took refuge on trees.

An Ahmedabad telegram says that Anand, Mehmedabad, Baroda and their outlying districts have all been favoured with good rain and the anxiety of cultivators has been allayed. It is now hoped that there will be bumper crops of cotton and fodder for cattle. The fear of a water-famine is now passed.

Rangoon, Sept. 16. The appeal by the Local Government against the order of acquittal of Dr. Brewer, Health Officer of the Mandalay Municipality, passed by the Cantonment Magistrate, Mandalay, in the case of assault brought by Mr. Noyce, a Municipal Commissioner, was heard to-day by the Chief Judge, Mr. Giles, Assistant Government Advocate, contended that the Cantonment Magistrate ought to have convicted the accused under Section 353 of the Indian Penal Code, which provided a penalty for assault upon grave and sudden provocation. Mr. Eddis, for the respondent, admitted that Dr. Brewer had committed a technical offence upon a considerable amount of provocation by Mr. Noyce, and a nominal fine would meet the justice of the case.

The Chief Judge, indisposing of the appeal, was of the opinion that the assault was not of a serious nature. The Cantonment Magistrate seemed to have overlooked Section 353 under which on his finding he should have convicted the accused. The order of acquittal was reversed and Dr. Brewer was found guilty of using criminal force on grave and sudden provocation and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 10.

Simla, Sept. 16. The Secretary of State has sanctioned estimates aggregating 65 lakhs for construction of the Hariharpur-Bar section of the E. I. Railway Grand Chord as under (1) Hariharpur to Dhanbad, 21½ miles, 28 lakhs. (2) Doubling between Dhanbad and Barakar, 25 miles, 35½ lakhs. (3) Nagri-Kasunda connection, 1½ miles, 1½ lakh.

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAM.

Simla, Sept. 15. The past week has been marked by an important change in the weather conditions, especially in Bombay, the Deccan and the Nizam's Dominions, where general and much needed rain has fallen. The cause of this favourable change is a remarkable storm which formed over the Bay and, crossing the Circars Coast on Monday morning has travelled through the northern districts of the Deccan and the Central Provinces. On Thursday it was lying between Khandwa and Indore and had not diminished at all in intensity. The more important amounts given by the storm during the week in the area of drought in the Peninsula are Hyderabad 6 inches; Bijapur 3½; Sholapur 7½; Poona 3; Ahmednagar 6½; Malegaon 7; Akola 7½; and Khandwa 5. Rain has also commenced falling in Gujarat, especially in the Eastern districts, where Surat has received 2½ inches and Ahmedabad 1½; but the storm unfortunately is not likely to give general rain in Gujarat, as there are indications of a change in its line, and it is likely to travel in a more northerly direction into Rajputana. Good rain has also fallen in the Central Provinces and local rain in the United Provinces, Punjab and Rajputana.

The rainfall over India during the past 24 hours has been generally confined to the neighbourhood of the storm, and practically none has fallen over the greater part of Bengal, Assam, the Gangetic Plain, Punjab, Western Rajputana, Sind, the Deccan, South India, and East of the Peninsula. On the other hand, rain has been fairly general, though over the whole not heavy, over the Central Provinces, Central India, Eastern Rajputana, and Gujarat. In Burma also rain has been fairly general, and the storm will probably advance north and north-westward, so that rain should fall in diminishing amounts over the north of the Deccan, Khandesh and Central Provinces; while on the contrary, rain should be general over west of Central India, Eastern Rajputana and the neighbouring parts of the Punjab and of the United Provinces, as well as over Kumaon and the Himalayas. Local rain will be received over Gujarat and along the West Coast. Local rain will also fall over Burma, and may possibly increase over East Bengal and Assam. Fresh snow fell on the mountains near Gulmarg on the 14th.

THE TIBET EXPEDITION.

THE RAINFALL.

Gyatse (Tibet) Sept. 15. **Lhasa Sept. 10.**—In accordance with the promise made in Potala, all our prisoners were liberated on the 8th. The release was made on an occasion for a picturesque ceremony to the prisoners, 76 in number. They were seated in rows inside the square of troops and the majority of them were Khamba warriors, clad in sheepskins, wearing no head covering, but tangles of black matted hair. Many of these were Kham men, not Mongolian in type, but rather Arab. During captivity they have been perfectly cheerful and happy, singing and laughing over tasks, such as road-making and draining, to which they were set. At the same time they were delighted at being set free. Each man received a present of five rupees, distributed in the presence of Colonel Younghusband and general Tibetan Councilors. After distribution, the prisoners were told they could go. They put out their tongues and held up their thumbs and made many strange gesticulations of gratitude, and then scurried off towards Lhasa, pushing each other about and joking like a parcel of boys out for a holiday. Large quantities of furs, including sable and many varieties of tiger cat lynx are being brought into camp for sale by Tibetans. On their part, they have released all the men they threw into prison for dealings with us. Some have been in custody over twenty years. One old man was imprisoned for having assisted Sarat Shandra Das. He was kept in a dark cell and had gone blind. At first he refused to credit the statement that he was free and thought he was being led out to torture.

Simla, Sept. 16. A telegram from Macdonald dated Lhasa, September 11th, 5 a.m. states that all prisoners of war were released on 8th; the Tibetans also releasing certain political prisoners of their own. On the 9th a survey party, escorted by one company of the 32nd Pioneers and 7 mounted infantry, proceeded up the Ramtagla Valley. Our relations with the Tibetans are more friendly. Parties of troops under officers are allowed to visit the city, and are well received. The Sappers and one company of Gurkhas with a convoy of 500 mounds of supplies left for Chaksan ferry on the 9th, to prepare for crossing the river on the return journey. There has been heavy rain during the last three nights, with a good deal of snow on the surrounding hills, low down.

The death-rate at Surat is alarmingly abnormal, and plague continues to increase. The people are almost panic-stricken. The total number of deaths, during the week ended on Friday last, was 757, of which 370 were due to plague. The total number of deaths during the same week last year was 165, including 55 deaths from plague.

The total number of vaccination operations was in the United Provinces 1,667,104, against 1,665,253 in 1902-03, an increase of 1,851. There was a decrease in the number of successful re-vaccinations. Twenty-eight districts (including the Native State of Tehri-Garhwal) show an increase in the number of successful primary vaccinations as compared with '37 in the preceding year. Cawnpore heads the list with an increase of 4,010 successful operations. Sitapur comes next with past five months has been much larger than 3,831. Then in order come Allahabad with 2,161, Pilibhit with 1,874, Bijpur with 1,776, and Moradabad with 1,686. Out of 21 districts showing reductions in the number of successful primary vaccinations, Azamgarh stands first with a decrease of 3,530 operations. Gonda follows with 3,419. Then in order come Rae Bareilly with 2,601, Ghazipur with 2,479, Partabgarh with 1,856, and Almorah with 1,845, and Unao with 1,725. The decrease in the first five districts was due to the prevalence of plague, but in Azamgarh it was also due to a certain extent to the fact that there was one vaccinator less on the staff this year. In Almorah the decrease is said to be due to a low birth-rate and to idleness on the part of a vaccinator who has been punished, while in Unao it is ascribed to the slackness on the part of some vaccinators, who have been suitably dealt with.



MALABAR NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Calicut, Sept. 9.

OUR COLLECTOR.

Mr. Pinhey, the District Magistrate and Collector of Malabar, intends going on furlough for a long period, in October next. It will be good, both for him and for the people, because he has made the place too hot for him, by his way of discharging duties. His manner of administering justice has created great alarm throughout the country. What a contrast between him and his predecessors Mr. Dances! He discharged his duties conscientiously and thus succeeded in securing the confidence and good will of one and all. Mr. Pinhey is only trying to upset matters which had been working on sound and popular basis since his advent to Malabar. We would be too glad to see him posted in some other department. The name of Mr. Pinhey's successor is not yet known. We pray the Government will place an experienced officer in charge of this important district.

CASES OF DEFAMATION.

The readers of the "Patrika" are already aware that a case is now pending before the Town Magistrate of Calicut, against a nephew of H. H. the Zamorin, instituted by a member of the "Thiruvannoor Menon Caste Committee." And this case has been filed against the founders of the "Menon Sabha" for having served a notice to the complainant woman outcasting her. We are also told that another case is going to be instituted against the members of the committee. So, we have three cases in connection with the proceedings of the "Thiruvannoor Caste Committee." It is high time to form a Committee for the good of the "Menon Community" the aim of which should be to better the status of those who are now struggling with caste disputes and thus put an end to the prevalent discussions of ugly affairs.

VILLAGE OFFICIAL FINED.

The Adhikari of Alankode in Ponnani and his peon, were prosecuted in a criminal case, and fined Rs. 80 and 20 respectively, by the Head Assistant Magistrate of Palghat and the case instituted by the Adhikari against the complainant was thrown out. The facts of the case are these. The Adhikari and his peon had been to the local shandy for collection. The complainant was asked to pay the revenue and thereupon hot words passed between the two. The Adhikari in the capacity of a Village Magistrate sent the complainant to the lock-up. After a few hours of confinement some men came and rescued the complainant. The Adhikari's peon, the second accused raised objections, because his master had entrusted the prisoner to his charge. But the complainant and his men were alleged to have severely assaulted the peon and his master.

MALAYALAM JOURNALS.

We are extremely glad to learn that two vernacular magazines will be shortly published by two Malayali ladies, one at Ernakulam, under the editorship of Mrs. T. Krishna Menon and one at Quilon, by the wife of Mr. K. Rama Krishna Pillay, editor of the "Malayalee," and now we will have two lady editors. It is indeed gratifying to find so much literary activity here, but what pains us most is that persons who can appreciate all this enterprise and give encouragement to it are greatly interested in litigation both civil and criminal and thus waste their money unnecessarily.

A PEON IN TROUBLE.

A peon of the District Court, Calicut, is implicated in two cases of assault and charges have been framed against him in both cases. We remember, that we are not strangers to such affairs. We hope the Nazir, of the District Court, under whose control the peons are will keep a sharp watch over their conduct.

A MALAYALI BARRISTER.

Mr. K. P. Krishna Menon, bar-at-law, has settled down in Calicut for practice. He was at Coimbatore for some years and his change of place to this capital city will bring him better results as he has innumerable friends and relations here. He has two younger brothers, Mr. Ramen Menon and Madhava Menon, the former is a very able High Court vakil practising at Calicut and the latter is now studying for the bar in England.

TROUT IN INDIAN RIVERS.

The "Indian Field" says:—The reports of Mr. Dubbs and Major Wainiss as to the existence of veritable trout in the Helmund, should attract the attention of those who have failed to introduce the European fish into our mountain streams as most of the failures may be due to some important difference in the waters of the stream whence the ova are taken and that to which they are transferred on arrival in India. But were it possible to procure the mature fish from Central Afghanistan, breeding bids fair to be attended with success, and as the present ruler of Kabul has shown himself more inclined to tolerate visitors than any of his predecessors, no great difficulty should be experienced in obtaining the stock wanted. We hear from time to time of some scheme being entertained with regard to forming reservoirs on the Sulist at the back of Simla, which should afford excellent breeding grounds and with water presumably identical with that of the Helmund, while the elevation should also secure the same conditions as to temperature and climate, so that if we cannot have the actual speckled beauty of the old country, there is every reason to anticipate we may provide ourselves with a prototype fully equal to him either from a sporting or gastronomic point of view. There are those that maintain our failures in trout acclimatisation are due to the more intense light the exotic is subjected to than he is accustomed to in his own "kabul," more than in difference in the constituents of the transport a score or two of Kabul trout thence but with fish born and bred under tropical glare this surmise would not hold good. It would be no very onerous undertaking to transport a score or two of Kabul trout thence to the suggested breeding ground.

In the last volume of the Records of the Geological Survey of India Mr. R. D. Oldham discusses in a very interesting paper, the formation and the age of the various passes in the Sind Valley, Kashmir. Mr. Oldham considers the Sonamarg moraines to be of very recent formation. The paper is magnificently illustrated by photographs. Mr. Vredenburg contributes an interesting account of the finding of a stratum of oyster shells in Clive Street by Mr. G. F. Ross, Manager of the South British Marine Insurance Co.

FOOD PROBLEM.

The lengths of time that different kinds of foods require for digestion are no longer matters of mere conjectures, but are indisputable facts established by actual observation. It is known to the whole medical world that Dr. Beaumont and other distinguished medical men had a singular opportunity of examining the inside of the stomach of St. Martin. This St. Martin was a French Canadian, who was accidentally shot in the stomach in the Island of Michilimocine, America. Dr. Beaumont extracted the bullet, and treated him for over two years.

The wound ultimately formed into a peculiar gastric fistula, which did not interfere with the functions of digestion. Finally, however, the orifice was filled by a small fold or doubling of the coats of the stomach, which acted as a valve and which could be easily pushed aside by the finger, so as to command a view of the interior of the organ. The observations on the process of digestion in the stomach extended over as long a period as 58 years, from the time of the gunshot wound in 1822 down to the year of his death, 1880 and were watched, besides Dr. Beaumont, by such distinguished medical authorities as Dr. Francis Gurney Smith, Surgeon General Loven, Dr. Franklin Bache and other prominent members of the medical profession.

The time taken to digest food is thus given by them:—

Rice boiled, 1; sago boiled, 1-45; barley boiled, 2; tapioca boiled, 2; milk boiled, 2; chicken soup boiled, 3; wheat bread, 3-30; egg row, 2; egg fried, 3-30; egg whipped row, 1-30; potato boiled, 3-30; cabbage boiled, 4-30; oysters fresh stewed, 3-30; oysters soup boiled, 3-30; oysters ram, 2-55; beef steak boiled, 3; mutton roasted, 3-15; mutton boiled, 3; veal boiled, 4; fowl domestic broiled, 4; fowl domestic roasted, 4; duck domestic roasted, 4; duck wild roasted, 4-30; butter melted, 3-30; cheese, 3-30; apples wet row, 1-30; turnips boiled, 4-45.

The above results were supported, later on by such distinguished medical men as Dr. J. H. Kellogg, M. D., Dr. William Osler, M. D., and other authorities of the day.

Now it is almost a truism that in disease and convalescence the food should be lighter than the ordinary one.

In European countries where meat and wheat bread requiring 3½ to 4½ hours to digest, by the ordinary meal, sago, barley, milk, soup, eggs &c., may be regarded as lighter foods. But in countries where staple food is rice, which is the lightest of all the foods in the above table, there is no rational ground for prescribing in disease sago, barley, milk, soup &c. which take a longer time than rice to digest in good health, and therefore a very much longer time in disease when the digestion is obviously weak. What then should be the invalid dietary in such countries?

The researches of modern medical science have conclusively proved the food that any person is habitually accustomed to, agrees better with him than any other. The question that now naturally arises is:—How to render this food lighter so as to suit him in disease. This is the all important problem of the day, which has been exercising the medical world for a long time. It has at last been concluded that the bread should be dextrinised and the meat peptonised, so as to render them easy of digestion. Thus European experts have solved the problem for their own countries, where meat and wheat bread are the staple food. It has long been a perplexing problem in physiological chemistry to find out a food suitable for use in disease in a country where the usual food in good health is the lightest of all, namely, rice. Thanks to energy, perseverance, and to the laborious researches of Dr. Nandy, the problem has been completely solved. He has at last discovered a scientific method of dextrinising any kind of cereal, by which it is rendered most easily digestible. His experiments have taken a practical shape in his dextrinised food for invalids. Dr. Nandy submitted his food for chemical analysis to the highest authority available in this country, namely, Dr. Schulz, the chemical analyst to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and other commercial bodies. The result of his analysis is as follows:—Protein 11.53 Carbohydrate 82.25, Fat 2.29, Mineral matter 1.71, Celluloid matter 1.22.

Dr. Schulz also certified that the food is dextrinised and all the grameles are open by bursting to making the food easily digestible. According to the recent discoveries in experimental medicine a scientifically perfect food must contain the proteid and carbohydrate in the proportion of nearly 1 to 7. Dr. Nandy's food contains proteid and carbohydrate in proportion of 11.53 to 82.25 which is nearly 1 to 7. So it can be called a scientifically perfect food and therefore it may be safely recommended by the Doctors as it will sustain the lives of their patients for an indefinite period, moreover this food, being dextrinised, is non-formentative; so it may also be safely used where the use of animal and starchy food is objectionable, (where typhoid, nausea, vomiting and other irritation of the bowels is present as cases of Typhoid fever, low remittent fever, pneumonia, plague, cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery, dyspepsia, &c.)

All these are no mere theoretical statements but have been fully testified to by numerous medical gentlemen who have had a considerable opportunity of testing the food in their own practice.

It is now for the public to encourage him by making a large use of his food, and to satisfy themselves practically as to its merits by the benefits which they will undoubtedly derive from it.

It is too much to expect from the scientific and industrial Association to interest themselves in the discovery made by Dr. Nandy—a discovery that will benefit the richest and the poorest alike? It relates to an important question, which concerns every body every day.

Charity begins at home, and if the leaders of our society and our public bodies desire to stimulate industry and scientific research, they can do no better than begin with things ready at hand before attempting more pretentious achievements. They can easily see their way to examining Dr. Nandy's food personally and by experts with a view to extending to the deserving Doctor their moral support, should the food really worth as much as it is claimed for it. This is certainly not asking too much.

A. C. CHATTERJEE L.M.S.

Indian Engineering hears that Sapekhati station will shortly be opened for through booking of goods and coaching traffic.

Mr. Crovel has been appointed District Engineer at Chakardarpore, vice Mr. Connor, proceeding on leave.—"I. Engineering."

KRISHNAGAR NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Krishnagar, Sept. 14.

A SENSATIONAL CASE.

Babu Chandra Sekhar Kar, Deputy Magistrate, who has come in the place occupied lately by Babu Jagadish Ch. Sen, has acquired great popularity in this small time by his prompt and active discharge of duties, and unfailing courtesy, and the parties are relieved of the nuisance of daily dancing their attendance before the Court with the hope that their cases would be taken up. A sensational case is being tried in his court in which some of the Court Amlas are implicated and sent up by the police under sections 342 and 353 I.P.C., viz., confining wrongfully a police constable and using criminal force to deter him from discharge of his duties.

MUNICIPALITY.

The Municipal roads are in a very worst condition. A road sub-committee has been formed and at the recommendation of the District Magistrate, Mr. Wilson, who is the Superintending Engineer of the present R. M. Railway, has been made its head. The result is that the Nadia Road, where the little European section of this town reside, is getting much attention and other important roads such as Ghurni Road (of course frequented by Indians) are neglected. Though Ghurni people bears a very large share of the burden of taxation, yet their only pucca road has become utterly impassable and is hopelessly neglected. We wish to draw Mr. Radice's attention to that road.

THE DISTRICT BOARD.

The District is now relieved of the burden of paying every month a handsome amount to Messrs. Martin and Co. at the same might profitably be used in some useful works. We hope that the pucca road from our town to Krishnagar, which was constructed by a very heavy cost, will engage the first attention of Mr. Radice, the Chairman, and other members. If the road is not maintained now its condition will become more dilapidated because it had not been maintained for the last 6 years. A little timely attention will keep the road in tact, otherwise it would be a serious loss to the Board if such well-constructed road with so much traffic is suffered to go worse on account of a few hundreds of rupees.

WRESTLING MATCH.

A Punjabi Pahalawan of the name of Mohamed Bux has come here recently. He is now in the employ of Babu Girindra Nath Pal, a zemindar of this district. On Sunday last a match was arranged between him and a Hindu Pahalawan who came here from Serampur and the Punjabi was victorious. Again yesterday in the premises of Babu Boidya Nath Mukherjee, zemindar of Meherpur now residing here, a match was arranged between the said Punjabi and one Bindeswari Misra of the Krishnagar Police. After 15 minutes' struggle the Punjabi gained the victory. He got some prizes. Many people assembled to see this wrestling match.

THE TSAR'S MANIFESTO.

LIST OF CONCESSIONS.

The Tsar's manifesto on the occasion of the birth of the Tsarevitch, abolishes corporal punishment where such was still inflicted for repeated offences among the rural population and in the army and navy. It remits all arrears of land redemption taxes, rural dues, and other imposts, and relieves the peasantry of the obligation of repaying the relief loans granted in time of bad harvests. Furthermore a number of fines are remitted, and offences punishable by fine, imprisonment, or confinement in a fortress without the loss of civil rights will be pardoned if up to the date of the birth of the Tsarevitch no legal proceedings were taken or sentence was passed on account of such offences.

The manifesto also grants a number of concessions to common law offenders and convicts, and provides that political prisoners who have distinguished themselves by good conduct may, on the interposition of the Minister of Justice, obtain restitution of their civil rights on the expiration of their sentences. Persons guilty of political offences during the last 15 years whose identity has remained unknown will no longer be subject to prosecution, while political offenders who have fled abroad and who wish to return to Russia may apply to the Minister of the Interior for permission to do so.

In the case of Finland the manifesto grants remission of all arrears of imposts and land taxes due up to January 14, 1904, and not paid up to the rate of the birth of the Tsarevitch. Further, a fourth part of the loans granted to Finnish agriculturists in cash or corn is remitted, and a sum of 3,000,000 Finnish marks (£120,000) from the national resources of Finland is added to the fund to be inalienably devoted to the needs of Finlanders who own no land.

All fines imposed on village, town, or commune for neglecting to elect representatives to serve on the military recruiting boards for the years 1902 and 1903, and hitherto not discharged, are remitted.

Permission is granted to Finnish subjects who left Finland without the sanction of the authorities to return to Finland in the course of one year. Those liable to military service are bound immediately on their return to report themselves voluntarily for service. Finlanders who have evaded military service will go unpunished provided that they report themselves to the military recruiting authorities within three months of the birth of the Tsarevitch.

Certain classes of offences, excluding theft, robbery, with violence, and embezzlement, are pardoned. The Governor-General of Finland is directed to consider what steps can be taken to secure an alleviation of the lot of those persons who are forbidden to reside in Finland.

The fines imposed in Russia on the families of Jews who evade their military duties are remitted.

In conclusion the manifesto foreshadows the adoption of measures to provide for the maintenance and education of children of officers and men killed in the war with Japan.

PARSEE LADY'S ROMANTIC INFATUATION.

THE HERO'S DILEMMA.

A strange comedy of infatuation—a love affair of real life—is approaching its finale at the London Hippodrome, says the "Daily Express."

Marceline is the unwilling hero of this romance, and the ardent heroine is a beautiful Parsee lady, the daughter of a rich Bombay merchant, who has only recently come to London. Marceline is a clown—a modern Touchstone—who has become the central figure in a stranger and more embarrassing love affair than Shakespeare devised for the humorist of "As You Like It."

It haunts the amusing Marceline through all his daily clowning in the Hippodrome arena, and has driven him into quite a serious mood.

For the last four weeks the beautiful Parsee lady, dressed in the height of Parisian fashion, has been a visitor to the Hippodrome at both performances daily. She arrives some minutes before Marceline enters the arena, and she departs when he has finished his performance. She comes for love of Marceline.

In the arena Marceline is a droll figure. His paint-bedaubed face and comical clothes appeal more to the ludicrous than to the realms of love. But Cupid's bow knows no range, and the Parsee lady has fallen in love with the clown, and has offered to marry him.

Marceline off the stage is a quiet, good-looking Spaniard. He speaks nine European languages. He is a happy husband, and the father of two lusty-voiced infants. He has a pleasant residence in the suburbs, and is one of the best-known amateur gardeners in the metropolis. But in these capacities he is probably unknown to the lady who daily humiliates him in clownish garb.

On Saturday, August 20th, Marceline sent the following letter to the music-hall critic of the "Express":—

London Hippodrome, Aug. 20, 1904.

Dear Sir,—Will you please kindly come and see me. I am very unhappy. Perhaps you shall help me—Yours truly, Marceline.

When the "Express" representative called at the Hippodrome, he found Marceline in his dressing-room—a strange figure attired in well-worn ill-fitting dress clothes and a dilapidated hat hat, his face made hideous by grease and paint.

The famous clown was full of his unhappiness and in broken English asked that publicity might be given to his story in order that the "amoyance," as he styled it, might cease.

"For the last four and a half weeks," he related, "a lady has been to the theatre, and has sent her servant with presents to me. These I took, as I thought she simply sent them because she liked my performance."

"I did not know the lady-giver by sight until last Wednesday, when she came to my club and asked to see me."

"Naturally, I saw her, but as she was an Indian lady, who could speak only Hindustani and a little English, our conversation was limited. When she went away I did not understand what she wanted. Then on Thursday she sent me this."

"This," which Marceline held up in his fingers, was a beautiful pin of Indian filagree work, set with a large ruby. Then Marceline showed other presents which the lady had sent him. They included:—

Filagree enamels.
Amethyst heart, representing the sun, with these words engraved on the gold setting:—"Ahura mazdao."

Star sapphire links.
Oriental amethyst set in silver.

Ruby studs.
Persian loose emeralds.
Diamond hoop ring.
Four large diamonds and several small rubies.

The clown is in a dilemma concerning his gifts. He does not wish to retain them, and the lady refuses to receive them back. Meanwhile several of the presents have been deposited in the room of Mr. Frank Parker, the stage manager, who, when seen by the "Express" representative, declared that he had never before encountered so strange a romance as Marceline's.

"The lady has been every day to the theatre," Mr. Parker said, "and always goes into the best seats. She is young, good-looking and evidently very rich. I think if we go to the 'show' now we may see her."

The "Express" representative and Mr. Parker entered a box. Certainly there was the lady seated in the stalls. She was beautifully dressed in a mauve-coloured clinging costume; vivacious, evidently; dark-eyed; her face chiselled to the mould of a Venus. She was accompanied by an elderly English lady, and seemed to take but a languid interest in the performance.

Presently the clown appeared. Then the lady changed. Her languor gave way to excitement. Her eyes followed each movement of the clown. She led the applause, and the laughter, and when Marceline was leaving the arena she threw into it a bouquet of roses.

Almost immediately afterwards she left the house accompanied by her chaperon, and was driven away in a motor-brougham.

"There will be a stranger scene in my room before many days are over," said Mr. Parker. "I have a letter from the lady asking me to arrange for a meeting between herself Marceline, at which I shall be present."

"This I have arranged, with the proviso that the lady be accompanied by her solicitor. I made that stipulation because all of us, especially Marceline, wish the romance to come to an end."

The lady, it appears, has been in England since June 23.

The other day four students of the Rawalpindi Mission High School went out for a walk. While they were near about the Boarding House, a budmash who was hovering round them quite unnoticed by any one, gave a wild halloo. This was responded to by two other budmashes. They, thereupon, fell upon the boys. One of them held the handsomest boy in his grip. The boys raised a tremendous hue and cry and fell to beating the budmashes right and left. The chief offender, thereupon, took the Puggie of the boy whom he held in his grip and vanished in the darkness. The pursuers followed him, and he was seen to be undergoing his trial.

Correspondence.

AFFAIRS IN BARODA.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—Your countryman, Mr. R. C. Dutt has joined his post in the Baroda service. His pay is Rs. 3,000, per month. His designation is Naib Dewan. Though he is styled assistant of the Dewan, he is given full powers of the Dewan. At present he is in charge of two and half departments, viz., the Revenue, the Account and half of Survey. This arrangement appears to be strange. People wonder why Mr. Dutt, who is to receive pay equal to that of the Dewan is styled his Naib, and, if Mr. Dutt was to be brought on so large a salary and full powers of a Dewan were to be given to him, why Mr. Kershasji, was, only a few months ago, appointed the permanent Dewan on Rs. 3,000. At present we have three persons exercising full powers of Dewan,—Mr. Kershasjee, the so-called Dewan, and Mr. Dutt and Mr. Bhandarker, his two Naibs. Baroda is an officer-ridden Government. Sayaji Rao Gaikwad appears not to know the proverb "that too many cooks spoil the broth."

There was a dire famine in the Baroda territory in 1899 and the people have not yet recovered from its horrible effects. This year there is no rain in the northern portion and the Kathiawar Provinces of the Gaekwar's Dominions. A very disastrous famine, more horrible than that of 1899, is expected and the people's consternation knows no bounds.

There is a strong rumour in Baroda that H.H. Sayaji Rao Gaekwad is trying to secure the permission of the Supreme Government to go to England. Every well-wisher of H. H. wishes that he should not leave his dominions at such a critical time. Sayaji Rao may be thinking that his absence from his territory during the famine of 1899 did not affect his fame arrangements, but it is undesirable to create an impression in the minds of his subjects that their ruler is indifferent to their sorrows.

RELEASE OF THE CALCHAS.

The "Calchas," which has been released by the Vladivostok Prize Court, after removal of alleged contraband, was captured by the Vladivostok fleet about the end of July. The alleged differential treatment of this vessel and the German steamer "Arabia" by the Prize Court was one of the chief points brought before Mr. Balfour by the London Chamber of Commerce deputation some three weeks ago, and it is possible the strong representations then made have had something to do with the steamer's release. The "Arabia," with a large cargo of flour and railway material was captured on the 22nd July and released on the 5th August; the "Calchas" was captured about the same time, but when the London Chamber of Commerce met Mr. Balfour on the 25th August the deputation could give the Premier no certain information about her, and all that Mr. Balfour could say was that he understood a Commission was sitting at Vladivostok to examine her cargo. If the case of the German steamer could be disposed of in a fortnight, the retention of the British vessel for seven weeks or more certainly needs some explanation Mr. Balfour remarked that if differentiation between British and German vessels existed, it would be a flagrant violation of common justice and the fundamental principles of equity; it would indeed be an act of great unkindness towards England by Russia, which might be fraught with the most serious consequences. In view of this strong expression of opinion the Russian explanation of the delay in releasing the "Calchas" will be awaited with some impatience.—"Pioneer."

THE AGARPARAH RAILWAY STATION RIOT.

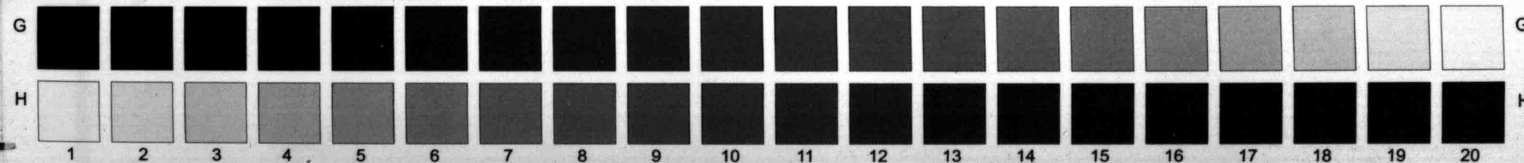
A sensational riot case which cropped up at the Agarparah Railway station was heard in the Court of Mr. Ram Anugraha Narain Singh, the Police Magistrate of Sealdah, on Wednesday. The defendants in the case were some respectable youths, named Ambica Churn Mukerjee (1), Akhoy Kumar Chatterjee, Tejas Chander Chatterjee, Poolin Behary Chatterjee, Ambica Churn Mukerjee (2), Anadi Nath Mukerjee, Ram Churn Mukerjee, Gopal Chander Dutt, Hari Churn Das, and Haridhane Mukerjee.

The case was conducted by Babu Komadini Kanto Shome, Court Inspector, G. R. Police. The facts, as alleged, are these. A Mohammedan student, named Basarath Hosseini complained to the station master of Agarparah to the effect that he had been assaulted in the train between Agarparah and Belghoria stations by a youth, named Gopal Chander Dutt, and also asked the station master to notice that Gopal Chandra was going away by the off side of the train which was then standing in the station. On this complaint the station master ordered one Rasul Sing, a constable attached to the Bengal Police, who was on duty there and a porter, named Jan Ali, to arrest Gopal Chandra as he did not stop to show his ticket when ordered by the station master to do so. Gopal Chandra was then arrested and brought to the Railway Station. The Station master asked him to show his ticket. He showed a ticket which was issued from Calcutta for Titagar. He was placed under the charge of a policeman and the matter was wired to the G. R. Police Sub-Inspector A. T. Mustaphi, at Barrackpore.

In the meantime a train came up from Calcutta. One Ambica alighted from the train and told the constable to let go Gopal Chandra who was in his custody. The constable did not listen to him. Ambica Churn threatened him. Fifteen minutes after this another train arrived from Calcutta when the other defendants named above alighted from the train and assaulted the constable with his umbrella and rescued Gopal Chandra from his lawful custody, and then they all cleared out. The G. R. P. Inspector, Mr. A. T. Mustaphi, took up the enquiry which resulted in the arrest of the above named ten youths. The defendants were placed on their trial under sections 147 (rioting), and 353 I. P. Code (obstructing a public servant in the execution of his duty) and 225 I. P. Code (rescuing a prisoner from lawful custody).

Babu Promotho Nath Mukerjee with Babu Hari Churn Mukerjee appeared for the defence.

After the complainant and six witnesses for the prosecution had been examined the case was adjourned to the 23rd instant. The defendants were ordered to be enlarged on their personal recognisance of Rs. 500 each.



IMPORTANT HIGH COURT JUDGMENT.

At the High Court, Civil Appellate jurisdiction, their Lordships Justices Brett and Mookerjee, on 5th August last delivered the following judgment in the suit of Hahman-nassa Chowdhury Plaintiff-Appellant, v. Secretary of State for India in Council and anrs., Defendants Respondents.

Revenue Sale Law (Act XI of 1859), sec. 58—Sale—Procedure—Bid by Collector.

(6) 20 W. R. 25 (1873).
(7) I. L. R. 12 Cal. 38 (1885).
(8) I. L. R. 19 Cal. 661 at p. 666 (1892).
(9) I. L. R. 27 Cal. 25 (1899).

At a sale of an estate for arrears of revenue the Collector began with a bid of one rupee; the agent of the defaulter followed with a bid of ten rupees; there was no other bidder but the Collector enquired whether any one was willing to increase the bid; as no one came forward, the Collector forthwith closed the bid and declared that he had purchased the property on account of the Government, at the bid of 10 rupees under sec. 58 of the Revenue Sale Law.

Held—That the procedure adopted by the Collector was not in accordance with the provisions of sec. 58 of the Act, and the sale was accordingly set aside.

Sec. 58 of the Revenue Sale Law discussed.

This was an appeal preferred on the 18th November 1902, against the decree of H. Walsley, Esq., District Judge of Noakhali, dated 23rd July 1902.

The facts of the case appear for the judgment.

Moulvi Serajul Islam and Md. Mustafa Khan for the Appellant.

Babus Ram Charan Mitra and Shish Chandra Chowdhury for the Respondents.

The Judgment of the Court was as follows:—

This is an appeal on behalf of the Plaintiff in a suit instituted by her under sec. 33 of Act XI of 1859, for the reversal of a sale, held under that Act pursuant to the provisions of sec. 11 of Act VII of 1863 B. O. The Plaintiff alleges that she is the proprietor of what is described in these proceedings as "dakhil" No. 1, situated in Government Khas Mehul Chagazi, that she defaulted to pay the rent and cesses due on account of the August instalment of 1900, that the property having been advertised for sale, her agent offered to deposit the arrears before the sale, but the Collector acting under the last paragraph of sec. 6 of Act XI of 1859, refused to receive the money and that consequently the property was sold and purchased by the Collector on the 18th December 1900 for Rs. 10 under sec. 58 of Act XI of 1859. The Plaintiff appealed to the Commissioner but her appeal was dismissed on the 1st March 1901. The Plaintiff accordingly sues to set aside the sale on the ground that it has been made contrary to the provisions of Act IX of 1859 and Act VII of 1863 B. O., and that she has sustained substantial injury by reason of this irregular sale under which her property worth Rs. 1,100 had been transferred to the Collector for Rs. 10. The learned District Judge has held that the sale took place in conformity with the provisions of the Revenue Sale Law, that there had been no such irregularities in the publication of the prescribed notices and in the conduct of the sale, as would vitiate it, and that consequently although the Plaintiff had suffered substantial loss, she was not entitled to ask for a reversal of the sale. The learned District Judge has accordingly dismissed the suit and against his decree, the Plaintiff has appealed to this Court.

On behalf of the Plaintiff-Appellant, the decision of the learned District Judge has been assailed on various grounds, which it is not necessary for us, in the view we take of this matter, to discuss in detail. In our opinion the sale in this case ought to be annulled on the ground that it has not been held in accordance either with the letter or the spirit of sec. 58 of Act XI of 1859. The facts so far as they bear upon this question are practically undisputed and may be briefly stated. This very property was put up to sale on the 14th March 1900, by reason of default of payment of a previous instalment of rent; the Collector began with a bid of one rupee; the defaulter followed with a bid of 10 rupees; there was no other bidder, but the offers rose till the Collector stopped at Rs. 800 and the property was knocked down to the agent of the defaulter for Rs. 805. On the occasion of the sale of the 18th December 1900 which was held after the refusal of the Collector to receive the full amount of arrears tendered and which is impeached in the present suit, the Collector began with a bid of one rupee; the agent of the defaulter followed with a bid of 10 rupees; there was no other bidder, but the Collector enquired whether any one was willing to increase the bid; as no one came forward, the Collector forthwith closed the bid and declared that he had purchased the property, on account of the Government, at the bid of 10 rupees under sec. 58 of the Revenue Sale Law, inasmuch as that bid was insufficient to cover the arrears realizable. We are of opinion that the procedure adopted by the Collector is not in accordance with the provision of sec. 58 which provides for purchase by the Government at a revenue sale in two classes of cases. The section first provides that if there be no bid when an estate is put up for sale under the Act, the Collector may purchase the property on account of the Government for one rupee; this clearly implies that the Collector is himself not to bid in the first instance, that he is to ascertain whether there are any bidders for the property and it is only when no one offers any bid that the Collector may purchase the estate for one rupee. The section then goes on to provide in the second place, that when there are bidders but the highest bid is insufficient to cover the amount realizable, the Collector may take or purchase the estate on account of the Government at the highest amount bid. We are of opinion that the highest bid, here referred to, is one not arrived at by competition between the Collector and the ordinary bidders. It appears to be clear that as in the first class of cases, the Collector is to take no action till he has ascertained that there are no bidders, so also in the second class of cases the Collector is to take no action till he has ascertained that the highest amount offered by the bidders present, is insufficient to cover the amount realizable. We do not think it would be a reasonable construction of sec. 58, to hold that it is open to a Collector to compete with the other bidders and after he has

been defeated and the highest bid determined against him, that he may turn round and claim the benefit of the second part of sec. 58. If the Collector chooses to enter into a bidding as an ordinary bidder, he must be treated as such, and in order to succeed, he must outbid the other intending purchasers. If on the other hand, he desires to take advantage of the second part of sec. 58, he must wait and see whether the highest bid is or is not sufficient to cover the demand realizable. In the case before us, the first bid of one rupee offered by the Collector was clearly not one under the first part of sec. 58, inasmuch as there was at least one person, the agent of the defaulter, ready to offer bids. When therefore the second bid of Rs. 10 was offered, if the Collector desired to purchase the property, the only course open to him was to admit his own bid, like any ordinary bidder. We must hold accordingly that the procedure followed by the Collector and the purchase made by him were not in accordance with the provisions of sec. 58 of the Revenue Sale Law.

If however we take a narrow and restricted view of the scope of sec. 58 and hold that the sale was conducted in a manner strictly within the letter of that section, the conclusion is inevitable that under the circumstances disclosed in the evidence, the sale can in no way be regarded as a fair and impartial sale held in accordance with the spirit and true intent of that section. It is clear from the evidence of the Collector and of his Sheristadar that the Collector was dissatisfied with the offer of the property as she was a habitual defaulter and that as a punishment he was determined to have the property sold and placed out of her hands. It further appears from the evidence that this was the first and last occasion on which the Collector had bought a property under sec. 58, at the highest amount bid. When we take these circumstances along with the fact that only a few months before when this very property had been put up to auction, the Collector had increased his bids from rupee one to rupees eight hundred, it is only natural that the agent of the defaulter should be misled and completely taken by surprise at the action of the Collector who began with a bid of one rupee and as soon as this was followed by a bid of ten rupees on behalf of the defaulter, turned round and without any notice or warning closed the sale under sec. 58 of the Revenue Sale Law. We entirely agree with the observation of the learned District Judge that the circumstances are ugly and that between the astuteness of the Collector and the folly of her agent, the Plaintiff has suffered real hardship. It is of the utmost importance that sales under Act XI of 1859, the provisions of which in the interests of the State have a character of unusual stringency, should be conducted with all possible fairness and impartiality. We hold without any hesitation that the sale which is now impeached before us, is not of this description; it has been brought about by what must be regarded as an abuse of the provisions of sec. 58, if indeed it may be regarded as a colourable compliance therewith; the consequence has been that a valuable property has passed into the hands of the Government for a nominal sum, while the defaulting proprietor still continues liable for the unsatisfied arrears. We must further observe that the evidence discloses that purchases are made by the Collector on behalf of the Government systematically in the District of Noakhali, which practice is hardly to be regarded as satisfactory, or one contemplated by the law. As pointed out in para. 4, sec. 6 of the Rules made by the Board of Revenue under Act XI of 1859, the power vested in the Collector by sec. 58 must be exercised with discretion. It seems to us to be hardly desirable that purchases should be systematically made on behalf of the Government by the Collector who himself has the conduct of the sale and whose duty it is to see that it is conducted with absolute fairness and impartiality.

The result therefore is that this appeal must be allowed, the decrees of the Court below reversed and the sale annulled under sec. 33 of Act XI of 1859 on the ground that it has been made contrary to the provisions of sec. 58 of that Act. The Plaintiff's suit is accordingly decreed with costs in both Courts. We assess the hearing-fee in this Court at 10 gold mohurs.

Appeal Allowed.

Plague has broken out in epidemic form at Nathdwara in Mewar. All intending pilgrims are cautioned against visiting Nathdwara during the prevalence of the disease.

In Tiger-infested districts it is rather dangerous to wear striped clothing resembling in the least the striped coat of the tiger, says the "Daily News" of Malabar. Many accidents have occurred, and they are often attended with disastrous consequences. The following is an instance. Near Manantoddy, a man, while sitting in his compound with a striped blanket wrapped round his body, was mistaken for a tiger by another man, an inmate of his own house, and shot dead on the spot.

A brutal murder was committed on Friday last at Muttukotwa, a village about two miles distant from Madampe, says a Ceylon paper, when a Sinhalese man, named Buptha, a carter by profession, is alleged to have cut the neck of a young girl, named Anne Tissera Gunewardene. It appears that a marriage was to be arranged for the deceased young lady, and the party were expected from Negombo last Saturday. The parents of the deceased had invited a large number of their relatives to meet the intended bridegroom, and on Friday night after dinner the parents of the girl and some others were engaged in conversation in the verandah when they heard loud cries for help. Those present immediately rushed to the spot which was a few yards away from the kitchen at the back of the house, and found the girl prostrate on the ground, and bleeding profusely from her neck. She was past all aid, and died fifteen minutes after. A warrant was issued for the arrest of Buptha, who, it appears, was brought up at the house of the ex-Arachchi from bayhood. The alleged culprit, who had decamped, was arrested at Maligawatte on Sunday afternoon, and proceedings were taken against him at the Chilaw Police Court on Monday. The funeral of the deceased took place on Saturday, the day on which she was to have been betrothed, and those who responded to the invitations arrived to participate in a funeral instead of a marriage feast.

NOTES FROM GYA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Gya, Sept. 13.

A SENSATIONAL CASE.

The following narrative which reads more like a romance than a real story is the subject of a criminal prosecution and is pending in our criminal courts. On a certain fine day in the month of July last, a constable lodged information at the police-station that one Mohabat Hosen and some other males and females (whose names were given) were quarrelling the previous night on the public road. Mohabat Hosen was examined the next day and said that the others who were party to the affray had fled away to Lucknow and to Bijnour in the N. W. P. He gave out their whereabouts and said that they were his tenants and the row was picked up for his demanding rent from them. A warrant was issued by the Magistrate, and the two females and some male persons were brought under arrest from Lucknow and Bijnour. The females were produced before the court. The court granted them bail of Rs. 5 each, but they declined to avail themselves of this advantage on the ground that if let alone they would be molested. They therefore prayed that they might be kept under the protection of the court. In the meantime, a letter purporting to have been written by a police officer was detected. It was written to the Court Sub-Inspector requesting him to look to the proper prosecution of the case as he (the police officer) had some interest in it. The police officer has been departmentally suspended until further orders.

The females and their witnesses deposed to the effect that Mohabat Hosen was the brother of Musst. Abbasi, a prostitute of the town. That both of them had been to Lucknow and tried to seduce them (the females) to enlist themselves in the profession, but they refused.

The Joint-Magistrate who tried the case after recording evidence on both sides came to the conclusion that there was a very deep seated conspiracy at the bottom of the affair and that it was the intention of Abbasi and her brother to bring them to this town and co-erce them to adopt the profession. The learned Joint-Magistrate also found that Mohabat Hosen could not be expected to lay out the plan which was well-arranged; and that there must have been some other person conversant with the law and the procedure who got the information lodged through the constable naming Mohabat Hosen as one of the person who took part in the affray so that he might afterwards be able to point out the whereabouts of the females who, the court held, had never come to this town before and therefore they were never the tenants of Mohabat.

The court accordingly released the others, but convicted Mohabat Hosen.

An appeal was preferred before the District Judge who granted bail and admitted the appeal.

On the next day, Inspector Rees of the local police arrested Musst. Abbasi and her brother Mohabat Hosen on a charge of kidnapping those girls.

The Deputy Magistrate granted bail to both of them, but the District Magistrate disallowed their prayer. They then moved the District Judge again for bail. On the facts having been stated by the vakil, the following conversation took place which is interesting.

Court.—Why has this fellow (pointing to the accused Mohabat) been again brought before me? I gave him bail only yesterday.

Vakil.—The man has again been arrested on a charge of kidnapping the girls whose story the court read yesterday in the judgment of the Affray Case.

Court.—The allegation of the police is that the accused went over to Lucknow to persuade the girls to adopt the profession of dancing and singing, they refused to come, and so the Affray Case was launched and they were brought under arrest. I don't understand how can that be an offence.

Vakil.—They were brought under arrest to this town by an order of the Lower Court. This is said to constitute the offence of kidnapping.

(There was a roar of laughter in which the Judge and all present heartily joined.)

Vakil.—If that were an offence the Magistrate who issued the warrant, or, for the matter of that the Emperor would be the principal offender or at all events an abettor. (Here again there was laughter.)

The court granted bail to both the accused. The case is sub-judice and I reserve my comments till it is decided.

During August about six feet of snow fell on Malla Jahan, beyond Almora, and about one foot and six inches at Byans.

The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab leaves Simla on the 25th October and arrives at Lahore on the 15th November.

Mr. Moore, Sessions Judge, Calicut, in connection with a sessions case which he tried on Thursday last, gave a just rebuke to the police for leading a long distance on foot an accused woman who was physically unfit to bear the exertion.

The oil-distilling industry has now been established at the Government Gardens at Ootacamund, on the Nalgiri Hills in Southern India. Blue gum, camphor, cinnamon, sweet flag, and lemon-grass oil are being distilled from the various trees and shrubs that grow in the gardens.

Mr. George H. Lafin, one of Chicago's wealthy men, who died recently, gave advice in his Will to his heirs how to keep the wealth he left them:—"I would advise all my children to be prudent in their investments, and not to purchase anything simply because it is cheap, but to remember that a long-time security, drawing a low rate of interest, is often more desirable than an investment which draws a high rate of interest. I would also advise them not to purchase any thing which they cannot pay for in full at the time of the purchase, as more men are ruined by speculation than in any other way. I also advise them not to sign any note or bond, and to look well to all transfers of real estate, and not to encumber any real estate, except for the purpose of improving same."

NOTES FROM THE SOUTH.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

Camp, Tanjore, Sept. 11.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

This week's "Fort St. George Gazette" has announced the nomination of Dewan Bahadur Raja Gopalachari Anargal as the Chairman of the Tanjore Municipality and this event occasions a few thoughts on this important subject of Local Self-Government. The district of Tanjore used for years past to boast of its being the most intelligent, forward, public-spirited district in all South India and there is no doubt that its old historic importance and agricultural prosperity in those days justified that pride. Now that our modern-educated men have to face the problem of daily bread under the British rule, it is equally doubtless that we have no time to spare for public work. And the few of our well-to-do men who willingly spare their talents and energy, often in preference to their private affairs, are found fault with in tens of ways and Municipal Government with such men is often declared by responsible authorities to have proved a failure! Failure? ah, not at any rate, not a greater failure than the administration of the officially managed District and Local Boards. Our educated men are not unwilling to accept responsible work in these Municipalities. They do not think they lack in the ability or the tact needed for success therein; but they do often hesitate, because of the official interference with their discretion or their work, both in season and out of season. Our District Officers in the plains assume the role of gods when they have to pronounce their judgments on these "native" managed Municipalities. It is quite probable that defects and irregularities sometimes creep in their work; but, are they so culpably bad, so hopelessly useless, so suspiciously corrupt as the officials fancy they are? There is not one department of the administration which does not go in for some unfavourable remarks. Roads are in bad order, collection of taxes (even when it is 96 per cent. of the total demand) is unsatisfactory, vaccination is neglected, vital statistics "untrustworthy," that vague word sanitation is defective! These are the stereotyped epithets one never misses in Government orders. But mark ye, the reviews of the administration reports of the District Boards and Local Boards are so mild in language and courteous even in warnings that one wonders the paraphrasing capacity of those who have to draft the Government orders in the Secretariat Office! These only betray the policy of the Government in advancing the cause of Self-Government! Our demi-gods in district headquarters only follow the behests of their metropolitan masters in the treatment of Municipal institutions! Lord Curzon has by his treatment of the Calcutta Corporation in the teeth of public protests proved himself to be no friend of Native India—his once boast! The Madras Municipal Bill has similarly been passed and no wonder that the Government are adopting the same retrograde policy even in dealing with mofussil Municipalities. This district has five Municipalities, and the Tanjore, Negapatam and Kumbakonam Councils have large areas population and taxes to deal with. These possessed the franchise of "electing" their own Chairman, but for some so-called inefficiencies of defects Tanjore was deprived of that franchise two years ago. Well, the Collector recommended an Indian for the office and the Government appointed him. But the choice did not fall on any angel from above, for the very person who was its Elected Chairman in former years was chosen. So too at Mannargudi, Kumbakonam is soon to be deprived of its privilege. Such have been the condemnatory notices of the work of the Council there. Negapatam has its Council with less elected members now than it formerly enjoyed. The resolutions passed by the Council after great discussion are by a stroke of pen cancelled by the Collector or suspended by the Sub-Collector. The result is that the majority of our Councilors naturally are swayed by the official opinions, in advances. These officers of late are endeavouring to reduce these institutions as appendages to their own offices. Fancy, an ex-officio Councilor entering a Council meeting in the middle of its business and he being honoured by the Council enbloe rising to their feet! Fancy another of that heaven-born service indulging in his cigar while the meeting is going on! I give these but as stray specimens of the highly supercilious behaviour of these officials! Our Councilors are not bold enough to question them; our members in these Councils are afraid of incurring their displeasure, for they are their superiors otherwise. Undue advantage is taken of our generous silence or forgiving temper. But these officers are all Magistrates and tax-assessors and the poor Councilors are either pleaders, merchants or miradars who cannot afford to incur their displeasure.

It is amidst such discouraging environments that our Self-Government has to foster and succeed, and there is still hope that in future our men will learn greater independence, and our official critics greater tolerance.

From Tanjore to Trichinopoly is not a long jump. As already announced in these columns, the late Mr. T. V. Annasami Mudaliar, the successful Municipal Chairman and the amiable citizen, has won the approbation of the Government by such earnest devotion to the Municipal work there that the Government had honored him with a "Rai Sahab," though unfortunately he did not live to improve on it. A successor has to be elected and there are candidates running in for the honor. One of them is the District Medical Officer, Mr. Thomas, I.M.S. and the others are Indian Vakils.

It is with great difficulty that the Trichinopoly Council got back its election franchise just a few years ago and while now it has it in its power, why should the city Fathers elect an official, is what is inconceivable. Be these officials however clever, let us not have our Councils officialised. There are evils arising out of it which do benumb to the independent spirit of the members. On this principle, as sound as it is good, it is hoped that some full-timed Indian non-official will be returned to the Chairmanship. An official's election by an elective body for a Municipal Corporation looks an anomaly. God save the town from it, though not a word can be said against either the ability or the integrity of the official candidate who is one of our good surgeons.

BANKIPUR NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Bankipur, Aug. 13.

THE BANDHAB SAMITI.

In response to the invitation issued by the Secretary of the Provisional Committee, nearly the entire Bengali population of this town congregated on the 11th September in the hall of the Anglo-Sanskrit School. Hitherto such a representative gathering in which men of different sects and professions met in a common platform, was never seen here. The big hall was literally packed up to its utmost capacity, not with school boys but with men who are ornaments of their respective profession. This response to a call to duty really makes us hopeful of the future of the Bengali race. The association has been named "Bandhab Samiti" and one of its main objects is to cultivate friendly relations with the Bengalis living in different parts of Behar. To give effect to the resolutions passed in the meeting a strong executive committee has been formed with the following office bearers:

President—Babu Govinda Chandra Mitra, B.L., President, Bankipur Bar Association.
Vice-President—Mr. W. M. Das, Bart-at-Law, Babus Purnendu Naram Singh, M.A., B.L., Senior Government Pleader and Abinash Chandra Ghose, M.A., B.L.
Secretaries—Babu Haran Chander Mitter, M.A., B.L., and Babu Mathura Nath Singh, B.L.

Assistant Secretary—Babu Surendra Kumar Bose, B.L.
Treasurer—Babu Monmotho Nath Dey, B.L.

Great enthusiasm prevailed and a contribution of Rs. 500 by half a dozen youngmen was announced in the meeting. We wish the association a successful career.

THE STATE TECHNICAL SCHOLAR.

Mr. P. K. Mozumdar, Private Secretary to Gidhour Raj has been selected by the Government of India for a State Technical Scholarship which is tenable for three years. Some of the vernacular papers, thinking Mr. Mozumdar to be an elderly gentleman, objects to his selection and, for the edification of those it ought to be made known that Mr. Mozumdar is not yet more than 30 years. The mere fact that he resigns a lucrative post to undergo a course of training in mining speaks of his eagerness to learn the art, and deservedly entitles him to the consideration bestowed on him by the Government of India. He was for sometimes a student of the Patna College and is the younger brother of Babu Charu Krishna Mozumdar, the public-spirited zemindar of Islampur, Murshidabad. Thus from every point of view a better selection than Mr. Mozumdar could not have been made.

A SENSATIONAL APPEAL.

Just now an appeal is being heard by the District Judge of Patna in which Mr. Jackson is appearing on one side and Mr. Garth on the other. The facts of the case are the following. Babu Raja Ram the millionaire banker of the Patna city owns greater part of the diara land called Mugarpal. For the last eight years, Babu Raja Ram had some dispute with the tenants about the settlement of the land. Early this year, a special Deputy Collector was sent to settle the dispute and he made an award of Rs. 44,000 per annum to Babu Raja Ram. Now, both the parties are dissatisfied with the award given. For, while Babu Raja Ram complains that he has been given too little, the tenants think that the rates have been enormously enhanced. It is needless to say that such a sensational appeal was never heard here, and the result is awaited with considerable interest.

THE WEEK IN BRIEF.

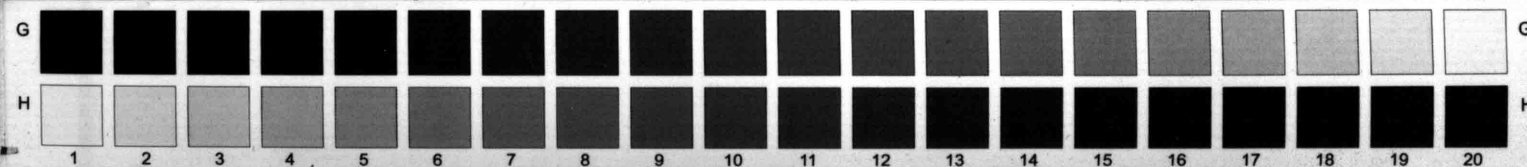
In the last sessions a woman was charged with an attempt to murder a girl by enticing her to a maize field and subsequently throwing her into a well. The defence having satisfactorily proved that the prosecution was the result of a previous enmity between the accused and the mother of the girl, the jury returned an unanimous verdict of "not guilty" and the Sessions Judge accepting it acquitted the accused.

The news of Mr. Holmwood's transfer to Alipore have been received here with great regret and some of his admirers are trying to give him a fitting farewell reception. Mr. Holmwood has many social virtues in him which we do not ordinarily find in the majority of present-day Anglo-Indians. During the successive outbreak of plague here both Mr. and Mrs. Holmwood tried their utmost to minister to the wants and comforts of the poor and this time we doubt not, they will be sadly missed.

The strike of the gharry-wallas mentioned in my last has come to an end, mainly owing to the exertion of our newly elected vice-chairman and the secretary. It is said that the former went from door to door and tried to impress on every gharry-walla that his was an imaginary grievance. The thanks of the public are no doubt due to the above-named gentlemen.

The criminal case in which one Kali Misir charged an European employee of Messrs. Rali Brothers with assaulting him was compromised on the latter having expressed regret in Court.

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Last week judgment was delivered in a well-known and long pending case for damages brought by Contractor Manna against the Mysore P. W. D. It is an important case involving the determination of the nature and extent of the damages claimed being about Rs. 40,000. The suit was dismissed by Mr. Ramaswamy Iyer and this is in no way inconsistent with the decisions usually arrived at in British Provinces in similar cases. The contractor intends appealing.

The following story comes from Rangoon. A Burman, some months ago, attended a Court sale when some sixty acres of paddy-land were being sold by the Bailiff of the Court situated some ten or eleven miles from town. His bidding was thought somewhat reckless as he always overtopped others by Rs. 5 where Rs. 1 would have been sufficient. Eventually he was declared the purchaser of the sixty acres at Rs. 45 per acre. He had no money with him, but was thought good enough to trust till they returned to town. The purchaser went and begged the amount from his senior wife. She, after upbraiding him with his various bad habits and the folly of buying land in the jungle at such a price, produced the hard cash which was duly handed over to the Bailiff. A week or two ago it was discovered that a new extension of the railway goes alongside the land, and the new owner has had an offer of Rs. 500 per acre for it and, like Oliver Twist, is asking for more.

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WARRANTS positive and perfect cure in hopeless cases of Lost Sexual and Retentive powers, Nervous and Seminal weakness due either to youthful imprudence or old age. It is equally efficacious in curing Dyspepsia, Acidity, Heartburn and Bowel troubles. Acts like a charm. Dose—1 to 2 grains once a day. Price 16 grains tube Rs. 2.
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Jogeswar Ghrita cures excessive or scanty discharge during menses, unbearable pain during menses and other female organic disorders.
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DR. G. MANOJK, M. B. (EDIN.) Surgeon, Calcutta, writes:—"I have to report favourably of my trials with your *Santan Rakshak*. I have given your specific a fair trial among all classes. The results have been, I am compelled to say, very wonderful in threatened miscarriage and prolonged labour where direct interference was impossible. I have no doubt others will be as grateful to you as I am."

DR. TARINI CHARAN DUTT, Graduate of the Medical College, Bengal (G. M. C. B.) and retired Assistant Surgeon, writes:—"I have much pleasure in testifying to the efficacy of your *Santan Rakshak* which is being used by many respectable persons in cases of difficult labour and threatened abortion with satisfactory and unexpected results."

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

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 used with 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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"The medicine has proved such efficacious to me..." (Sd.) Ambadaa Woman, Clerk, Audit Office, B. N. R.

"My friend whom I gave a phial of **SUDHA CHURNA** speaks very highly of its efficacy." (Sd.) Raghobha Vithal Joshi of Napur.

"I have tried a phial of your **SUDHA CHURNA** and am glad to say that it was found a good remedy for acidity..." (Sd.) Avinash Chandra Mitra, Head Clerk, B. O. Section, Audit Office, B. N. R.

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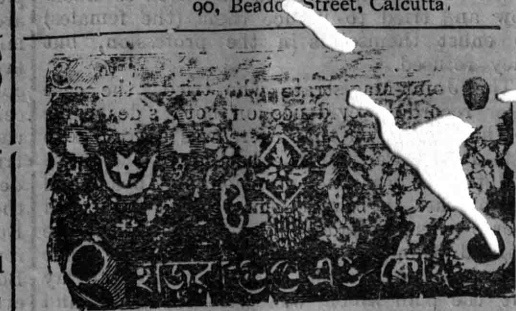
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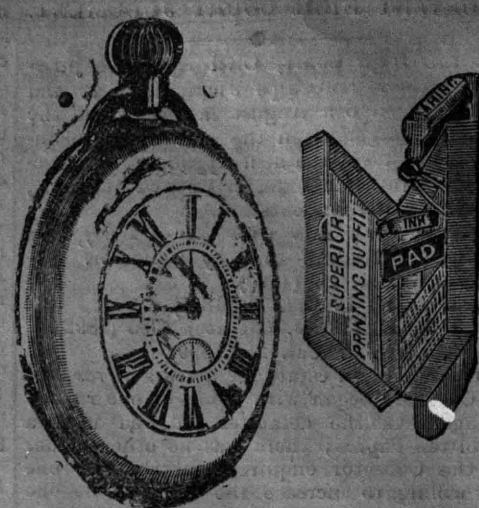
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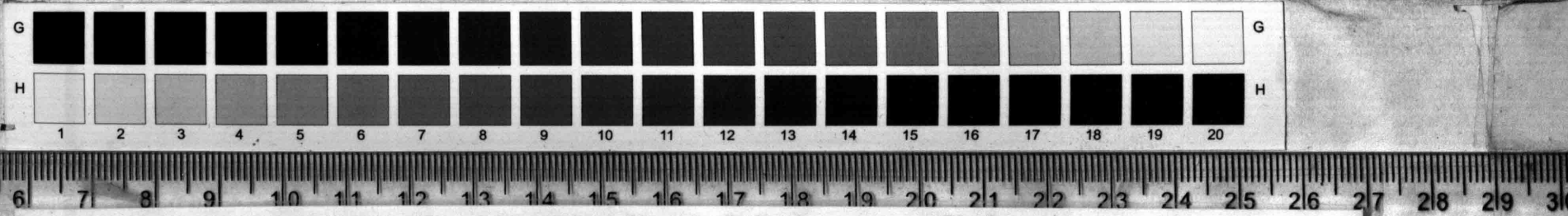
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PERJURY AND FORGERY BY
POLICEMEN.

Mr. H. F. Hallifax Sessions Judge of Jubbulpore, has recently decided an appeal of one Nand Ram, who had been sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment under sections 379 and 411 of the Indian Penal Code. Messrs. Ghose and Dutt appeared for the appellant, and the accused was acquitted. The judgment of Mr. Hallifax discloses that the police abetted or committed perjury, forgery and the falsifying of police papers, and suppressed facts which would probably have resulted in the acquittal of the accused in the first Court. Another case against this man was dismissed in the first Court when the Crime Registrar was produced, which showed that there was no complaint or report to the police, though the man was being tried for an offence supposed to have been reported to and enquired into by the police. Two other cases are pending against Nand Ram.

Prior to giving judgment Mr. Hallifax passed the following order:—

The house of the accused was searched, apparently on a general suspicion that he was a receiver of stolen property, on the 14th June 1904, and a considerable amount of property was confiscated. On the following day the Head Constable of Bebbag, where the accused lives, Abdul Wajid Khan, heard that four gold mohars, which formed part of the confiscated property, were the proceeds of a theft from a house in the hamlet of Pachperhi, which is within the limits of the Jubbulpore Cantonment. The information seems to have given also the name of the person from whom the mohars were stolen, Jagan or Jagannath Ahir, as the Head Constable went straight to his house the next morning with them. Jagan said that thirteen months before in the month of Jeth, on the Dasher of tenth day of the month (5th June, 1903) there had been a caste festival of some sort at his house, and during the night, while he and his family were sleeping outside in the "angan," the necklace on which the four mohars were strung had been removed from his neck, and also a silver "hansli" from his mother's neck. The necklace of mohars was valued at Rs. 120, and the "hansli" at Rs. 33-12, being 45 tolas in weight, but he refrained from reporting the theft to the police, or taking any action whatever in the matter for fear of his guests being worried by the police on suspicion of having committed the theft. There seems to have been just as much reason in June, 1904, to suppose that one of his guests would be suspected of the theft but the consideration appears to have had no weight with him then. He was taken to the kotwali, and there from among the articles found in Nandram's house he picked out a "hansli" as the one taken from his mother's neck.

There seems to me to be many good reasons for believing that a report was made to the Cantonment police. It is in the first place extremely unlikely that Jagan would say nothing of such a heavy loss. Mannu Ahir, whose name I read as Mannu, though it might be anything as written by the Magistrate, was a guest at Jagan's house on the night of the alleged theft. He states distinctly that on the morning following Jagan was publishing the matter all over the Sadar Bazar and lamenting his loss, and that Jagan did report it at the Cantonment Station House. He also says that the celebration at Jagan's house was that of Jagan's daughter's wedding, which had taken place the day before. Now the one thing that all the members of a Hindu family do remember more than anything else is the date of a wedding in the family, mainly because so much care and thought are taken to be spent in fixing it. And yet Jagannath, his mother, his wife, her cousin, and her sister-in-law, all suppress the fact that the occasion was that of Jagan's daughter's wedding, and all affect ignorance of the date. There are a number of other most suspicious matters in the case. How is it that three mohars weighing three and a half tolas have lost nearly half a tola in weight in three or four years, while a silver "hansli" weighing 45 tolas had not lost a single "ratti" in twenty years, though it has been cleaned just as often as the mohars in the last three years, and probably many times more in the previous seventeen? Why should the thief choose a moonlit night when there were guests present, and everybody was sleeping in the "angan" for his raid? Whatever the festival was at Jagan's house how is it that only three Ahirs from Nowgong and one from the Sadar Bazar were present? How was the "hansli" removed from Musammatt Khimiya's neck without awakening her? It is a very solid silver ornament which I was quite unable to bend either way. It shows no signs of having been bent so as to make the opening between the points any less, and it was apparently forced on to Musammatt Khimiya's neck, before the Magistrate, with great difficulty. And finally if Jagan hushed up the matter, as he says he did, how did the Police know of it on the day after the search of Nandram's houses more than a year later?

All these considerations seem to me to point inevitably to the conclusion that the matter was reported to the police, and that the report has been suppressed. The only conceivable motive for the suppression would be that the report contained a description of the lost property different from the property now produced. I propose therefore to examine the Register of Complaints of the Cantonment Station House for May and June 1903, and also the bundles of the copies of the entries in that register sent to the District Magistrate during those months. This will be sent for at once.

In his judgment the Sessions Judge said:—The Register of Complaints from the Cantonment Station House for June, 1903, and the bundle of complaints for the same month in the District Magistrate's Office have been examined. As I expected they show that a report was made. In the Register of Complaints there is first of all the original report of Jagan Ahir, written for him by Kesri Mukaddam of Pachperhi. The two copies of this in the register and the third that was sent to the District Magistrate are exact copies. They are shown as having been made at 12 noon on the 6th June 1903, and run as follows: "Janab-ali, guzarish hai ki parson rat ko meri sarhai Musammatt Harkuria Ahiran, umar so sal anjan men sot hi, se uske gale se ek hansli kimiti 10 rupiya na malum kaun churatar le gaya so report karte hui tahquiqat ki jawo. Sa. 6-6-1903." The three copies have the word "chandi," which

does not occur in the original, written in over the word "rupiya." This is not a matter of importance, but there is an alteration in the original which is. The first figure of the "10" is written over some other figures, and both the figures 6 and 8 are distinctly legible under it. The 6 is thicker than the 8, which is of about the same thickness as the rest of the writing, and the 1 is thicker than either, and from their appearance it seems more than probable that the 8 and the 6 were written by the hand of Kesri Mukaddam and the 1 by another hand. The "hansli" then may have been a fairly valuable one. Jagan first valued it at Rs. 80 and then reduced his valuation to Rs. 60, possibly under advice from the police. The probabilities are that the value was further reduced to Rs. 10 when the police found that there was very little hope of recovering the stolen necklace. In any case the whole case for the prosecution breaks down completely. No mention is made of any gold mohars, and though three different values are given for the "hansli", no one of them corresponds with either the value or the weight of that in Court. Further Jagan reports that it was taken from the neck of Harkuria, his wife's brother's wife (Sachai), and in Court he says it was taken from the neck of his mother Musammatt Khimiya, and Musammatt Khimiya says the same. This Harkuria must be identical with the Musammatt Ramkuar, who appeared as the tenth witness for the prosecution to identify the "hansli" which had once been hers. She declared she was not in Jubbulpore at the time of the theft.

The copies of the report are signed by Head Constable Ahmad Sharif. The copy of the entry in the Roznamcha filed with the copy of the report in the District Magistrate's Office bears the same date as the report (6-6-03), and is signed by Sub-Inspector Shankar Datt. It is to the effect that at 12 o'clock that day Head Constable Ahmad Sharif had reported that while he was on his rounds that morning Jagan Ahir had reported the theft to him, and that an offence under section 379 I.P.C. had been registered, and that Head Constable Ahmad Sharif had been deputed to enquire into it. I have further obtained from the District Magistrate's Office the order to close the enquiry. The report is dated 30-11-03, and is signed by Sub-Inspector Shankar Datt. The report was forwarded to Mr. W. E. Lay, A.C., who on the 17th December, 1903, initiated an order that the enquiry should stop and the papers should be filed. I propose to go further into the question of the perjury committed by some of the witnesses, and of the misdoings of Sub-Inspector Shankar Datt, whose connection with the case appears to have been carefully concealed in the Magistrate's Court, though one glance at the case diary would have shown the Magistrate, among many other facts of interest, that Sub-Inspector Shankar Datt, and not Head Constable Abdul Wajid Khan conducted almost all the enquiry. In this connection I have asked for the case diaries of the enquiries held by Head Constable Ahmad Sharif and Sub-Inspector Shankar Datt in the matter of Jagan Ahir's complaint. These matters do not, however, directly concern this appeal or the appellant. His innocence and the falsity of the charge against him are sufficiently established, and he must be acquitted. It seems necessary to point out to the Magistrate very grave defects in his charge and finding. There is no suggestion by the prosecution or anywhere in the evidence that the accused was in any way connected with the theft. In fact the only conclusion to be drawn from the whole case is that he was not. It was wrong therefore to make one alternative of the charge and of the finding theft. Then again the other alternative is that he received stolen property in or about June, 1903. There is absolutely nothing to show when he received the property or that he received it at all at one time. The only possible charge would have been that on the 14th June, 1904, he was in possession of stolen property, which he had no reason to believe was stolen property. The finding and sentence are set aside. The appellant is acquitted and will be released. The "hansli" and gold mohars in evidence will be returned to him.

In a further order, after the examination of the case diaries of the police enquiry, the Sessions Judge said he was very strongly inclined to believe that the theft did occur at Jagan's house more or less in the way described, and that four gold mohars (though not those produced in Court) and a silver "hansli" (possibly the one produced) were stolen. The mention of the mohars was probably suppressed at the suggestion of the police in the same way and for the same reason as the value of the "hansli" was reduced. A further reason for believing that that report was falsified is to be found in the fact that it was made at 10 a.m. on the 6th June and the theft occurred on the night of the 4th. If Jagan intended to report the matter at all he would not have waited for the casual visit of the Head Constable on the 6th, but would have gone to the Cantonment Station House, less than a mile from his home, on the morning of the 5th. This is what Mannu Ahir said in Court that he did, and I have little doubt that he did. By the morning of 6th it was clear that there was practically no hope of recovering the property, and Head Constable Ahmad Sharif then went to Jagan's house and got the written report from him.

"Jagan Ahir, Musammatt Khimiya and Musammatt Ram Kuar (or Harkuria), and even Jodha Ahir therefore all appear to have committed perjury, but I believe their statements to be for the greater part true. Those that appear false are that no report was made to the police, that the mohars produced in Court are those lost by Jagan, and that the "hansli" was removed from the neck of Musammatt Khimiya, and not that of Musammatt Harkuria. Their stories are in the main true, and these falsehoods—in regard to details can be due only to the instigation of the police officers responsible for the case against Nand Ram. The witnesses had no possible motive for desiring his con-

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viction so long as the property was recovered and the falsehoods are clearly all put into their mouths solely with a view to explain away the original report if it were discovered, as, having once falsified it in the beginning, the police were precluded from producing it now. The change from Musammatt Harkuria to Musammatt Khimiya was clearly made in order to leave it open to the police to say that this report, if discovered, referred to another theft which took place some short time before or after the one that was not reported. In regard to the witnesses then I consider that they have committed perjury only in regard to details of minor importance at the instigation of the police, and solely in order to escape themselves and to shield the police from the consequences of the previous dishonesty of the police. Under these circumstances I do not consider it necessary to proceed against them.

"Nor do I see my way clear to taking any judicial action against any of the police officers concerned in the case. In the first place I doubt if Sub-Inspector Shankar Datt acted as he did of his own motion. He had very little interest in procuring the conviction of Nand Ram, and he ran a considerable risk in the matter. It is much more probable that he acted under the instigation of the officer responsible for the case, presumably the city Inspector Wahid Ali. In any case the officer responsible has one of two complete answers to any criminal charge arising out of this case. He may say: 'I did not know of the report made on the 6th of June 1903, and I never thought of examining the registers to see whether any report had been made on or about Jeth Sudi 10th,' or he may say: 'I knew of the report made on the 6th June 1903, but I was satisfied that it referred to a second theft shortly before or after that under investigation.' The first answer would convict him of the grossest possible carelessness, and the second of a grave error of judgment apart from its inherent incredibility. If any enquiry was made in the matter, why is there no record of it in the case diary, and why was the fact that a very similar report was made very soon after about the same time had been made not brought to the notice of the Magistrate? As no judicial action is advisable I must leave it to the District Magistrate to take what executive action he may think proper. A copy of these remarks, with copies of all the transcribed extracts from diaries and registers consulted, will be forwarded to him.—Pioneer."

SESAMUM CROP IN THE C. P.

The first forecast of the til (sesamum) crop of the Central Provinces and Berar, season 1904, says: Except in Chattisgarh the monsoon arrived late and sowings of autumn til were much delayed, and are not complete even yet. Germination has been good everywhere except in Sambalpur, where heavy and continuous rain almost completely destroyed the early variety which however covers only a small area in that district. In other districts no re-sowing has been necessary. The recent rains have much benefited the crop. The sowing of the late variety has not yet commenced, so that it is impossible at present to give any reliable estimate of the total area that will bear til. A decrease of about 10 per cent. is expected in the important districts of Rajpur and Sambalpur, and is due to excessive rain during the early monsoon. In Berar, where the crop is not of much importance a decrease of about 15 per cent. is expected owing to the growing popularity of cotton and the fear of damage by locusts. These decreases, however, seem to be counter-balanced by increases in other districts, and no great change from last year's area (1,077,399 acres) is expected. Prospects are generally very favourable.

THE HEDJAZ RAILWAY.

The Hedjaz Railway was opened for general traffic down to Maan in August. As the Sultan is very anxious for the early completion of the line, work has also been started from Medina upwards to Maan, from the latter town the line has already been constructed for about 100 kilos downwards to Medina. Maan is 440 kilos south of Damascus, the starting point of the line, and Medina is 860 kilos distant from Maan. The work on the section between Medina and Mecca, a distance of 45 kilos, will be started probably two years hence. Five thousand regular troops and a large party of engineers and surveyors have been sent to Medina to push on the work. The completion of the branch line from the port of Haifa, which is joined by the main line at Mezreh, will greatly assist in the general progress. Hitherto all material was disembarked at Beyrout, and railed thence to Dara, via Damascus. Now the journey has been shortened by several hundred miles. The main line will in due course be connected with the Baghdad-Konia line now under construction, at Aintab, via Riak Hama and Aleppo. Riak is a station on the Beyrout-Damascus line and Aintab lies due north of it at a distance of about 400 kilos. From Riak already runs a branch line up to Bombay, 200 kilos in length. The German "concessionaries" have finished the first section (Konia to Ergli 200 kilos long, of the Basra, Baghdad, Konia and Constantinople line. On the completion of this line Indian, Afghan and Central Asian pilgrims will have no need to proceed by the wearisome route from Bombay to Jedda, via Aden, embarking at Karachi. They would land at Koweit or Basra or Fao, after three or four days' sea voyage, and there getting in the train would reach Medina or Mecca within a week and thus they would be enabled to return to their homes within a month. It is not impossible that the sea journey may be altogether dispensed with.

Nothing Like Experience.—"One truth learned by actual experience does more good than ten experiences one hears about." Tell a man that Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy will cure cholera morbus, and he will most likely forget it before the end of the day. Let him have a severe attack of that disease, feel that he is about to die, use this remedy, and earn from his own experience how quickly it gives relief, and he will remember it all his life, or sale by

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Corporation of Calcutta.

A special meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday at 4 p.m. The Hon'ble Mr. O. G. H. Allen, Acting Chairman of the Corporation, presided and there were about thirty commissioners present.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN.

Mr. Shirley Tremearne moved: "That the Government be respectfully asked to appoint as Deputy Chairman an officer with some engineering knowledge and with some guarantee that he will be permanent."

He said:—"Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—When I gave notice on Wednesday last of the motion which stands on my name, I had not then had the advantage of listening to the Chairman's remarks on the following Friday on the duties of the Deputy Chairman; you then told us that:—'The present function of the Deputy Chairman is to assist the Chairman in the control of the income-raising department, and as the result of this appointment the collections, both of consolidated rates and license fees have shown a conspicuous improvement, while the enormous arrears which had accumulated of consolidated rates have been reduced from 8 lakhs to less than 2 lakhs. The Deputy Chairman is at present most usefully engaged in making a complete inspection of all the offices of the Corporation, and he is also creating a Record's department. He, moreover, has been instrumental in the important work of disposing of assessment appeals. An officer with engineering qualifications would probably not have been able to perform work of this character, and as the Chairman already has an engineering expert at his elbow in the person of the Chief Engineer, I do not understand why he should require an additional engineering expert. It was, I think, originally intended that the Deputy Chairman should be in charge of the Building Department, but as a City Architect has now been appointed, there seems no longer any reason why the Deputy Chairman should possess engineering qualifications.' I am not quite convinced that an officer with 'some engineering knowledge' would not be able to perform the duties that have been detailed and I should be inclined to think that it would be most useful in what you describe as 'the important work of disposing of assessment appeals,' because a great many of these appeals depend on the proper valuation of property, and not that of rental, so that an officer with some knowledge of engineering by engineering I mean civil as distinguished from mechanical engineering) would surely be preferable to one with no knowledge of the subject. I also am not prepared to admit that a junior civilian is the best man to be in control of the income-raising department, or for the inspection of all the offices. What is wanted is a really good business man, with some knowledge of Calcutta."

I am not, however, wedded to the idea of an engineer. If we can get a really good man to perform the duties of Deputy Chairman, and to remain with us for a reasonable time, I am quite content.

I note with satisfaction the high encomiums passed by the Chairman on our departing Deputy, Mr. Duval, and they certainly prove that the right man can be obtained from the ranks of the Civil Service; but our great complaint is that the officers so selected do not stay with us; that so soon as they become thoroughly useful and efficient, they depart. That is the grievance that we wish removed. The Government have retained in their hands the appointments of Chairman and Deputy Chairman, and we ask them to exercise that power with some slight sense of the responsibility that attaches thereto. I have no hesitation in saying that the whole of the failure of the Corporation to make the present Municipal Act a success lies at the door of the Bengal Government in not paying the necessary attention to the selection of officers charged with carrying out the provisions of the Act. The Chairman is to the Corporation what the 'prime mover' is to a Jute Mill; of the prime mover is out of order the mill cannot work. The Corporation, as a body, has been unjustly blamed of late, and invidious comparisons have been drawn between the present state of things and the old regime; but it has been overlooked that nearly all our powers as Commissioners have been taken away and entrusted to an officer in whose appointment we have no voice whatever. With these remarks I beg to propose the resolution that stands in my name.

Chairman:—I take it that you deal much more to the permanency of the appointment. Mr. Shirley Tremearne:—Yes.

Mr. Phelps seconded the motion. He laid particular stress on the permanency of the post.

Roy Bahadur Sita Nath Roy said that whoever might be appointed as Deputy Chairman, he should be directed to stay for five years.

Mohiye Budderuddin Hyder seconded the motion of Mr. Tremearne.

Mr. Bertram said that there was a technical and well defined meaning of the word Deputy Chairman. He was a Deputy of the Chairman. During the Chairman's absence everything was in a state of chaos. He thought that the Corporation should give a unanimous vote to the motion. This subject had been discussed in business circle. The opinion of independent men was that the Deputy Chairman should be thoroughly conversant with the working of the Chairman. Mr. Braunfeld said that the Deputy Chairman should be permanent.

Babu Priya Nath Mullick then moved the following amendment:—"That the Government be respectfully asked to appoint as Deputy Chairman an officer with some guarantee that he will be permanent."

Mr. Shirley Tremearne accepted the amendment but wanted to add something. He said:—"That the Government be respectfully asked to appoint as Deputy Chairman an officer qualified to act for the Chairman for short period and with some guarantee that he will be reasonably permanent for at least five years."

The Chairman said that he was in some difficulty. He did not think that a Deputy Chairman should remain for more than two and a half years. He was not capable of giving the Corporation his opinion as regards the qualification of a civilian as against a non-civilian. He then put the amendment proposed by Mr. Shirley Tremearne to the vote which was carried.

Roy Bahadur Sita Nath Roy said that in that case the Vice-Chairman would not have an opportunity to officiate as the Chairman.

Roy Bahadur Sita Nath Roy having lost his turn he was not allowed to speak.

COTTON CROP IN THE C. P.

The following is the first forecast of the cotton crop of the Central Provinces and Berar, season 1904:—The monsoon arrived late and there was a marked deficiency in the rainfall of June and July, so that sowings were somewhat delayed. They were successfully carried out in all districts. Germination was good and very little re-sowing was necessary. The area sown is larger than that of last year (4,093,310 acres) which was itself a record year. Good seasons and high prices have much increased the popularity of the crop, and its cultivation has largely extended in the important cotton districts of Nagpur, Wardha, Nimar and Berar. Large increases are also expected in Hoshangabad, Ohhindwara and Betul. In Nimar and Ellichpur owing to the damage caused by grass-hoppers and locusts to jwar, the area under this crop has been partly re-sown with cotton. The area placed under cotton this year is roughly estimated to be 15 per cent larger than that of the preceding year. The light rainfall has facilitated weeding operations, which are well advanced. Timely rain in the beginning of August has removed the anxiety caused by the long break in the southern districts and Berar. At present the prospects of the standing crops are excellent and promise a full yield.

Some time ago it was reported that a box containing potash which was sent to Delhi railway station for despatch to an outstation, had exploded at the time of loading and caused the death of more than one porter. The consignee was arrested forthwith and placed on his trial in the Court of the Deputy Commissioner. The trial has now ended, and the accused has been sentenced to undergo imprisonment for two years and pay a fine of Rs. 1,000. Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Khan, barrister-at-law, has appealed to the Sessions Judge on behalf of the prisoner, whose application for release on bail, however, has been rejected.

How to Avoid the Dangers of a Cold. Everyone must realize the dangers attending a severe cold, and that it is always prudent to remain in-doors until the danger is passed. Many, however, do not feel able to lose the time and will be interested in knowing that a severe cold may be broken up and all danger avoided by the prompt use of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It not only cures, but cures quickly and counteracts any tendency toward pneumonia. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, B. K. Paul and Co., Abdul Rahman and Abdul Kareem, Calcutta.

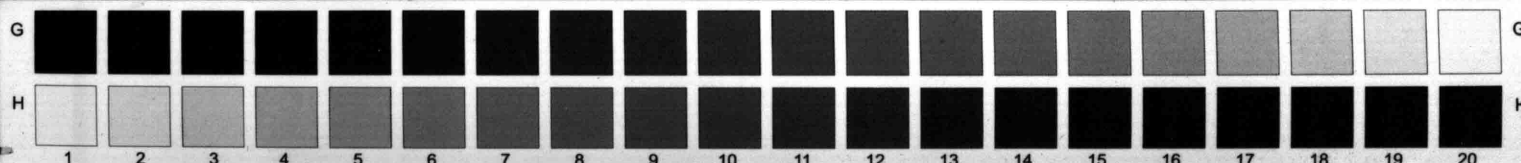
MOTHER
SEIGEL'S SYRUP
AIDS DIGESTION—CURES INDIGESTION.

Relish for food and power to digest it are essential to sound health, for only by the digestion and assimilation of food can lost or worn-out bodily tissue be replaced and life sustained. When digestion fails, as in dyspepsia or indigestion, both body and brain are starved, the patient becomes languid and weak, incapable of active, vigorous effort, or clear sustained thought. Headaches, loss of appetite, pains after eating, fullness at the chest, palpitation, anemia and sleeplessness are but a few of the many disorders which have their origin in imperfect digestion and nutrition. Thirty drops of Mother Seigel's Syrup, taken daily after meals, makes food nourish you. It gives tone and vitality to the stomach, liver and intestines, thus ensuring the thorough digestion and assimilation of food.

HAS CURED THOUSANDS.

"For three years I suffered greatly from biliousness and indigestion. Made me quite weak, and I could eat hardly anything. Attacks of vomiting condition. On rising in the morning I was seized with dizziness, and had on several occasions to go back to bed again. I tried various remedies, but remained in quite the same condition. While at Cape Town, during the war, I heard of the wonderful qualities of Mother Seigel's Syrup, and I decided to give it a trial. After the first bottle the dizziness and bilious feeling left me, and I continued using the Syrup until I felt completely cured."—E. Petersen, Lower End, Main Street, Johannesburg. March 29th, 1904.

IT WILL HELP YOU.



HOW JAPAN MAKES FIGHTING MEN.

JAPANESE AND ENGLISH WAYS.
You would not ask why Japan is winning had you been with me to-day (June 16).

I have been, with many of their statesmen, many naval attaches from Europe, and many journalists from all over the world, to the naval school at Etajima, and over the barracks and through the arsenal at Kure. You have only to follow in our steps, see what we have seen, to understand something of the spirit of this wonderful people.

On the shore of a land-locked bay, with a fine view over sea and hilly islands, in a well laid-out park with low, wooded hills behind, stands a huge red-brick building with granite facings. It is the centre of the naval school at Etajima.

There are now 571 cadets in the school. They enter at seventeen, after having passed through a competitive examination. Competition is very keen. I was told that more than 5,000 boys have entered for the next examinations, though only about 180 can be taken! Only the very best stuff Japan can produce remains when the examinations are over.

THEORY AND PRACTICE.

The boys stay at the school for three years, and then, having passed through a final examination, go out on a year's cruise as midshipmen. After this they are promoted to sub-lieutenants.

All this, perhaps, is commonplace enough; but what I think is unique in this school at Etajima is the blending of theory and practice which is the basic principle of education here. The boys live in an atmosphere of practical demonstrations.

Everywhere one sees photographs and models of the ships of the Japanese fleet. One of them, a model of the actual size, Yashima, is one-twelfth of the actual size. Pumps and winches, ships' engines and all their parts, shells and shrapnels and fuses of all types—out in halves to show their construction—nautical instruments, torpedoes, breech-locks—in short, everything the naval officer must be familiar with is here under the eyes of the cadet. I do not think any other school in the whole world possesses such a beautiful and complete collection of models.

But this is not all. In the outskirts of the drill-grounds is a strange-looking building, which attracts the visitor: it is a model, in full size, of a battleship's bridge and deck, fitted in the minutest detail as if it were on board ship, and furnished with real guns. One 8-inch, six 6-inch, and several machine guns of different types, all in their protected gun-stands, rest here as on the deck of an armoured vessel, and in this place the cadets daily practise gun drill in order to make them thoroughly familiar with this branch of the service, which the Japanese consider the most important of all. Everywhere the dominant education is that the cadets shall see.

THE JAPANESE WAY.

Here is the chief difference between the Japanese system and our own. While our boys acquire most of their knowledge, especially in gunnery, torpedo service, and the like, on board ship, this knowledge in Japan comes to them on land. Theory in Japan comes before or hand in hand with practice; while in England practice comes first and theoretical explanation after.

Which is the better way? To judge from the material each nation turns out, either way works well, our own men, presumably, being the better in navigation and practical seamanship, and the Japanese being more proficient in gunnery and torpedo service.

I think it is much the same as in the learning of a foreign language. There are those who say, "Give a boy a good insight into the grammar and construction, let him acquire a vocabulary, and then send him to the country to find fluency in speaking." Others tell us that the best way is to send the boy abroad at once to pick up the language as a child does, and to let grammar come afterwards. I speak a few languages, and have learnt them in both ways, and my experience is that I speak those I picked up in their own countries, without study, more fluently and with better pronunciation, while I master the others more thoroughly and make fewer errors in writing them.

THE BOYS OF ETAJIMA.

The practical exercises of the cadets comprise German drill, Swedish gymnastics, fencing with bayonet and two-handed swords, rowing and wrestling. Their leisure is mostly occupied with sports and games, and these, and the healthy life they lead in the pure, bracing air develop a splendid physique. I do not think I have seen anywhere in the world a harder lot of youngsters than at the Etajima naval school.

They go to their studies with the same zeal and thoroughness as to their games. I looked at their exercise-books and their drawings, and found them very neat and nearly always correct. And their discipline is truly marvellous. We walked through their class rooms. The teacher bowed as we entered, and then went on with his lessons; but not a boy, not a single boy of the 571, looked up. They went on with their work. We were all as air to them. There were among us some of the most prominent statesmen and authors of their own country, men like Count Inouye and Marquis Kuroda. There were all the foreign naval attaches in their different uniforms, all the representatives in Japan of the newspapers of the world. Yet not a boy stole a glance, and watch them as sharply as I would, from classroom to classroom, bending over their desks and looking at their books, not one boy could I find who for a moment took his eyes from his books.

Can we wonder that these boys of Etajima fill the world with wonder and admiration when they become men?

THE ARSENAL AT KURE.

On the same scale of thoroughness and at the same standard of high efficiency is everything at the great Kure Arsenal.

Fifteen thousand Japanese workmen are at this moment putting their energies into these large workshops, docks, shipbuilding yards, and gun factories, producing ammunition from the small quick-firing cartridges up to 12-inch armour-piercing shells; and the number of men is ever increasing as the works extend.

There are two dry docks, one big enough to hold a battleship, and two others, now under construction, will be ready within a few months. The arsenal can, at a pinch, turn out twenty torpedo-boats every six months. So far, no larger vessels have been

built at Kure, but in a month's time the keel will be laid for a new battleship, which will be constructed entirely at these works. Even the armour-plates will be furnished here.

All the guns used in the Japanese navy up to 8-inch calibre can be made in the gun factory at Kure, and the construction of 10-inch and 12-inch guns will soon be started. Indeed, preparations for making the first 10-inch 45 calibre long guns are already being made. The breech-locks for these, as well as for the smaller guns, are Japanese inventions. The large gun breech-lock, designed by Admiral Yamanuchi, chief of the arsenal, is an improvement on the Elswick construction, bringing the manipulation down to 63 turns of the handle. The breech-lock for the smaller guns is designed by Commander Arisaka, and this, too, is an improvement on Elswick.

The arsenal, like the school is a wonderful sight, a striking example of the seriousness and the restless energy of the new power which has risen in the East. Japan has not emerged from mediocrity to provide a spectacle for the world's great stage. She has come, it is true, with dramatic suddenness, like a flame of fire in the night. But she has come, too, with the eagle, and the cunning of the fox, and some day, if it does not know it now, the world will find it out.

DISTRACTING BEAUTY OF THE NEW GORILLAS.

SCIENTISTS CONFOUNDED.

Naturalists all over the world are envying the luck of the London Zoological Gardens, for which Mr. Pocock, the superintendent, has secured two specimens of the gorilla, the rarest animal in captivity.

There are at present only three in the whole of Europe, and two are those at Regent's Park, the third being at Breslau. Three young gorillas left West Africa a month ago—two females and one male. Unfortunately the male died on the voyage, though the two girl-gorillas arrived in fine condition.

The naming of these valuable animals was not entrusted to the keepers. It would not do to have such priceless specimens dubbed Mary Ann or Jane, so while the superintendent found them a local habitation his wife provided each with a name. The smaller and more skittish was christened 'Chloe,' and the more dignified five-year-old was named 'Venus.'

They were placed together in the great airy cage and formally introduced by their new names, and the keepers and officials stood back to watch developments. Excited by the howls of the adjoining chimpanzees, Venus made an attack on little Chloe biting her, but afterwards their friendship made rapid strides.

FAST FRIENDS.

The man who lays his hand on Chloe, "save in the way of kindness," has now to reckon with the steel trap which nature has given Venus in lieu of a mouth. It was only last Sunday that Venus misinterpreted the keeper's motives in handling Chloe and promptly made her teeth meet in his leg.

The gorillas are not particularly intelligent animals, but they had not been twenty minutes in their cage before they literally annihilated a cherished scientific theory concerning them and their kind. For some reason modern naturalists have refused to accept the story that gorillas, when enraged, beat their chests like a drum.

Chloe and Venus have not a tithe of the brains of the modern naturalist, and so knew no better. Almost immediately they began to thump their hairy breasts, thus producing the "fabled" booming noise.

Though to the lay eye they are an untidy pair of huge, hairy toads, Mr. Pocock says that Venus and Chloe are "beautiful specimens." The naturalist's idea of beauty would be described as follows in the Gorilla "Hue and Cry."

DESCRIPTION OF VENUS.

Age.—Five years.

Height.—2ft 6in.

Chest measurement.—3ft.

Hair.—Dark and patchy.

Eyes.—Black and deep-set, with huge, overhanging brows.

Nose.—Fleshy and flattened.

Mouth.—Expansive, with formidable teeth and great muscular strength.

Expression.—Morose.

Remarks.—Looks like a hairy demon that has been crossed in love.

The health of both leaves nothing to be desired. They eat bananas, grapes, and apples with a healthy appetite.

MASTER AND MAID.

After a hearing which had occupied the North London magistrate for three days, Harold Cadle, thirty-seven, an agent, living at Stoke Newington, was committed for trial on a charge of assaulting his domestic servant, Margaret Fanny Bevan.

The girl said that she had been away for her holiday, and returned on August 16 going to bed at half-past ten. Two hours later her master, whom she thought was still away at Margate with Mrs. Cadle, knocked at her door and asked for matches. When she passed them out he made a suggestion to her, and a struggle followed which lasted for two and a half hours. She and the prisoner were alone in the house.

When the prisoner finally left her she dressed and went down to the kitchen, where she remained. In the afternoon she left the house, and passed the night in the house next door.

The prisoner swore that the girl's story was an untruth from beginning to end. He admitted that she had been in his employment for nearly eight years, and that every confidence had been placed in her. All he could say with regard to her statement was that she must have dreamt it.

For the prosecution it was stated that the lady next door heard the screams, and that the girl's body was bruised, but Mr. Young, for the defence, said that few people returned from the seaside without bruises caused by falls or romping.

The prisoner's wife said that she believed in her husband's innocence, and evidence of character was given, it being stated that the prisoner had been in the parish church choir for five years.

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK IN S. INDIA. NORTH ARCOT.

The prospects of the season are very disappointing and fears are entertained of an impending dire famine unless it rains copiously and that without delay. The tanks are all empty and plague is also threatening the district from Katpadi, a valuable centre of the district railway communications.

GUNTAKAL.

Want of rain in these parts is producing anxiety in our minds. Wherever we go there is a cry for want of rain only and nothing else. The sorrowful complaint and anguish of the poor cultivators especially at this withholding of seasonal rain is very great and really pitiable. In several places the dry crops are withering. It is some months ago we had some good and heavy rain here. For the last few weeks the sky is often overcast with thick and dark clouds creating every possible hope of favouring us with the anxiously expected and much-needed rain but to our disappointment not a drop is to be found on the ground. It is not known how long this alarming state of affairs will continue in this way. On the whole we are glad to express that the price of the staple food grains &c., have not risen but remain stationary at present.

BELLARY.

The agricultural season has been of great disappointment and bodes ill to the ryot. There has been no rain practically during the last two months and a half and what rain there was came down in the hot weather

and before the commencement of the agricultural season. Though for statistical purposes the usual average rainfall has been recorded up to date, agricultural operations have in no way benefited by the fall. The country round used to be one bed of green at this time of the year and half the fields with crops. All is dry and parched. There are unusually high winds carrying volumes of dust. The weather is anything but pleasant and promising.

BABY PIGEON RACING.

Thirty thousand young pigeons will be released to-day (22nd Aug.) at distances of from one hundred and fifty to two hundred miles at three to four months old the flight will be difficult even under favourable conditions, should the wind blow against the youngsters many of them will be seven to eight hours on the wing, and will reach their coes in an exhausted condition.

The longest fly to-day is from Bourne-mouth, where 2,000 Stockport birds will be released for their race of over 200 miles. There will also be a big liberation at Bata of 8,000 Lancashire, Staffordshire, and Cheshire pigeons. Six thousand Yorkshire birds are to be released at Didcot. Other big tows take place from Swindon, Chard, York, Nottingham, Weymouth, and Gloucester.

A sensational long-distance young bird race has just been down from Ventnor to Seaton Delaval. The first pigeons to 'home' were only four to five months old, and they did the 310 miles in seven and a-half to eight hours.

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

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An interesting bit of correspondence has passed between one of the esteemed objectors, Mr. Bhaisanker Nanabhai, and the Municipal President. Mr. Bhaisanker despatched a packet, containing his objections, to the office, but the clerk refused to acknowledge its receipt, and the President supported their action on the ground that it has been the practice for the Municipality not to give receipts to applicants for their applications. Mr. Bhaisanker has ascertained that such receipts are given in several of the Government offices in Ahmedabad. What does the addresser of the letter lose, if he on his clerk acknowledges receipt of it? When the Municipality serves a notice, does it not ask for an acknowledgment?—"Indian Spectator."

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Printed and published by T.K. Biswas,
at Ananda Chandra Chatterjee's Lane, and
owned by the Patrika Press Office Calcutta.

