REG NO. C 59

Amrita Bazar Patrika

BI-WEEKLY EDITION—PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

VOL XXXVI CALCUTTA, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1905. NO. 12

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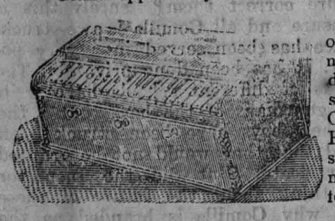

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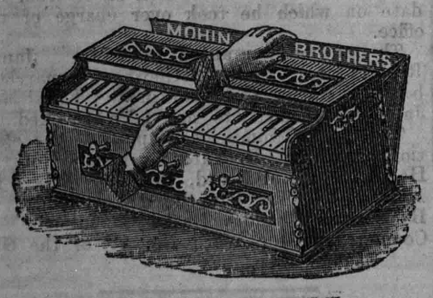

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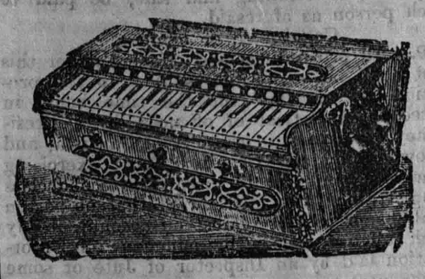

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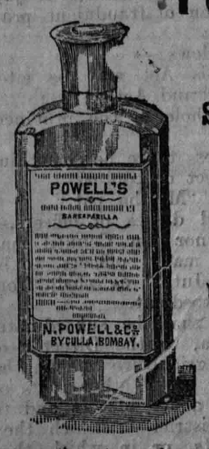

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PROPOSED JUTE LAW.

NOTE ON THE PREVENTION OF FRAUDULENT WATERING OF JUTE IN BENGAL BY LEGISLATION.

1. Last autumn the Director of Land Records deputed both of his Assistant Directors to enquire and report on the extent of the evil—Mr. N. G. Mukerji making enquiries in Calcutta and its neighbourhood, and Mr. D. N. Mukerji doing the same at Sirajganj and Chandpur. Their reports, which have been printed, are enclosed in the volume of papers for 1903-1904, and have already been forwarded to members of the Association. Mr. D. N. Mukerji has made some further enquiry this season at Narayanganj.

2. It appears that the fibre sold at the different jute marts varies a good deal in the amount of moisture it contains. What would be considered fairly dry at Madaripur, where the standard is low, would be held decidedly wet at Narayanganj. At Sirajganj again, not only water but also sand has been found to be mixed with the jute to increase its weight.

3. The practice has assumed serious proportions only during recent years, since in fact 1891, when the price of the fibre rose as high as Rs. 9 a maund, and when a certain Marwari began the sanding and watering on an extensive scale. It is found to be openly carried on now in broad daylight on the banks of the river Ganges, and close to the Sirajgunj mart in sight of passers-by. The fibre is spread out on the banks layer by layer, sand and water put on, and then redrummed and loaded in the boats for sale. While in other parts watering has become very common, sanding seems to be a speciality of Sirajganj alone.

4. This fraudulent watering of the fibre, while increasing its weight, weakens and discolours it and seems to be the chief cause of the deterioration of which the trade complains. There is no evidence of a general deterioration of the jute plant. It may have taken place in some parts and in some races, but even this is doubtful.

5. Some amount of moisture is not objectionable in the fibre. In fact the so-called dry jute of commerce loses about 8 or 10 per cent. of moisture by sun drying alone. This amount is accepted by the mills, and its presence does not affect the strength and colour of the fibre. Its amount varies in different seasons, being less in the cold weather than earlier in the season before the rains are quite over. It is attributed by the trade to atmospheric humidity, but this seems hardly correct, as fibre which has been made "bone dry" in the sun does not on standing regain its old weight though it does increase a little by reabsorption of moisture from the air. In one experiment three samples of dry jute had lost, at the end of November, 9.22 per cent. by sun drying, and had by the middle of December (in three weeks) gained 4.60 per cent. by standing in the shade.

6. But while dry jute may contain 8 to 10 per cent. of moisture, samples of jute were examined by the Assistant Directors containing 20 to 25 per cent. of moisture, the amount rising in some cases to as much as 30 per cent. This clearly points to fraud.

7. It further appears that jute dries very quickly in the sun. It can also be very easily protected from dew, a mere thatch being protection enough. Even the thatch may be dispensed with if the fibre is simply piled, because absorption of dew is a function of extent of surface exposed. But of course in the case of rain some protection is indispensable. Generally, however, the [illegible] of accommodation for drying by [illegible] and for storing at night, urged in extenuation of excessive moisture, seems but a feeble plea.

[illegible] The trade is powerless to [illegible] fraudulent practice (see pa[illegible] Director's Annual Report o[illegible] Rural [illegible]nch, 1903-1904). Son[illegible] contract with the mills t[illegible] quantities of jute by certain [illegible] are obliged to buy whatever the [illegible] wet or dry. In many cases it [illegible] the mills' agents make the purchases, [illegible] they do not always mind buying wet jute because (it is stated) for immediate consumption the moisture does not matter. The big firms, especially those in the export trade, have generally large establishments for drying wet jute, but others are not so scrupulous and trust to luck and other influences in getting their goods passed. Competition is so keen that a voluntary combination of the merchants to boycott wet jute is almost an impossibility. At most of the important marts it has been attempted several times without success (see also Director of Land Records' report for 1903-1904, paragraph 8).

9. In these circumstances the Secretary to the Calcutta Baled Jute Association suggested in May 1903 the desirability of a short Act penalising the sale of jute containing an undue proportion of moisture. He referred to the successful working of the Bombay Cotton Frauds Act (Act VII of 1878). And again in January this year he referred to the Proclamation of the Russian Government making it criminal to water flax. (According to a Dundee firm this had led to a considerable improvement.)

10. A translation of the decision of the Russian Imperial Council, dated the 12th April 1899, has been obtained from His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at St. Petersburg through the Government of India. It enacts among other things that "flax shall not contain any admixture of refuse or other extraneous substances and shall not be moistened in order to increase its weight artificially." And it lays down that "traders guilty of sale, preparation or keeping for sale" of such flax shall be liable to imprisonment not exceeding one month or to a fine not exceeding one hundred roubles. In forwarding this Decision of the Imperial Council the British Consul-General at St. Petersburg adds that according to information supplied to him no convictions under the law had been recorded. It is not known what machinery is employed in working it.

11. The Bombay Cotton Frauds Act (Act VII of 1878) is mainly directed against the malpractices of baling presses. The offence is made cognizable by Presidency Magistrates in the City of Bombay and by first and second class Magistrates elsewhere. It provides that "no person shall be proceeded against on account of any such offence except by summons on information laid by an Inspector of Cotton or some other person." As for punishment it lays down that the adulterated cotton which forms the subject-matter of the offence, i.e., which has been fraudulently mixed with dirt, etc., or increased in weight by exposure to dew, shall be (1) confiscated and destroyed, (2) confiscated and sold, (3) cleaned under the direction of the Cotton Inspector at the owner's expense and returned.

There are other offences and other punishments connected with the presses and press marks upon which I need not enter here.

The Cotton Inspectors are appointed by the Governor in Council. The police are bound to help these officers, but have no other hand in the working of the law.

12. A short draft Act is submitted for consideration. It will be necessary to pay for the Inspectors of Cotton and their subordinates. Section 12 suggests an export duty of three pies per bale. The exports are as follows, according to Messrs. Duncan Brothers' list:—

	Bales.
1893-96 (average)	3,228.000
1897	4,201,000
1898	2,761,000
1899	2,602.000
1900	3,541,000
1901	4.328,000
1902	3,253,000
1903	3,766,000
Total ...	27,680,000

The above gives an average of 34,60,000 which would yield Rs. 54,000 and be sufficient for fifteen Inspectors on Rs. 200 per mensem and their establishments. The Jute Associations would be asked to contribute for any more Inspectors required.

S. L. MADDOX.
Director of the Dept. of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.

The 6th October 1904.

DRAFT.

Act. No. of

An Act to amend the law for the prevention of adulteration of jute and for the suppression of fraudulent practices in the jute trade.

Preamble.

Whereas it is expedient to amend the law for the prevention of adulteration of jute and for the suppression of fraudulent practices in the jute trade, it is enacted as follows:—

PRELIMINARY.

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as "The Bengal Jute Fraud Act."

Extent.

It extends to the whole of the Lower Provinces of Bengal.

Interpretation-clause.

2. In this Act, unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context—

(1) "Jute" includes mestha pat (hibiscus

Bale.

(2) "Bale" includes any package of jute.

Press.

(3) "Press" includes every kind of machinery used for the purpose of compressing jute.

Foreign export.

(4) "Foreign export" means export out of British India.

"British India."

(4) "British India" means the territories for the time being vested in Her Majesty by the Statute 21 and 22 Vic., Cap. 106 (an Act for the better government of India), other than the Settlement of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore and Malacca.

APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Inspector of Jute.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor in [illegible] may appoint such and so many [illegible] be styled "Inspectors of Jute [illegible] time to time appear e[illegible]

The said Inspectors [illegible] in the city of Ca[illegible] Land Records [illegible] Board of Re[illegible] the Presid[illegible] the Coll[illegible] hold t[illegible] in which they are [illegible] yed, and shall be liable [illegible]missal by order to the [illegible] neglect or misconduct [illegible]eir duties.

Inspectors.

[illegible]uty of the Inspectors [illegible] received in writing, [illegible] for compression or [illegible]ale.

[illegible] closures.

[illegible]uty, it shall [illegible] Jute at all times [illegible] closure with in which [illegible] eve that any press is at work, [illegible]red for work, or that the packing o[illegible] bales is being carried on.

Power to seize jute.

5. It shall be lawful for an Inspector of Jute to seize and detain any jute, wherever the same may be, which he has reason to believe is liable to confiscation under this Act, and to give the safe into the custody of any Police Officer.

Police officers bound to assist.

Proviso.

Every Police Officer shall be bound to assist an Inspector of Jute in seizing and detaining such jute, but it shall not be competent to any Inspector of Jute, unless under a Magistrate's search-warrant, to open any bale which has been finally pressed for foreign export.

Inspector seizing jute to apply for summons.

6. Every Inspector who shall seize and detain any jute under this Act shall, within seven days from the date of such seizure and detention, apply for and obtain a summons from a Presidency Magistrate in the City of Calcutta, if such seizure and detention shall have taken place in that city, but if elsewhere, then from a first or second class Magistrate directed to the person in whose possession the same was found and requiring him, upon a day therein named, to show cause why such jute should not be confiscated.

If such Inspector shall not apply for and obtain such summons within the time aforesaid, such jute shall be returned to the person in whose possession the same was found, and shall not be liable to re-seizure or detention.

Subordinates and their powers.

7. Every Inspector of Jute shall have such number of subordinates as the Board of Revenue from time to time directs, and it shall be lawful for such subordinates to exercise such of the powers conferred by this Act on an Inspector as the Director of Land Records and Agriculture or the Collector of a district may from time to time by writing under his hand depute them to exercise.

PENALTIES, OFFENCES, AND PROSECUTIONS.

Penalties when jute found fraudulently adulterated or mixed.

8. If, upon the hearing of the summons issued under section 6 of this Act, the Magistrate or Court be satisfied that any jute seized and detained under the provisions of section 5 of this Act—

(a) has been fraudulently or dishonestly adulterated or deteriorated, or increased in weight by mixing therewith seed, dirt, stones, or other foreign matter, or by exposing it to dew or by any other means, or

(b) that such jute is a mixture fraudulently or dishonestly made of cleaned and uncleaned jute or of different varieties or qualities in one bale,

the Magistrate or Court shall order—

that such jute be confiscated and destroyed or

that such jute be confiscated, cleaned and sold, or

that such jute be cleaned by or under the direction of the Inspector of Jute, and that such Inspector do return such jute when so cleaned to the person in whose possession the same was found, upon payment by him of the expenses of cleaning such jute, together with such fine as such Magistrate or Court shall direct, and that, in default of such payment, such jute be sold, and the proceeds thereof, after deducting such fine and the expenses of cleaning and sale, be paid to such person as aforesaid.

Cognizance of offences.

9. All proceedings and offences under this Act shall be cognizable, subject to the provisions of any law for the time being in force for the trial of offences, by a Presidency Magistrate in the city of Calcutta, and elsewhere by any Criminal Court exercising powers not inferior to those of a second class Magistrate: Provided always that no person shall be proceeded against on account of any such offence except by summons on information laid by an Inspector of Jute or some other person.

Proof of fraudulent intention.

10. It shall not be necessary in any proceeding for any offence under this Act to prove an intent to defraud any particular person.

Recovery of fines.

11. The provisions of sections 64 to 70, both inclusive, of the Indian Penal Code shall apply to all fines imposed under this Act, and all such fines shall be recoverable according to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Fees leviable on bales of jute exported.

12. A fee at such rate, not exceeding three pies, as the Government may from time to time direct by notification in the "Calcutta Gazette," shall be levied upon every bale of jute not belonging to the Government exported from any part of the Presidency of Bengal to any port or place other than a port or place in British India.

Persons interested in jute seized not affected in civil rights, and may recover expenses and in consequence of seizure.

13. Nothing in this Act shall affect the civil rights of any person in any manner interested in any jute confiscated, or ordered to be cleaned and sold under the provisions of this Act, but every such person shall have the same right of action as if this Act had not been passed, and all fines, cleaning and sale charges paid, and legal and other expenses and losses incurred and sustained in consequence of the seizure and detention of such jute and consequent thereon, shall be part of the damages recoverable in such action.

Dated Narayanganj, the 9th February 1905.

From—J. B. Ewan, Esq., Honorary Secy., Chamber of Commerce, Narayanganj,

To—The Secretary, Bengal Provincial Agricultural Association, Calcutta.

With reference to your Circular No. 153A [illegible]d the 14th October 1904, my Committee [illegible] carefully considered the draft Act sub[illegible]ed therein, and have come to the con[illegible]ion that although they are not in a [illegible]tion to say what is exactly required for [illegible]tta, they have no hesitation in stating [illegible] the draft Act is too far-reaching for the [illegible]sal; all that is wanted being something [illegible]imple and easily applied. I h[illegible] to enclose herewith a draft of what my Comm[illegible]ttee consider is what is necessary for the prevention of fraud in the mufassal.

From this draft you will notice that all reference to bales is excluded, because when the jute is once sold to the buyers, who assort and bale for mills or export, the trade has its own remedy, should any fraud be practised.

With regard to what should be the limit of moisture, my Committee consider that 10 per cent. would be a fair allowance, and anything over that should be considered fraud; also the test should be two hours' drying in the full sun over bamboos, the jute to be weighed before and after the test, and should the test exceed 10 per cent., then the fraud is proved.

With regard to the amount of fine my Committee are of opinion that the amount which should be imposed for wet jute ought to be equal to the adulteration over 10 per cent., that is the amount of fine should be the amount of moisture in the parcel in excess of 10 per cent. calculated at not less than the market rate of the day on which the judgment is given.

Again, with reference to the payment of Inspectors, my Committee suggest that the Calcutta mills as well as the export trade should pay for this, and it should be divided proportionately; also that in order to ensure the successful working of the Act, my Committee think that three European Inspectors on good salaries, say not less than Rs. 700 per month, should be appointed; their headquarters to be Calcutta, Serajganj and Narayanganj.

DRAFT.

An Act to amend the law for the prevention of adulteration of jute and for the suppression of fraudulent practices in the Jute Trade.

Whereas it is expedient to amend the law for the prevention of adulteration of jute and for the suppression of fraudulent practices in the jute trade:

It is enacted as follows:—

1. Preliminary.—This Act may be cited as the "Bengal Jute Fraud Act."

It extends to the whole of the provinces of Bengal.

2. In this Act, unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context—

(1) "Jute" includes "Mestha pat."

3. Appointment and duties of officers.—The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint such and so many officers, to be styled "Inspectors of Jute," as shall from time to time appear expedient.

The said Inspectors shall be subordinate, in the city of Calcutta, to the Director of Land Records and Agriculture and to the Board of Revenue, and in all other parts of the Presidency to the above officers and to the Collector of the district in which they hold their appointments, or in which they are at the time employed, and shall be liable to suspension or dismissal by order of the Board of Revenue for neglect or misconduct in the discharge of their duties.

4. It shall be the duty of the Inspectors of Jute on information received in writing to examine jute offered or intended for sale to the person who lodges the informatio in writing.

5. It shall be lawful for an Inspector of Jute to seize and detain any jute examined under section 4 if he has reason to believe same as liable to confiscation under this Act and to give the same into the custody of any Police officer.

6. Every Inspector who shall seize and detain any jute under this Act shall, within 24 hours from the time of such seizure and detention, apply for and obtain a summons from a first or second class Magistrate directed to the person in whose possession the same was found and requiring him within 24 hours from the time the summons is issued to show cause why such jute should not be confiscated.

7. Every Inspector of Jute shall have such number of subordinates as the Board of Revenue from time to time directs, and it shall be lawful for such subordinates to exercise such of the powers conferred by this Act on an Inspector as the Director of Land Records and Agriculture or the Collector of a district may from time to time by writing under his hand depute them to exercise.

8. Penalties, offences, and prosecutions.—If upon the hearing of the summons issued under section 6 of this Act, the Magistrate or Court be satisfied that any jute seized and detained under the povisions of section 5 of this Act—(1) has been fraudulntly or dishonestly adulterated or deteriorated, or increased in weight by mixing therewith seed, dirt, stones, or other foreign matter, or by exposing it to dew or by any other means, the Magistrate or Court shall order—that such jute is cleaned or dried under the direction of the Inspector of Jute, and that such Inspector do return such jute when so cleaned or dried to the person in whose possession the same was found upon payment by him of the expenses of cleaning or drying jute, together with such fine as such Magistrates or Court shall direct, and that in default of such payment, such jute to be sold and the proceeds thereof, after deducting such fine and the expenses of cleaning or drying and sale, be paid to such person as aforesaid.

9. All proceedings and offences under this Act shall be cognizable, subject to the provisions of any law for the time being in force for the trial of offences, by a Presidency Magistrate in the City of Calcutta, and elsewhere by any Criminal Court exercising powers not inferior to those of a second class Magistrate: provided always that no person shall be proceeded against on account of any such offence except by summons on information laid by an Inspector of Jute.

10. It shall not be necessary in any proceeding for any offence under this Act to prove an intent to defraud any particular person.

11. The provisions of sections 64 to 70, both inclusive, of the Indian Penal Code, shall apply to fines imposed under this Act, and all such fines shall be recoverable according to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code.

12. Miscellaneous.—A fee at such rate as the Government may from time to time direct by notification in the "Calcutta Gazette" shall be levied proportionately on every loom in jute mills in Bengal and upon every bale of jute exported from any Port in the Presidency of Bengal.

13. Nothing in this Act shall affect the civil rights of any person in any manner interested in any jute confiscated, or ordered to be cleaned and sold under the provisions of this Act, but every such person shall have the same right of action as if this Act had not been passed, and all fines, cleaning and sale charges paid, and legal and other expenses and losses incurred and sustained in consequence of the seizure and detention of such jute and consequent thereon shall be [illegible] the damages recoverable in such action.

SALT IN BENGAL.

Following is the report on the state of the salt market for the third quarter of 1904-1905.

The quantity of salt of every description cleared during the quarter amounted to 28.33,107 maunds, as compared with 28.08-505 maunds in the previous quarter. and 28,77,591 maunds in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The net amount of duty levied thereon was Rs. 53,84,349. as against Rs. 52,37,470 in the previous quarter. and Rs. 55,61795 in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Compared with the corresponding quarter of the previous year, there was a decrease both in the importations and clearances; in comparison with the same quarter of 1902-1903, there was a decline in the quantity imported, but an increase in the quantity cleared.

30,65,930 maunds of sea-imported salt remained stocked in the warehouses at the close of the quarter. Stocks at the close of the quarter were less than those of the previous quarter, but were in excess of those of the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The despatches of salt from Calcutta by boat and by the several raiways passing through the different pass-stations into the interior of the country, both east and west of the river Hooghly, as yell as the despatches by steamers and flats during the quarter were—by boat 6,17,171 mds; by rail 1547702 mds; by steamers 2,40,284 mds.

The quantity of salt despatched during the quarter by the East Indian Railway to stations beyond Buxar amounted to 810 maunds, as against the same quantity in the previous quarter and 405 maunds in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The quantity of saltpetre salt excised in the refineries of the Lower Provinces during the quarter amounted to 1,395 maunds, as compared with 2,695 maunds in the previous quarter and 2,844 maunds in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The shipments of Liverpool salt during the quarter for the port of Calcutta, according to the published market reports, amounted to 44,887 tons. It is reported that no vessel was afloat for Calcutta with salt from Hamburg.

Here are the average wholesale prices per 100 maunds of Liverpool and other descriptions of salt during the fortnight ending 31st December last:—

During the quarter the prices of Liverpool "panga," Hamburg "karkatch" and Rawayah crushed fell, while those of Bombay "karkatch," Aden crushed and Salif crushed rose and fell again. The prices of Muscat "karkatch," showed an upward tendency. The average price per 100 maunds of Madras salt was Rs. 50-1-9.

Rangoon has been declared an infected port, and the plague regulations issued by Government will be enforced in the ports of Orissa and at Chittagong against vessels arriving from the town.

TIPPERA NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Comilla, Feb. 20.

A GRAND MAHOMEDAN FEAST.

On Monday last the Mahomedan population of the whole town and of the adjoining area were fed sumptuously by Syed Hossain Haider Chowdhury, Zemindar, on the fortieth day of his father's death. Nearly fifteen thousand people sat down to dinner. It was a very pleasant sight and we congratulate Syed Hossain on this liberality.

COMING CATTLE SHOW.

We are glad to announce that a cattle show will take place in this town on the 24th February next and that it will last for 4 days. The local Government has allotted Rs. 150 and two medals for this. Our energetic Magistrate Mr. Scroope is trying to make it a great success. We will ask over local Zemindars and Talukdars to induce their tenants to bring their best cattle to the show. We wish it all success. This is a new idea and surely our cattle's breeding require improvement and for this we are thankful to Mr. Scroope.

STUDENTS' MORALS.

The Inspector of Schools, it seems, is very keen about the morals of students. We learn from the local papers, that no less than thirty boys have been expelled from the school, one-half for life, the rest for different terms according to their respective order or offence. The offence is reported to be misconduct. May we ask of what nature that merited such severe sentences? It is a fact that the trial was held in camera and they were not allowed to defend themselves nor were they served with a first warning. Was the atmosphere of the morality amongst the student community suddenly turned so low that it demanded such crushing punishment? Yet it is a significant fact and a bare truth too that among the list of so-called branded boys there is not one Mahomedan at all? Are our Mahomedan brethren high in morals? The fact speaks for itself. We understand among the students whose fate is doomed there are boys of 13, 14 and 15. Are these young boys so very foul in morals that they require immediate expulsion from the schools for ever? Will that measure correct them? Surely this is a hard measure and all Comilla is awe-struck. The sentence has been served in a very polite manner. It has been done privately. The Head-masters of different schools have written to the guardians of the boys that the names of their boys have been struck off the roll and that they would not be granted transfer certificate. But did the Inspector of Schools think about the future of these boys? But why Comilla is branded as the worst place for morals? We do not find adequate words to stigmatise it. The Inspector first recorded confessions from the boys at his own house. And he used those confessions as so many documents against them. Let them be tried, in the fair day light and never in the dark corners of the Inspector's office. The object of punishment is two-fold. It is both to correct the offenders and as well as to serve as an example to others. But in this case how it can serve to correct them. Will not Government reconsider this? If such reckless punishments are inflicted so carelessly, it means stopping education for them. Are not the worst criminals prone to good treatment and advice and do not the worst offenders in process of time, turn to be honest and good citizens? It is a direct insult to the guardians without taking them to confidence in this matter. We invite the attention of the Local Government to this matter and invite a thorough enquiry into the case from an impartial and unbiased mind.

"ASSAM GAZETTE."

Major A. E. Woods, I.A., Deputy Commissioner, on return from leave, is posted temporarily to the Kamrup district.

Mr. H. A. C. Colquhoun, I.C.S., Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, on relief by Major A. E. Woods, is transferred to Sylhet and appointed to officiate as Deputy Commissioner of that district.

Mr. S. G. Hart, I.C.S., Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, on relief by Mr. H. A. C. Colquhoun, I.C.S., is posted to the Sibsagar district, and placed on special duty under the orders of the Settlement Officer, Sibsagar.

Mr. J. McSwiney, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, Personal Assistant to the Chief Commissioner, is deputed for training in settlement work under the orders of Settlement Officer, Kamrup.

Babu Panchu Gopal Mookerjee, M.A., B.L., Extra Assistant Commissioner, is appointed Sub-Registrar of Dhubri, in addition to his other duties with effect from the date on which he took over charge of the office.

The authority granted to Mr. James Roberts to grant certificates of marriage between Native Christian in the Khasi and Jaintia Hill districts has been revoked.

The Chief Commissioner approves the election of Mr. H. B. Yates as member of the Hailakandi Local Board, vice Mr. G. D. Mackey, who has left the district and of Babu Gris Chandra Datta Chaudhuri as Commissioner for Ward No. IV of the Sil- Municipality.

A fine of Rs. 25 has been imposed at the Colombo Courts on a certain Mr. A. P. Bastian, of the Pettah, for running a lottery in the form of a sweep by what was styled the Pettah United Club on the St. Leger race. At the conclusion of the case the Magistrate said: "I see no reason to believe that there has been any fraud in the lottery. If I suspected any fraud I would impose the full fine on each count, but as I have no reason to suspect that, I will impose a fine of Rs. 255." The fine of Rs. 25 was accordingly imposed.

Mr. A. Butterworth, Collector of Trichinopoly, in concluding a special report on the state of the season in Trichinopoly, dated the 4th ultimo, remarks:—The prices have largely risen in excess of the normal rate. But the stock on hand is sufficient for four or five months. Supplies to the market are now being received from Tanjore and South Arcot Districts. State aid will not be necessary before the south-west monsoon sets in. On the whole, the season is unfavourable both for wet and dry crops. Arrangements will be made, if necessary, to start the Minor Irrigation and Local Fund works sanctioned for the next year, and that will give labour to the working classes. The people can tide over this season until the south-west monsoon sets in. There will be need for remission on wet waste under the river channels and the rain-fed tanks. The rain in December has improved prospects a little, but more is urgently needed.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

NEWS OF THE DAY.

It is intended to replace the regular troops at Kengtung by a Military Police, there being no political necessity for retaining a garrison in the Mekong Valley.

The fanatic who attacked Captain Browne at Bannu was an ordinary tribesman, and inquiries are now being made as to his antecedents and the reason for his conduct.

Twelve appointments a year to the Unattached List, Indian Army, will, in future, be open to University candidates. They will be additional to the appointments from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

The match in the Presidency Football Tournament (Madras) was between the Lincolns and the Chesh res, and was keenly fought. It resulted in a victory to the former by one goal to nil on the 23rd.

His Highness Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, who is now touring through Northern India, paid a visit to LaMartiniere College at the end of last week and was shown over the institution by Mr. Sykes.

The growing value to the tea industry of Assam, of what are known as "the outside markets," is indicated by the export figures for January last. In that month a little over 10,800,000 lbs. were sent from Calcutta and Chittagong to Great Britain and to "sundry ports" a little over 2,500,000 lbs., which we may roughly take as 20 per cent of the former figures.

Captain Chandler succeeds Captain Wilson as Deputy Director of Indian Marine in Calcutta. Captain Chandler was associated with Admiral Hext and Captain Goodridge, as Assistant Director in Bombay, and his appointment as Deputy is extremely popular in marine circles.

The following revised scale of leave pay for officers of the Indian Medical Service, subject to the Leave rules of 1886 for the Indian Army, has been sanctioned:—On appointment £250 a year; on entering 10th year of pension service £300 a year; on entering 15th year of pension service £450 a year; on entering 20th year of pension service £600 a year; on entering 25th year of pension service £700 a year.

A Committee of Carriage and Locomotive Superintendent is now sitting in Calcutta under the Chairmanship of Mr. T. R. Browne. Among the officers attending are:—Messrs. H. K. Bamber, E. I. Railway; L.E.H. Brock S. M. Railway; A. S. Bailey, B N. Railway; H. M. Cardew, O. and R. Railway; C. P. George. Nizam's Railway; A. T. Houldcroft, R. M. Railway; R. S. Hawkins, A. B. Railway; T. A. Hindmarsh, E. B. Railway; Mr. Addis, Madras Railway; L. E. H. Yates N. W. Railway; and P. A. M. Nash. Secretary.

The Punjab Samachar, the Hindu bi-weekly of Lahore says:—For some time past, the number of professional beggars in India has been greatly on the increase. Crowds of them are to be seen tramping the streets, lanes and alleys in all directions; and th sight of them is prompting the poor in general to resort to begging as an easy means of earning ... not a few of th s

NOTES ON THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

Prince Khilkoff, in an interview with a representative of the "Novoe Vremya," makes the following statements, which sum up the results of the railway conference. The Trans-Siberian Railway can run 18 trains daily, including 12 military trains. One hundred and fifty versts of additional sidings will be ready by the spring. Arrangements have been completed for building a new type of truck, which with 500 new locomotives, will increase the carrying capacity of each train. It is hoped in the spring to pass 16 military trains daily over the line.

KUROPATKIN'S FORCES.

Information reaches the Paris correspondent of the "Times" that no small anxiety prevails in those quarters responsible for the supplies of the Russian Army in Manchuria as to the provisioning of the troops during the months of April and May. The fact of the matter is that the whole resources of Manchuria will be exhausted. There will be no harvest this year and none of last year's crops will be left. Neither will there be any cattle. Three months' stores were burnt at Liao-yang and Mukden, and 500,000 troops will be dependent on the supplies that can be forwarded by the Manchurian railway. The Army is already living from hand to mouth.

Some apprehension is felt lest the temptation to cross the river Liao into the fertile region of China that lies immediately on the other side should prove irresistible to Kuropatkin's army, suffering as in all probability it will be by that time from privation.

THE THREE RUSSIAN ARMIES.

M. Gaston Dru, of the "Echo de Paris," telegraphs from St. Petersburg as follows regarding the formation of three Russian armies:—

"The Second Army, commanded by General Gripenberg, comprises the 8th corps, under General Miloff, consisting of two celebrated divisions—namely, the 14th, called after Dragomiroff, and the 15th, which defended the Malakoff; the 10th corps, under General Tserpitzky, whose brother was killed at Port Arthur, which is made up of the 9th and the 30th Divisions; and the 1st Siberian corps, commanded by General Gerngross in place of Stackelberg, who is on the sick list, which includes the 1st and the 9th Divisions of the Siberian Tiralleurs, together with two brigades of European chasseurs and 10,000 cavalry. The total is 80,000 men wit 350 guns.

"The Third Army, under the command of Kaulbars, forms the centre of the Russian line. It consists of the 1st, 16th and 17th European corps and the 4th and 5th Siberian corps, and a brigade of European chasseurs.

"The First Army, whose chief is Linevitch, consists only of three Siberian corps. It forms Kuropatkin's left wing. Its task is to hold the mountainous region of Ta-ling towards Somaputsa. His entirely passive role is to prevent the Japanese from effecting a flank movement."

The same correspondent says that the sufferings of the wounded during the recent fighting with General Oku's troops were frightful. The thermometer marked 30deg. Centigrade below zero. With such intense cold constant movement is necessary to avoid freezing of the limbs.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

E. B. S. Ry.—Mr. Coates, Executive Engineer, is posted as Assistant Manager to the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

Bank Rate.—At the weekly meeting of the Directors of the Bank of Bengal the Bank Rate was raised by one per cent. It now stands at 7 per cent.

Application for Probate.—At the High Court, on Friday, before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sale, Babu Lakshmi Narain Khettry applied for the probate on behalf of the widow and the executrix, in the will of Duncan Welland Burnett who died on the 21st of November last at Barrackpur, leaving assets within the jurisdiction of this Court. His Lordship granted the application.

A European Fined.—On Friday, before Mr. D. H. Kingsford, I.C.S., Chief Presidency Magistrate, the police prosecuted Mr. Clifford Willard with having committed breach of the Eden Garden rules by driving his gharry through the North Entrance of the Eden Gardens instead of the South and also with having used abusive language towards Constable Jacob. Accused was found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 15.

Plague Mortality.—There were 33,660 deaths from plague in India, last week against 27,837 in the previous seven days. The main increase occurred in the United Provinces where the mortality was 14.438 against 10,869, and in the Punjab 8,419 against 6,975. There were 2,755 deaths in Bombay and 4,926 in Bengal. In other centres the mortality was practically stationary. In 1904 there were 26,537 deaths during the corresponding week.

P. W. D. Postings.—The following Public Works posting are notified: Mr. H. H. Fox, Executive Engineer Burma is appointed to officiate as Superintending Engineer, vice Mr. W. G. Newton, on leave, Mr. A. R. Kalberer' Examiner of Public Works Accounts, United Provinces, is granted nine months' combined leave. Mr. E. D. Chanter, Examiner of Public Works Accounts, Burma, is appointed to officiate as a Deputy Examiner is transferred to the Office of the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, United Provinces. Mr. W. J. Britts, Accountant, 1st grade, and Honorary Assistant Examiner, Punjab, appointed to officiate as a Deputy Examiner of Accounts.

Financial Department.—Mr. M. Mackertich, Assistant Factory Superintendent, Pabna, is granted privilege leave for fifteen days. Mr. A. Burt, Assistant Opium Agent Amorha (Basti), is transferred from the Benares to the Bihar Opium Agency. Mr. E. H. Allum, Assistant Opium Agent, Dehri (Shahabad), is transferred from the Bihar to the Benares Opium Agency. M[illegible] Burt, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, [illegible] transferred to Motihari, vice M[illegible] Parrott, about to retire. Babu J. C[illegible] Assistant Opium Agent, Monghyr, is p[illegible] temporarily, to Tehta, vice Mr. W. S. Burt, transferred to Motihari. Mr. J. J. Augier, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, Allahabad, is transferred to Etawah, vice Mr. A. M. Alone proceeding on nine months' combined leave from the 1st February 1905. Mr. A. Datta, Assistant Opium Agent, Allahabad, is appointed to perfo[illegible]

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE UNREST IN RUSSIA.

London, Feb. 23.

The funeral of the Grand Duke Sergius took place to-day, and was marked by great pomp, but the ceremony was entirely confined to the precincts of the Kremlin, and nothing was visible to the public who nevertheless thronged the vicinity where a strong force of troops was posted. The Tsar and family and the Ambassadors at the Court were present at the Requiem held at Tsarskoe Selo.

London, Feb. 23.

Fresh strikes are constantly breaking out in all parts of Russia. The railway strike is spreading widely. Serious strike riots took place at Warsaw to-day. The police were compelled to release prisoners, and the troops fired on the mob. The casualties are not known.

London, Feb. 23.

Alarming reports continue to be received of the condition in the Caucasus especially Batoum and Bakus. Communications have been severed and no details received, but reports agree that there has been much bloodshed.

London, Feb. 23.

A delayed Baku telegram shows that the bloodshed there was due to rigorous military repression.

London, Feb. 23.

Owing to the railway strikes Poland has been cut off from communication with Germany and Austria. The terminus of the Vienna Railway at Warsaw is occupied by troops.

London, Feb. 24.

It is reported at Constantinople that the situation at Batoum and Poti is so serious that a portion of the Black Sea fleet has bombarded Poti. The strikers are all Georgians, and number forty thousand.

London Feb. 24.

Connection between Warsaw and St. Petersburg is now interrupted by the strike. The city, which is seething with every dangerous element, is thus completely isolated. Local policemen are now threatening to strike and troops occupy the gas works.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, Feb. 21.

Reuter at Port Louis telegraphs, that seventy vessels of the Baltic Fleet including colliers were at Nossibe, on the 16th inst. The Russians were lavishly buying stores.

London, Feb. 21.

Reuter's correspondent at St. Petersburg says that notwithstanding official denials, according to the information he has received from a source enjoying high patronage the question of the conditions upon which Russia [illegible] prepared to make peace have not only [illegible]en formally discussed by the Tsar, but [illegible]tactically decided, namely, the Japanese [illegible]inty over Korea, the cession of Liaotung, conversion of Vladivostok into an open port, the neutral international administration of the Chinese Eastern Railway, the restoration to China of all Manchuria south of Harbin. The only difficulty is the question of indemni[illegible] upon which it is known Japan will insist. It is p[illegible] Russia may [illegible] decision is [illegible] difficulties and [illegible] probable [illegible] be [illegible]

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

GENERAL.

London, Feb. 20.

Mr. Balfour replying to Mr. Weir said that Mr. Brodrick had stated that the Tibetan question was essentially of Indian interest and under these circumstances it was neither just nor expedient that the expenditure should fall on the British exchequer.

The pay of Indian non-commissioned Officers and men employed as assistants on Government grass farms has been revised and the new scale of pay will be:—1st Class, Rs. 100; 2nd Class, Rs. 80; 3rd Class, Rs. 60; 4th Class, Rs. 45; 5th Class, Rs. 30 per mensem.

London, Feb. 21.

In the House of Commons yesterday Mr. Wyndham explained his relations with Sir Antony MacDonnell, who he said was rather a colleague than a mere Under-Secretary and referred to Sir Antony's loyalty and integrity. Mr. Wyndham further said that Sir Antony MacDonnell was censured by the Cabinet because he assisted in the publication of proposals of the Irish Reform Association to which both he (Mr. Wyndham) and the Cabinet objected.

During the Debate on the Amendment to the Address brought forward by Mr. Redmond, Mr. Winston Churchill, Member for Oldham, asked the Secretary of State for Ireland if the Cabinet's censure of Sir Antony MacDonnell included Earl Dudley, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Mr. Wyndham in reply stated, that when Sir Antony MacDonnell was censured, the Government was not aware that Lord Dudely approved Sir Antony's action.

The "Times" understands that the Earl of Dudley has resigned the Viceroyalty of Ireland and it is believed Sir Antony MacDonnell's retirement will follow.

London, Feb. 23.

Reuter states, in connection with the unsatisfactory condition of the Balkans as mentioned in the King's speech, that Lord Lansdowne has submitted to some of the Powers a scheme for the Government of Macedonia by a European Commission who will reform the country, the Porte retaining the right to appoint a Governor-General. The Powers at present are discussing the Austro-Russian financial reform prodosals.

London, Feb. 23.

The French Minister of Marine announced last night, in the Chamber of Deputies that the proposed new naval programme, included the construction of twenty-four large warships, involving an annual expenditure of 4¾ millions sterling till 1917. Two naval bases would be established in Indo-China and a second dock at Saigon was essential.

London, Feb. 24.

The Mullah is reported to be a day's march from Obbia, and has killd several of the Sultan of Obbia's men.

London, Feb. 24.

The House of Commons, by 254 votes against 207, rejected Colonel Norton's amendment to the Address, accusing the Government of grave negligence and mismanagement of the army.

London Feb. 24.

The House of Lords, by 55 against 22, rejected the motion condemning the new Short Rifle. During the debate Lord Roberts said the weapon had been approved only after most exhaustive trials and he quoted Lord Kitchener in commendation of the merits of the rifle for Indian warfare.

London Feb. 24.

The Simplon Tunnel was pierced at 7-20 this morning, thus completing a six years' work.

[illegible]AN TELEGRAM[illegible]

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

High Court.

A CASE OF RIOTING.

Mr. Jackson instructed by Babu Surendra Mohan Das, Vakil, appeared for Suba Singh and others in suppot of a rule issued on the District Magistrate of Patna to show cause why the conviction of the petitioners for rioting armed with deadly weapons under Sec. 148 should not be set aside or the sentence reduced. On Mr. P. L. Roy appearing for the Crown to show cause Mr. Jackson objected that of late a practice has grown that the private party, the complainant, generally applies to the Legal Remembrancer and on his putting in fees for the Counsel or pleader, the Legal Remembrancer generally gives him the required permission to appear for the Crown. It is one thing he said, to be paid by the complainant and appear for the Crown. He also intimated that on several occasions where he had informed the Court that although he had got the permission of the Legal Remembrancer to appear for the Crown, he believed he was paid by the private party and in such a case the Courts have declined to hear him. The Court intimated that they can not lay down a general rule for the guidance of other Benches especially in cases of revision and the matter must be left to the discretion of the Court in each case.

Their Lordships after going into the merits of the case made the rule absolute and reduced the sentence.

A CASE TRANSFERRED.

Babu Sarat Chundra Roy Chowdhry with Babu Bepin Chundra Mullick appeared in support of a rule obtained on behalf of one Imanuddin Mondal and two others for the transfer of a case under sec. 107 Cr. P. code in which the petitioners were accused and which was pending for trial in the court of a Deputy Magistrate of Bogra. It was alleged that the petitioners were tenants in the Zemindary of Babu Tara Sanker Ghose and that on account of acts of oppression on the part of the Zaminder towards the tenants for their refusal to pay enhanced rents, the tenants made application to the District Magistrate for protection. The District Magistrate came to make enquiry when it was alleged that the Zaminders saw him and the District Magistrate gave out that the rates claimed by the Zaminders were fair. The tenants who refused to pay rents at an enhanced rate, were threatened by the District Magistrate. Eventually the petitioners with some others who were leading tenants of the village—were kept detained in the Zaminder's Cutchery by the police and ultimately the proceedings under sec. 107 Cr. P. C. were instituted against them by the District Magistrate. There were also other allegations in the petition for all of which, the vakil submitted, the petitioners apprehended that they would not have a fair trial in the District.

Their Lordships made the rule absolute and transferred the case to the District of Pabna.

APPEAL BF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

APPEAL DISMISSED.

On or about the 29th of October 1903 at Gaya one Bal Makunda Sing identified to Shew Bux Lal Mukhtear one Fatab Narain Sing as being a person of the name of Dhanuk Dhari Sing. Thereupon Fatab Narain Sing by means of swearing an affidavit falsely representing himself to be Dhanuk Dhari induced the Record-keeper of the Judge's Court at Gaya to deliver to him certain valuable documents to which Dhanuk Dhari Sing was legally entitled. Fatab Sing was thereupon placed on his trial before a Deputy Magistrate of Gaya, who convicted him under sections 193 and 420 I. P. Code. Bal Makunda Sing was convicted by [illegible] Deputy Magistrate under sec[illegible] [illegible]nd 420 with 199 [illegible] Sing[illegible]

A CAPITAL SENTENCE CASE.

THE CASE REMANDED.

The accused Muni Sunri was charged with the murder of a boy named Hazari Sunri. The accused knew the boy, who was his mother's sister's son, and had been in the habit of playing with him. About 8 o'clock on the night of the 13th November, the day of "Chhatt" festival at Madhubani, the accused took the boy to the outstill, made him drunk and took him thence to the Sibsagar Tank in which the accused drowned the boy. He then took off and stole the silver bracelets and anklets, which the boy was wearing. On the following day the boy was found in the tank 30 feet from the bank. He had no ornaments on his person then. On these facts the accused was placed on his trial before the Sessions Judge of Tirhut, who differing from the assessors found the accused guilty of murder under Section 302 I. P. Code and sentenced him to death. Against that conviction and sentence an appeal was preferred to this Court by the accused. There was a reference made by the Sessions Judge for the confirmation of the death sentence. Both the reference and the appeal came on for hearing together.

Mr. Douglas White, Deputy Legal Remembrancer, appeared for the Crown. No one appeared for the defence.

Mr. Douglas White, submitted that there was no direct evidence in this case. The case was based on the circumstantial evidence as well as the retracted confession of the accused. He submitted that the medical evidence did not contain the cause of the death. The Sessions Judge had not mentioned anything as to the cause of the death. The Assistant Surgeon in his evidence said: "I found no mark of injury on the body. I looked for the mark. I looked for injury on the head or any on the neck or throat. There was a swelling behind the ear. The swelling was probably natural to the boy. I did not perceive any sign of liquor." Counsel then read the "post mortem" examination, which runs thus: "(1) Death occurred within three hours after meal, (2) death was due to asphyxia brought about in some violent manner. The exact way in which asphyxia had been caused can not be positively said but death from drowning. . . would not be inconsistent with the appearances. The external appearances are strongly suggestive of such a death and the appearance of slight frothy mucus in trachea also lends some support." There was no suggestion as to the cause of the death. He therefore asked their Lordships that the case be remanded to the Sessions Judge for the purpose of taking medical evidence.

Their Lordships delivered the following judgment: The Assistant Surgeon who was examined in this case was not asked as to the cause of the death of the deceased. Let this case be remanded to the Session Judge for the purpose of taking the evidence of the medical officer, who conducted the post mortem examination and of the Civil Surgeon, as to the cause of the death [illegible] the records be transmitted to the S[illegible] Judge with instructions to take the e[illegible] and to return it as soon as possible."

MUNICIPAL ZOOLUM.

On Friday, the Additional Sub-Judge, Rai [illegible] Mookerjee Bahadoor of Alipore deliv[illegible] Sreemut[illegible] Tetta[illegible] par[illegible]

INDIAN NOTES.

CROPS IN THE PUNJAB.

Lahore, Feb. 21.

Very heavy rain with a great shower of half-stones has fallen in the Central parts of Southern Punjab. The grain crops have been stunted by the recent intensely cold weather. Experienced zemindars calculate, that in these parts according to present conditions rape seed and grain will be half of the ordinary yield and wheat two-thirds. Early sowings of wheat have been ruined almost entirely. The frost has turned them yellow and lifeless but most of the late sowings are pretty safe as yet. Grain dealers have already raised their rates.

BOMBAY UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION.

Bombay, Feb. 22.

The annual Convocation of the Bombay University was held last evening in the Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Hall under the presidency of the Rev. Dr. Mackichan, Vice-Chancellor There was a large attendance, but most of the Fellows who opposed the work of the University being conducted by the provisional Syndicates were absent. The number of lady graduates who had obtained higher degrees was comparatively large and one of them who had won three medals, was deservedly complimented upon her brilliant success as a student. A noticeable feature of the evening's proceedings was the address of the Vice-Chancellor, who, "inter alia," entered upon an elaborate vindication of the provisions of the new University Act.

POSTAL MOTORS IN INDIA.

Madras, Feb. 22.

The Postmaster General, Madras, has established a postal service by means of motors, for mails and passengers, between Bezwada and Musulipatam, a distance of forty miles, which is run in less than two and a half hours, including several halts. The Postal Service between these two towns in the rich Kistna Delta has been hitherto done by runners, who took 14 hours to carry the mails. Three motor cars are to run, with a reserve car to allow for breakdowns and repairs. Messrs. Simpson and Co., of Madras, have been given the Motor contract. The present arrangement is necessarily in the nature of an experiment, and its success will be hailed with joy by the public, for the system would prove applicable to several postal routes now served in an out-of-date and expensive manner.

COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

Lahore, Fb. 21.

Steps are about to be taken to place commercial education in this Province on an efficient footing. A Conference to consider the whole question will assemble in Lahore early next month under the presidency of the Hon. Sir David Masson. The members will include a number of Indian gentlemen in this province engaged in business in a large way, [illegible] as owners or Managing Directors of [illegible] mills or factories, or as general mer[illegible]ts. It is hoped the conference will be [illegible] to formulate a suitable programme for [illegible]parting a commercial education to those who wish to fit themselves for clerical billats in Government and Mercantile offices, also a kind of general training for those who desire to qualify themselves for participation in commercial pursuits. The Conference has been organised by the Directors of Public Instruction.

PUNJAB ITEMS.

A MAHSUD JIRGA.

Lahore, Feb. 21.

A full Mahsud Jirga of the Mahsuds in the South Waziristan Militia who were disarmed and sent to their homes on a month's leave, have been called in to meet the Chief Commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province on the 21st February, at Jandola, when the question of the recent murders and of a guarantnee of future good behaviour of the Mahsuds in the corps is to be taken up. The Chief Commissioner left Dera Ismail Khan for Tochi on the 18th February and is due back at Dera Ismail Khan on the 24th.

FAREWELL TO SIR DAVID BARR.

Secunderabad, Feb. 22.

The members of the Bar assembled at the Residency this morning to bid farewell to Sir David Barr, on his approaching departure. Mr. Krishnehari B.A., B.L., on behalf of those present eulogised the Resident's suavity and courtesy. He had always given a patient and sympathetic hearing to their arguments. The bar at large regretted his departure and would remember him with grateful feelings. Mr. Barr, in reply, thanked the Deputation for their kind address and for the manner in which they had discharged their duties; not only were they of great service to their clients but had assisted him in arriving at just conclusions. He was not an expert lawyer, but his successor the Hon'ble Mr. Bayley was a barrister well up in law. He was sure to appreciate their merits and experience the same courtesy he had received at their hands. Among the member of the bar present were Messrs. Forbes, Battenberg, Benenjee, Krishna Iyengar Judge, Masters, Naidu, B.L., O'Brien, Banerjee, Gopalcharry, Rajahbahduravi Pillay, Ethirajulnaik Joshi, Krishnacharry.

THE VICEROY'S CAMP.

Camp Kolabari, Feb. 22.

The Viceroy and party continue to enjoy good sport. So far 5 tigers have been shot to-day. The first beat took place in a large patch of jungle close to the Kochagaon rest house, 4 miles from the camp. The beat was a difficult one and was skilfully managed by the Maharaja and Mr. Perree, Deputy Conservator of Forests. It resulted in an even better tiger than that shot the first day for it measured 10 feet one inch. It fell to the Viceroy's rifle.

Kolabari, Feb. 24.

Yesterday the party divided, Lord Lamington, with Mr. Perree going after bison and rhino, the Viceroy with the rest of the party after tiger. Lord Lamington was fortunate enough to get a bull bison, and a rhino was in very thick jungle but it was impossible to get near him. The Viceroy's party got two tigers during the day, a good tiger of 9-11 and a fine tigress of 8-11 who after twice breaking back through the line of elephants, was finally shot. This morning another beat resulted in a very good tiger of 9 feet 10½ inches being bagged. This is the eighth tiger that has been shot. To-morrow the camp begins to break up and the Viceroy leaves in the afternoon for Calcutta, Lord Lamington remaining a day or two langer.

VARIETIES.

SCIENTIFIC ROBBERS.

[illegible]rad, Austria, cu[illegible]

WONDERFUL WATCH.

The French firm of Leroy have completed a watch which marks the day, month, year, and leap-year for 100 years, the phases of the moon, seasons, solstices, equinoxes, the time at 125 of the principal towns of the world, the rising and setting of the sun.

SALARY PAID DAILY.

Leaving estate valued at £44,904 16s. 2d., Mr. John Crapper, Green-lane Cottage, Middleton, Manchester, bequeathed to his wife during her widowhood a weekly allowance of £6. A stipulation is that the money shall be paid daily (Sundays excepted) in instalments of £1.

FLOWER THAT WON'T FADE.

Mr. Luther Burbank, of San Francisco, has succeeded in developing a flower called the Australian Star, which when cut permanently retains its rich colour and odour although the stef withers away. As the flower is far more beautiful than an artificial one, it will probably work a revolution in the millinery business.

EGGS AS MONEY.

Eggs are current coin in Mayo, Kerry Donegal, and Leitrim. They are everywhere received over the counter in payment for tea, sugar, meal, oil, bread, tobacco, patent medicines, and general haberdashery. Accounts are kept open and goods supplied on credit in eggs. Predatory agents travelling through the wilds with worthless teas, itinerant tinkers and musicians, Polish Jews hawking tinsel jewellery and holy pictures, all accept this current coin, generally unloading it at the nearest railway town.

A PRIEST-RIDDEN COUNTRY.

Tibet's 6,000,000 people have to support an army of 430,000 priests, who produce nothing but beautifully illuminated copies of the sacred writings. They hold all the public offices.

COSTLY STAMP.

A stamp costing £3,900 has been placed on an agreement between the Metropolitan and District Electric Traction Company, and the Underground Electric Railway Company of London.

ARSENIC IN STOCKINGS.

At a recent investigation held in America to determine the amount of arsenic used in colouring clothing several samples of black stockings were found to contain a large quantity of the poison.

BABIES' HOTEL.

A "Babies' Hotel" under the control of a large nursing institution, where babies may receive ideal care and attention while their parents are travelling abroad, has just been opened in London.

WEIRD "ANGEL SHARK."

A fish known as the "Angel Shark," and generally found only in the North Pacific, has just been caught by a trawler in the North Sea. It is over four feet long, and has oddly shaped fleshy wings instead of the ordinary fins.

COST OF A KING'S HOLIDAY.

It is estimated that the King of Portugal's visit to England cost him between £25,000 and £30,000. Most of this large sum of money goes in presents to Court and royal officials. The rest is dispensed in gratuities to escorts, railw[illegible]

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