

Amrita Bazar Patrika

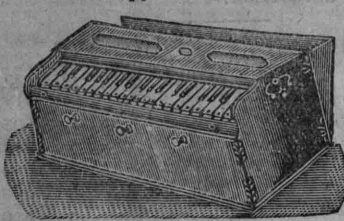
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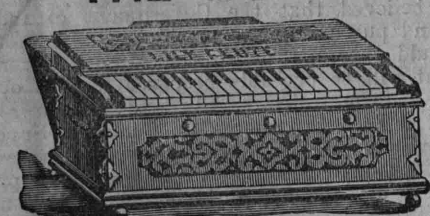
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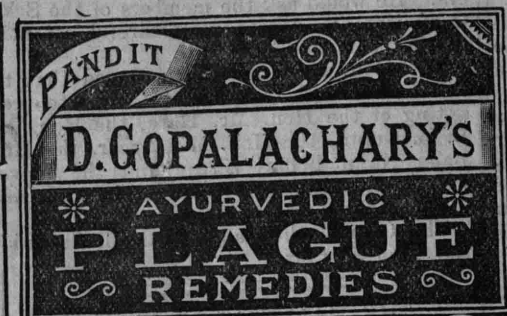
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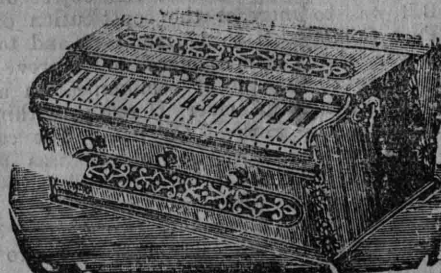
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Ranaghat

21 May 1904.

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Dy. Magistrate, Rajshahi.

Rajshahi, the 28th Oct. 1901.

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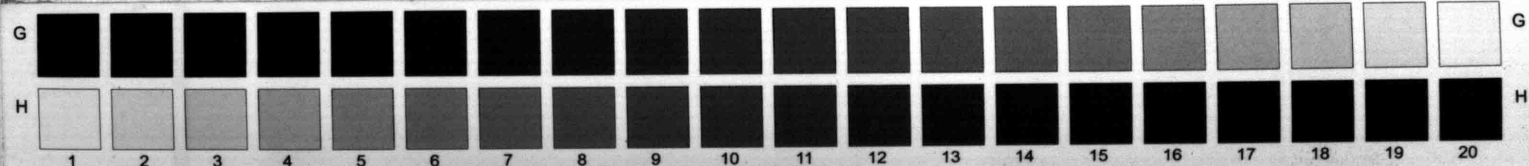
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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, MARCH 23, 1905.

THE LORD GAURANGA OF NADIA.

After reading the two volumes of the life of Lord Gauranga Miss H. A. Dallas the eminent writer and pious Christian wrote to a friend here in India:—"From my perusal of the 'Life of the Prophet,' I am able to agree entirely with the view expressed in the preface by the honoured author (of the Lord Gauranga), when he says that Chatanya was the vehicle of a message from God. I used the word 'vehicle' because it seems to me that it was not so much what he said which influenced men, as what he himself spiritually apprehended, felt and showed forth. God showed him that He is loving; that His love is not partial, but universal; God poured into the heart of His servant love for Him and love for all men, evidently therefore He was making Nimai (Gauranga) His Messenger—and His message."

Again Mrs. Dallas says: "I believe Nimai to have been a message-bearer from God because the message he brought is a pure and lofty one."

This is eminently satisfactory considering, that, as a Christian, Mrs. Dallas is bound to believe that Jesus Christ is not only the first but the only Avatar of God.

When we read accounts of God holding converse with human beings as described in the sacred books of the Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, and Mussalmans, how we wish we could believe them to be true! But the "enlightened" people of the present age have lost faith in such matters—they attribute all these stories either to fraud or imagination. But would not the lot of humanity be happy and glorious if it were found that these stories were true; that there is actually such a Being as God who is not only good, but is willing to hold, and has held communications with man, and who is also loving and promotes the well-being of His creatures? But we read the stories in the sacred books, and cannot, with all our efforts, put implicit or any faith in them.

To an "enlightened" man of the present age, God and the next world are at the most mere aspirations of human hearts, as their existence cannot be established on scientific basis. There is, however, one account of the glad tidings recorded in the sacred books which myriads of people will be irresistibly led to accept as true,—we mean the account giving the sayings and doings of Sree Gauranga. For it is based upon testimony which is unimpeachable and overwhelming in its character. And what does that account reveal? It is that God exists; that He loves more than man loves his dear ones; that He is perfect in His goodness, mercy, and charity; and above all, He has created man after His own image and the destiny of man is far higher than to acquire wealth, kingdoms and lord it over his fellows. The sayings and doings of Sree Gauranga are thus more valuable than the most valuable possession in this world.

Let every one study the Life of this last Avatar and be happy. His birth-day ceremony takes place to-day; and let every one rejoice over this incident. He was born in the best season of the year—spring—and on the best evening in the month of Falgun, when the full moon had risen in all its glory. Just then an eclipse took place and millions of throats uttered "Hari," "Hari" (God) and Hari came down to earth in the person of sweet and beautiful Gauranga! How an American lady who now calls herself Nityananda Dasee, came to accept the Nadia Avatar, is thus described in her paper, published below. Her address is care of Mr. G. B. Adams, 5512, Indiana Avenue, Chicago Ill. (U. S. A.)

NITYANANDA DASEE OF CHICAGO ON LORD GAURANGA.

INTRODUCTION.

I must acknowledge that the sole source of my information in regard to Lord Gauranga is derived from the book entitled "Lord Gauranga, or Salvation for All" written by Shishir Kumar Ghose, my father according to the Spirit.

The reason I have not written more at length of the Lord Gauranga is just this: My father has already given in this book, so complete a description of the life of our Lord and the way he came more and more into perfection of manifestation that it is unnecessary to add to it.

VAISHNAVISM

Vaishnavism is a religion having certain principles, as all religions must have.

Vaishnavas believe in and worship Vishnu, the wisdom aspect of Brahm. Vishnu, the Preserver of the universe, That Which holds the atoms of these worlds together by His Will. Vaishnavas believe in Krishna, the Seed and Soul of the universe—believe Him to be the most complete of all Avatars, and that others, such as Mahanad, Jesus, and Buddha, are partial and specialized manifestations of this Soul.

Another very important belief is this: That there are beings who though still living according to the flesh, are worthy to be Goroos to those of us who have not yet attained to such heights. And, although this idea was not one of the original tenets of Vaishnavism but was of Tantric origin; it is one of the most important teachings to-day. Goroos means: One who drives away darkness with Light. A beautiful idea, but to us in the West this is difficult doctrine. We have the habit of directness. Still Jesus said "No man cometh to the Father but by me." If the Goroos be very, very high, this relationship is no doubt beneficial to both Goroos and chela; but for one human being to worship another is often harmful, not only to the one who thus worships, but also to the one exalted. The human heart is prone to vanity, and to be Goroos safely one must have outgrown all vanity, all egotism, all desire to be Goroos. Such an one is only humble, humility itself, and to such will come his own; so it is in India to-day. The chela or disciple always chooses his or her Goroos, one who is considered worthy to stand in the exalted position between Krishna, the Lover, and His Beloved.

AVATARS.

There can never be but one reason for wars, namely: The need of a soul to express itself and the need of other souls to hear. There can never be but one reason for the appearing of God as man, namely: The need of God to express Himself and the need of man to

*This article appeared on the 21st March in this Daily Edition.

hear the Word. "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God." And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Even so, it is to-day, and the Word is with God. When he desires to express himself there must be a way; The Word never changes, the expression varies according to the tone of the instrument. It is impossible for the Highest to speak the Word to the lowest, as impossible as it would be for the super-ethereal vibrations to find vent through atmospheric vibrations without first passing through the vibrations of ether. So the ever non-vibrant G-d, namely: That which is itself free from change produces or permits vibrations or varied expressions of His Word. Hence, we have according to the needs of humanity Avatars and all the lesser ones. The highest, most complete of the Avatars lived in India five thousand years ago, Sree Krishna. Such an one could not manifest wholly in the present coarsened or solidified state of man; hence, we must needs have more materialized Avatars, such as Jesus and others. According to the accounts we have now had God as Master, Father, Brother and to-day man is beginning to cry out for God the Lover. We are going back to Brindabana, back to the beginning where Love reigns supreme, where all thought of ruling or being ruled is forgotten. Even Brotherly Love (so great in its time and place) is lost sight of in this supreme state where God the Lover and His Beloved dwell.

When we speak to Christians of this bliss, they say, "Is not the idea of God as Father, Jesus Christ as Brother, enough?" I answer "When you were a child the idea of your earthly parents, your brothers and sisters, as the expression of love was not that sufficient, why then did you seek for a lover?" "Because, there comes a time when father, mother, brother, sister does not satisfy, so we all seek the lover. Our father is no less a father, our mother no less a mother, but we have become free in the love of one whom we do not fear, one whose arms are ever open to receive us, because we are his worthy bride, because we have forsaken father and mother (the idea of a ruling power which we both love and fear) and cleave only to him with perfect love which casteth out all fear; then only do we become one with God, even as a man and woman, who have each forsaken all else, cling only to one another. God is ever anxious to enter into this marriage relationship with each of us. And to-day men and women begin to seek their Lover, God or Krishna, His Concrete Form.

KRISHNA.

Five thousand years ago in India lived Sree Krishna. There are so many accounts of his life among men, his Lilas (acts) that to repeat is unnecessary. His teaching was so transcendental that we need not have its meaning translated for us. So imbedded in matter had man become that the need of an interpreter became impressed upon Advaita, a devout man who lived near Navadweep, and he prayed earnestly to Sree Krishna to manifest himself upon earth again. The answer was Lord Gauranga, or Krishna Chaitanya, as he was called after his renunciation and his initiation as a sanyasi. He was, first: the embodiment of Radha, (the perfect human) searching for her lover. Seeing him now and again and hungering for him when he was not visible. Secondly: He was the lover of all, the lover who swallows up all other relationships in that of supreme love.

Krishna lived as a boy in Brindabana with the Gopies a life of pure love. Later he acted as a resplendent ruler at Mathura and at Dwarka. If we dwell in Mathura or Dwarka he is our ruler, that is, if we seek to attain to the highest by austere or formal worship we are of Mathura and our reward is certain; if we seek to attain to the highest through good deeds, we are of Dwarka and our reward is certain, but we will not have to do with God in the after life; we are still under law which is its place; as is beneficial, as necessary as love. While under law, cause is followed by effect, desire is satisfied only to create more desire until tired out we cry to go back home, back again to Brindabana, where loving is pure bliss, where love does not mean that which we call love here. In Brindabana, where every thought, every breath of the soul responds to the Divine Harmony, then only do we forget that there ever existed a battleground; then only is Radha made one with Krishna, the Supreme Lover of us all. Desire creates the thing desired, always. On the lower planes the penalties of desire are very great and the soul is forever under law, until it reaches the realm of spirit; then to desire is to have without the penalty. In the Rash Leela each Gopie had her desires satisfied, each had her Krishna, and in her complete happiness she forgot all else, because this highest of all Leelas was performed in the realm of pure spirit. To coarsen this by bringing it to the point where the average person of to-day could understand it, with his intellect, is sacrilege. This Rash Leela is what proves, if proof is necessary to those whom it concerns, that Sree Krishna was the highest, most complete Avatar of whom there is any record. The Leelas in Krishna's life are many; this, the crowning one, distinguishes him from all others.

And Jesus, our blessed Jesus, was not He also an expression of pure love? Yes, for God is Love, and it is only through love, that he ever manifests. His expressions must always be love, only love, and what Jesus says "I and my father are One" He has become the perfect expression of God. The difference in Avatars is because the difference exists in the souls of those to whom He speaks. Jesus was that which the Jews had drawn forth by their need, whether they accepted Him or not. A Krishna, a Buddha, they would have understood even less.

The need of expression of the word must be in both God and man, so when Advaita, prayed that Krishna would manifest himself, he spoke the word of man to God, and when love meets love energy is liberated. It is just this aspiring of man toward his God, this longing of Radha for her lover which brings into form God's love. These forms we worship as Avatars and it is through them that we approach our God.

SREE GAURANGA.

In many respects Lord Gauranga (Krishna Chaitanya) is to us the most important of the Avatars. He has taught us how to love God. He has taught us what it is for an awakened soul to be without God, what it is for such a soul to have God as his lover. Jesus made of man his brother, taught man how to show forth love for man, but sorrowfully he said "If ye had known me ye would have known my father also." Sorrowfully he said this because He knew they could not really know either God or His Son, Jesus Christ.

There have been, there still are, those calling themselves Vaishnavas who feel that they know God, that they are His Beloved, that they are parts of Radha, His Bride. More than four hundred years ago in Nadia, the city of learned men, Lord Gauranga was born. At the time of his birth, Nadia had attained the zenith in intellectual eminence and his devotees say this was to show that the end of all knowledge is to attain God. So he came to Nadia, the city of learning. His father, Jagannath Misra, gave him the name of Bishwambhar but his mother called him Nimai; the name Lord Gauranga was given him on the occasion of his assuming the sacred thread and Krishna Chaitanya at the time of his initiation as a Sanyasee. His physical beauty was something wonderful; the color of his skin was like moulten gold, form and features perfect; besides the charm of expression he made anyone who gazed him feel a thrill of joy. While he slept Sachee, (his mother), often found him surrounded by luminous figures and once when she called to his father to take him to his room they both heard the sound of musical anklets, (which he was not wearing,) and concluded that he must be Gopal (God in form of a child).

But when awake he was quite like other boys and gave his mother much trouble by running away and getting into various kinds of mischief.

Men and women of the neighbourhood would offer him sweetmeats and fruits to get him to dance for them, for when he danced it was as if some invisible influence impelled him and inspired the beholder with a joy so intense as to bring tears to the eyes; those who saw him dance felt like joining in with him, but dancing was not allowed in genteel society.

Many and strange were the things he did, such as touching things and persons which or whom it was an abomination to touch; in fact, it became later on one of his important teachings that it was his mission to purify all objects and persons, as in the case of the two brothers whom he named Rup and Sanatam, in the case of the robber chief Naorogi, who felt that his very soul was being drawn from him as the Lord looked into his eyes with love unspeakable. It did not please all of those who loved him that he should thus do; it was not according to their idea of a Brahmin, a learned pundit, for early in life he mastered the knowledge taught in schools; rather we might say, the mastery of knowledge was his, without the learning of it; but often his humility hid the fact that he was an intellectual giant. When Sarvaabhauma undertook to instruct him in the Vedas he found he already surpassed him in understanding of them but ignored the commentaries of Shankara; it was thus that he met Sarvaabhauma on his own ground, that of book learning, and defeated him, as it were, with his own sword. And so it was with each and every one. He met him where he was and overcame all that lay between their souls; still his object was never defeat; he was humility itself and rather than offend the pride of one whom he had excelled in the writing of a book he threw his book into the river. He defeated but to save. He literally drew all men to him by the charm of his personality. When a child of four he cried for the offerings; when taken to task for his lack of reverence for the Gods and Brahmins he replied with a mocking smile "I revere no one, everyone must revere me."

When Nimai was nine years old, his brother Visvarup who was sixteen, left home and entered upon a life of austerities; two years later he disappeared in the shape of a mass of light and mounted upwards, so say his disciples who surrounded him at the time. At this time, the age of nine, he was with much pomp and ceremony, invested with the sacred thread. After this followed a period of seclusion, as is customary; at the close of this his mother found him enveloped in a halo of powerful light. Nimai gravely said to her "I am leaving this body, I shall come again, the body I am leaving behind me is your son whom you should tend with great tenderness when I am gone." Then he seemed as one dead and with difficulty was brought back to consciousness. This is only the beginning of such lapses into unconsciousness or rather he seemed to leave the lower for a higher consciousness; but when asked what he had said during these lapses he would answer, "I do not know; I hope I said nothing disrespectful." This that he was at such times completed overcame the lower vehicles.

Of the Kirtan at Sreebas' house of all the wonderful acts of our Lord while overpowered by this, I dare not write.

When Nimai was twenty-three, his father having died twelve years before, he made a pilgrimage to the holy city of Gaya to go through a ceremony for the dead. While there he saw the footprint of Sree Krishna; floods of tears literally poured from his eyes and the spectators became spellbound. This was the most important crisis in the life of our Lord. Here begins his search for Krishna, he having the full Radha consciousness—the Radha consciousness that having once seen Krishna, the Beloved, is filled with intense longing, a longing which nothing else can appease. Our Lord's life is filled from now on with this alone, perfect rapture when Krishna is near, unbearable grief when He is gone. All that follows in the life of our Lord is too sacred for me to write of, so, dear reader, wood-bye.

PRAYER.

Dear Krishna! I see only Thee! Thee only do I touch with my senses! Thou art Light itself! Thou art Sweetness itself! But for Thy Light my eyes could see nothing. That I call some things beautiful and in others fail to see beauty is because I have not the eyes to see Thy Light. That I call some things sweet and fail to detect the sweetness in others is because I have not the sense of taste with which to partake of Thy Sweetness. That all sounds are not music to my ears is not because of inharmonious but because I am deaf; give me ears to hear the music of Thy voice in all sounds; give me eyes that I may behold Thy beauty; give me to taste of Thy Sweetness and touch Thou me that I may be alive.

THREATENED EXTINCTION OF THE NATION.

This question ought to engage the first consideration of the ruled and the rulers alike; yet how many of them know much less realize the awful significance of the fact, that a whole nation, composed not of savages but the most intellectual people in the world, is slowly, though surely, dying out! The apathy of the responsible rulers and the leaders of the country in this respect is something like criminal; for the threatened disappearance of the Bengalee and other races in India is preventable, and it is thus within the means of the Government and the people to stop it. It is, however, as true as anything that in due

course a crash is bound to come, if no proper remedies are promptly taken, when it will be too late for any earthly power to avert the catastrophe.

Let us to-day continue our remarks to a single district, Jessore, a district which is specially dear to us as it is our native district. Let us repeat what we said the other day, namely, that the return furnished by the Government of Bengal, in response to a question asked by the Hon'ble Babu J. Chowdhury, really reveals a ghastly state of things in regard to this district. It shows that, while the census of 1901 disclosed a decrease in population of 75,672 over a total of 1,88,827 in ten years, the birth-rate was as steadily declining, as mortality and sickness were rising. From further details placed at our disposal, it is quite evident that the health of the district is growing worse and worse and demands the immediate attention of the authorities.

For instance, we find that the total mortality recorded during 1904 was 7,69,993 or 42.46 per mille against 67,856 or 37.42 per mille of the previous year, and 71,454 or 39.38 per mille of the last five years. Malarial fever alone contributed 61,202 deaths against 56,827 of the preceding year. Now if the mortality recorded in 1904 was 7,69,993 the number of births during that period was 62,098. Which means that deaths exceeded births by 7,895 in a single year! Then again if the birth-rate continues to decrease in this proportion, 78,950 children less will be born in the next ten years than would have been the case if malaria and cholera had not such a strong hold upon the district.

Here is another way of looking at the question. For the last three years, 1902-4, we lost, in the district of Jessore, at the rate of nearly 15,000 people per annum. And if the situation remains unchanged, we should be prepared to lose something like one lakh and a half in the next ten years. So the candle is being burnt at both ends—while birth-rate is declining materially mortality is swelling by leaps and bounds.

Every district of Bengal tells, more or less, the same sad tale as Jessore does. That is to say, malaria and cholera are thinning the population everywhere both ways. The case of Jessore has reached a stage when Government interference on a large scale has become a matter of dire necessity. The existing natural and artificial causes of insanitation should be removed, and the well-to-do people of the district should put their shoulders to the wheel in order to save it from its threatened doom. The Government and the District Board should come forward with liberal grants, if they mean to prevent the district from utter depopulation.

The cause of this universal sickness and heavy mortality are many, but the most potent for mischief, as every body knows, are obstructed drainage and impure water-supply. It is not the fault of the people of Jessore that their district is so insalubrious; for they pay their taxes punctually and obey the law. If the Government, on its part, had done its duty, such a unique situation would not have been created. For about half a century or more the Bhayra reclamation scheme is hanging fire, but nothing has been done. For the last quarter of a century, the Muchkhali question is being considered, with no better result. It is some consolation that Mr. E. W. Collin, the worthy Commissioner of the Presidency Division has turned his thought to these matters and has consulted the leaders of public opinion about it. It is hoped that something will be done now. The letter of our Jessore correspondent, published elsewhere, contains some other important information in this connection.

MR. CAREY AND THE HOOGHLY PLEADER.

MR. H. A. D. CAREY is the Magistrate of Hooghly, which is a district in Bengal, and has of course the privilege of sending people to jail. Sometimes he exercises this privilege with unusual zeal. For, if he pounces upon one and misses his aim, he pounces upon him again. If he misses again he is not discouraged, but goes through the same process over again; and, in this manner, he is sure to secure his victim in the end; for, he it known that a Magistrate in India is too fully armed to ever lose a prey whom he has commenced pursuing with some determination.

An Indian Magistrate, in fact, is as fully armed as a Beduin Arab, and can use his weapons as successfully as the latter. The Beduin has his bow and arrows, his match-lock and javelin, and, above all, his Damascus steel and the swiftest horse in the world. If his arrows miss he tries his gun; when his gun misses, he throws his javelin at his enemy, and, if he yet fails, he brings his victim down by the speed of his horse cutting him down at last with his Damascus sword. And has not the Indian Magistrate also his unerring weapon in the Police when he has to secure his victim?

It was thus that Bibhuti Sekhar, a clerk of Mr. Carey while he was the Magistrate of Murshidabad, was brought under the clutches of the executive. If Mr. Carey's missiles missed over and over again in the beginning, the man was at last brought down sure enough. When a Magistrate in India is fired with the desire of sending people to jail, it is thus very easily satisfied. Whether this fact had anything to do with Mr. Carey's action in regard to his Mali (gardener) or not we cannot say; but, there is no doubt that Mr. Carey occupies just now a position, which is rather unique for a Magistrate, namely, the position of a sutor in the Small Cause Court, for the purpose of obtaining suitable compensation for one mischief said to have been committed by the offending gardener. The latter who, we believe, got Rs. 10 per month as his pay from Mr. Carey, left his service, we are told, without notice; and Mr. Carey sued him and demanded justice, which meant his pound of flesh in full. For though the Mali was allowed only Rs. 10 per month, the amount of damage laid against him is Rs. 210, a Magistrate damaged in the fullest sense of the word.

We do not think there was any necessity for Mr. Carey of taking this severe step for the purpose of punishing his gardener. A Magistrate, as he is, of a district, his frown is enough to make the strongest heart in India quail before him; but possibly he was seeking, not only to punish the gardener for leaving his service, but also to elude some enjoyment out of a new circumstance in his dull existence. There are, we fancy, many European Magistrates in India who would like to fight an Indian, on equal terms, as complainants, and shew that they can send people to jail, they can also successfully conduct a case, civil or criminal,

and bring his opponent down on his knees. The Mali possibly had tried to appease the wrath of Mr. Carey and appealed to his mercy; and Mr. Carey, as a merciful man, would have perhaps shown it to him. But then the exhilarating experience, so utterly new to a Magistrate, of appearing before a court with bundles of paper under his elbow, accompanied by a lawyer, was too great a temptation for him. He had seen others to do it; he was ambitious of trying the thing himself. Thus, who knows, it not that if Mr. H. A. D. Carey is now a sutor, a defendant, a complainant, and so forth, so was also one of his predecessors Mr. H. A. D. Phillips?

Anyhow there was no compromise; and the Mali, apprehending a disaster, sought the protection of the High Court and appealed to the Hon'ble Judges to transfer his case to some other district from Hooghly. When the Mali was at last obliged to take this step, Mr. Carey apparently was deeply mortified. How could the Mali be so mean as to think that Mr. Carey would take advantage of his position as Magistrate of Hooghly to win his case? Besides, his case seemed to him to be an easy affair when tried in his own district of which he is the lord and master; but would it not assume a quite different aspect if it were transferred to another district where he had no jurisdiction? These thoughts possibly passed through his mind. So he would not permit the transfer. And thus while the Mali prayed for it, he opposed it with all his might. It would have been a very pleasant change of occupation if he had been able to conduct the case against the Mali in the Small Cause Court of his own district where every body salaams him, inclining perhaps the Judge of the Court who was to have tried his case. But the Mali sought to spoil everything. So Mr. Carey had to approach the High Court in order to circumvent his opponent.

The Mali moved the High Court for the transfer of his case on the ground that no Hooghly pleader ventured to take brief on his behalf and against Mr. Carey. Mr. Carey, on the other hand, swore in an affidavit that it was not true that the Mali would get no lawyer to defend him; and in support of his contention his Vakil produced another affidavit from a lawyer of that district. This lawyer, in his turn, went the length of swearing that he was quite willing to take up the case for the Mali if the latter had paid him adequately. But how could the Mali trust a lawyer with his case who sought to prove him a liar by supporting the statement of Mr. Carey by an affidavit? Here comes then the most extraordinary part of the story! What business had any pleader of Hooghly to poke his nose in this controversy? The Mali said he had got no lawyer to defend his case. Mr. Carey sought to controvert it by stating that the Mali had lied. Well, each of the opponents had a right to stick to his own statement. What led a lawyer, a third party and apparently a stranger, to come forward and take part in this dispute?

Was the lawyer paid for by Mr. Carey to make an affidavit of this sort? We are sure Mr. Carey never did it nor would any pleader accept any such gratification. What was then the motive of the pleader to meddle with this controversy in such prominent manner?

In a matter like this Mr. Carey can expect help only from two classes of people—one who have been paid by him, and the other with whom he has dear and near relationship. We do not believe that the pleader got any remuneration for his affidavit. We he then a dear and near relation of Mr. Carey? We cannot say anything on the point, as we do not know even whether the pleader is a Bengali or a European. Possibly he was a Bengali, and in that case he could not be a relative of Mr. Carey, say, a dear relative like a brother-in-law. But, even if he were a brother-in-law, if not by blood but professionally—for Mr. Carey is also a lawyer—even then he had no business to appear as a party to this suit. Naturally therefore the Hon'ble Chief Justice was "surprised" when His Lordship found Mr. Carey "resisting" the transfer and made the Rule absolute.

Mr. Carey opposed the motion of the Mali for transfer on another ground, namely, that his garden tools required to be examined. The Chief Justice met this objection by suggesting that it would not be a difficult matter for him to send the tools to Sealdah where the case has been transferred. Here is an opportunity for the Calcutta people to go to Sealdah and inspect Mr. Carey's tools which, belonging as they do to Mr. Carey, an Indian Magistrate, must be rare curiosities.

The Government of India, instead of showing temper by refusing an answer to the question of the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale, should have, we think, thanked him for giving it an opportunity to remove an impression which is hardly complimentary to the authorities. The impression is that a large number of new appointments have been created during the last five or six years carrying salaries of Rs. 5,000 and upwards per annum and the vast majority of them have been made over to the white and semi-white races. Now most likely there is no ground for making such a serious allegation against the Government; for, we can hardly believe that, if Lord Curzon had surreptitiously committed the alleged mean act for the benefit of his own race, he would have never cared to express his disgust, in so public an emphatic manner in his Jeypur speech, at the way the natives of the soil were deprived of their appointments by foreigners. By laying on the table the return Mr. Gokhale asked for, the Government could have thus very successfully served its own interest. On the other hand, by petulently withholding the return, the Government has only confirmed the belief that it is really guilty of the charge preferred against it. Indeed, if Lord Curzon has nothing to hide, why was the Government so unwilling to produce the list of the new appointments? The plea of trouble and expense should have never been brought forward in a matter in which the fairness and good faith of the Government are involved. No Indian taxpayer would have grudged the amount of public money required for preparing the return in question. The matter has, however, another feature which altogether destroys the plea of the Government that it would involve a very large amount of labour and would occupy several months of time for the preparation of the list. The feature is that this return, which, the Government says, is beyond its power to furnish, can be prepared by a single private individual in the course of a few days. We trust, Mr. Gokhale will make an attempt in this direction, and perform the feat which the Government, with unlimited resources at its command, failed to do.

SCRAPS.

It is understood that the Bengal Government's scheme for reorganising the Provincial and Subordinate Educational Services and the ungraded officers of the department will shortly be read for transmission to the Secretary of State for India.

The usual memorandum on military matters, it is expected, will be published as usual with the Financial Statement next Wednesday morning. The note on railway affairs which will also appear will, in consequence of the recent changes in the Public Works Department, be prepared and issued by the Railway Board, and not as heretofore by the Member of Council.

At yesterday's meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta the Municipal Budget came on for discussion. It was a prosperous Budget which showed a surplus of about 2 lakhs of rupees. Before adopting the Budget several amendments were made. Mr. Braumfeld said that it was illegal and arbitrary for the Commissioners to fleece the rate-payers more money than what was actually necessary. He proposed that the rates be reduced by 2½ per cent. The present rate is 19½ per cent and he proposed to fix the rate at 17 per cent. The proposal was put to vote and lost. The Chairman announced that the Improvement Scheme would be launched during the present year.

"There has been so dull and sombre an atmosphere at Government House during the past week," says the "Planter's Gazette" that one would suppose the dejection of the day has not yet worn off. The paper hints that this is not due to the recent Town Hall Meeting, "but there are quite different reasons for the existing cause." We are told Lord Curzon is "preparing for a task, which threatens to tax his powers even more severely than the Delhi Durbar," the task being to make arrangements for the reception of the Prince and the Princess of Wales, when they come to India in next cold weather.

We read in the Bombay papers that Tipudas and five others were charged on the 19th instant before Mr. J. Sanders-Slater, Chief Presidency Magistrate, at the instance of the local Municipality with doing acts likely to spread an infectious disease. The offence of the defendants was, that they, in accordance with a custom prevalent among the Hindus for the past three hundred years, took small-pox patients to the temples to make offering of thanks-giving after recovery. All the accused were convicted by the Magistrate who inflicted on them fines ranging from Rs. 50 downwards. Surely in the absence of sufficient publicity being given to the effect that such practices are harmful and illegal, one cannot but consider the punishments as unnecessarily hard. The accused might have been let off with a warning, and that would have had a sufficient deterrent effect upon others to risk a criminal prosecution on this score.

At the last meeting of the Bombay Corporation consideration was given to a letter from the Commissioner, dated January 25th, regarding the desirability of trying the virus prepared by Dr. Danysz for the destruction of rats in Bombay. The Commissioner in his letter said:—"It appears that in the early days of plague, virus Danysz was tried in Bombay and found to be unsuccessful. The Health Officer, who, however, is sceptical as to the value of the poison, wrote to Prof. Roux asking for his opinion as to the possibility of exterminating rats by means of Danysz virus and also requesting him to send cultures. In reply Prof. Roux has only sent a leaflet containing certain instructions as to the employment of the virus but has sent no cultures and hence no experiments can be made. In July, 1903, a letter was received from Government asking us to arrange for experiments with the Common Sense Rat Exterminator which had been recommended by the Minister of Agriculture, Ontario. A sample of this material was obtained and tried in Bombay. Owing to the method of preparation and distribution the result was not successful." There was then a discussion as to what course should be adopted in exterminating the rats. According to the opinion of the majority of commissioners it was decided that the virus of Danysz should be given a fair trial. But the most funny suggestion was the one put forward by Mr. Joseph Baptista who considered that the way to get rid of rats was to keep cats. (Laughter.) In his house he had half a dozen cats and had never had a dead rat found on the premises during the whole course of the plague.

A VERY pleasant ceremony was performed by Mr. R. D. O. Bignell, the Commissioner of the Calcutta Police, on Saturday morning in Lal Bazar Police Station, when he presented Superintendent Brojendra Nath Chatterjee of Calcutta Police, with the "Sanad" conferring on him the title of Rai Bahadur.

Mr. H. L. D. Dy. Commissioner of Police, the Additional Dy. Commissioner of Police, the Superintendent, Inspectors, European Reserve Force, Fire Brigade and Armed Police were present on the occasion. Mr. Bignell in making the presentation said:—"It is my very pleasant duty this morning to hand you this sanad, sword and watch. They have been sent you by Government as representing if I may say so, the outward and visible signs of the honour lately conferred upon you when you were gazetted as a Rai Bahadur. This honour—the title of Rai Bahadur—was conferred upon you not only in recognition of many years of good solid work, but especially as a mark of appreciation of the unswerving straight-forwardness and honesty, which have been the characteristics of your whole life. When I took up this appointment over three years ago, one of my first endeavours was to trace out the work, character and past history of all the officers under me, and I am proud to feel I was able to recommend you to Government, and that Government endorsed my view. From my knowledge of you and your work, I feel you have thoroughly deserved the honour which Government has conferred upon you, and I feel assured it could not have been more worthily bestowed. I congratulate you most sincerely and through you I congratulate the whole Calcutta Police on the recognition they all receive in the honour conferred upon you." Three hearty cheers for the fortunate recipient of the honour concluded the ceremony.

Goaded to desperation by the refusal of the Comptroller-General to accept his objection to the competitive test on the ground that it would prove most advantageous to Bengalees, the Accountant-General, United Provinces, has issued a notification declaring that a competitive examination will be held on Thursday next in his office at Allahabad for six appointments of Assistant Secretaries. It may be that Mr. Gauntlett is not himself unfavourably disposed towards the Bengalees and he went on the crusade against them simply to win the favour of Sir James Macdonald, in the hope that His Honor, whose anti-Bengali proclivities are well known, might see his way to recommending his permanent appointment to the office of Accountant-General or some suitable post in the Secretariat. To his discomfort, however, his own chief has come to the rescue of the poor Bengali.—"Gleaner."

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

A STRIKING CONTRAST WHICH CONCERNS INDIA.

The daily press of this country does not often publish lengthy communications from their 'Own Correspondents' in India. Occasionally the "Morning Leader" and the "Daily News" do so, and even the "Daily Mail" in rare circumstances. This week a striking contrast in this respect has been afforded to those who had eyes to see. On Monday last the "Daily News" gave a full column to a masterly exposition for "Our Own Correspondent" in Calcutta of the evil arising from the combination of the executive and judicial functions in one person; yesterday the "Daily Mail" actually spared half a column of its valuable space to the publication of something more than a tabloid account of "A New Era in India," set forth as "A Warning to Britain." Was it the danger of a serious uprising, another Mutiny? By no means. It was only the intimation that India is going to manufacture its own steel and that British manufacturers will consequently suffer from "vanishing markets."

No more forceful contrast could be imagined than the dignified article which set forth the need for the reform of a crying evil in India, an evil recognised by the authorities, which makes the "thief-catcher the judge,"—an evil, too, which can only be defended by the lame excuse that the separation of the two functions would mean loss of prestige to the man who holds them—and that of the shrieking self-interest of the "Daily Mail" communication from Calcutta, enunciating a policy which is only slightly removed from the exclusiveness of the Australian Commonwealth against the lascars. British merchants are urged to meet Indian competition by transferring their industries to India. Coal, jute, and cotton have succeeded in this way, why should not steel follow? Here are one or two of the telling sentences intended to appeal most forcibly to British manufacturers:

"The pecuniary advantage is so great of working up raw materials in the locality where they occur, when this happens, as in India to be close to the homes of a teeming population of customers, and in the midst of industrious workmen, that the movement is bound to develop."

"The British workman of to-day will be the British overseer of to-morrow in a land where every white man is a sahib, and where the sahib prospers exceedingly."

"Mill manager, colliery overseer, and iron-master all retire to spend their old age in England. They take their earnings with them. There is a transference, not a loss, of industrial power."

"The sahib prospers exceedingly!" "He takes his earnings with him!" What is this but absolute and selfish exploitation when it is urged on British merchants as a means of meeting Indian competition? Well may Sir William Wedderburn emphasise, as he did when lecturing at Hampstead last Monday, that Britain's duty to India must be to work for India's good whether in the process good or harm comes to Britain. But this high ideal is lost in the clamour for greed and self. India matters not.

THE CASE FOR REFORM IN INDIA.

The "bureaucratic silence," which, in Lord Reay's humorous phrase, Sir William Wedderburn preserved at Sir Henry Cotton's meeting at the National Liberal Club last week, was soon broken, and the address he gave at the Hampstead Town Hall last Monday, under the auspices of the Hampstead Peace and Arbitration Society, was one of the most telling that I have ever heard India's champion deliver. Sir Henry Cotton and Sir William Wedderburn are powerful leaders on India's behalf, and when they are present at the same meeting, as was the case at Hampstead when Sir Henry occupied the Chair, the audience is always impressed by the statement of the case for reform in India. In addition to the excellent address and to one or two short speeches from Sir Henry, a very interesting discussion took place in which a number of important subjects were ably dealt with. The first one was the "Daily News" article, to which I have referred elsewhere, about the separation of the judicial and executive functions in India. A clergyman in the audience read out portions of that excellent communication from Calcutta, and asked for information on the matter from experienced men such as Sir William and Sir Henry. He did not ask in vain, and Sir William referred with approval to the scheme worked out by Mr. Romesh Dutt to effect the change for Bengal at little extra cost. Sir Henry, too, told the audience that the Viceroy had remarked in his presence that the reports of provincial governments on the question were really a formidable file, but that he intended to carefully examine them when at Simla. "That was in 1901," added Sir Henry, "and nothing definite has yet been done in the matter." A gentleman from Canada expressed his regret at hearing such pessimistic accounts of the state of affairs in India. "We think a great deal about the appointment and functions of the Indian Members of the Viceroy's Council. He, too, added a weighty observation with regard to Canada: "Canada was exceedingly dissatisfied until she obtained the management of her own affairs; India would be content if she had Canada's privileges." Another comprehensive question was as to what would have been the result in India if the Sepoy Mutiny had succeeded, and still another was a desire to know the result of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals as applied to India. On the latter point Sir William would not give an opinion, declaring that he did not feel competent to dogmatise on the question. Agricultural Banks and the reconstitution of the village system in India were other matters to which time was devoted in the discussion. And one of the pleasant surprises of the meeting was the presence of Colonel Hanna who made a most interesting speech. He naturally dealt with the question of military expenditure and spoke of the anomaly of spending huge sums of money on futile military projects when 70 per cent. of the Indian people were on the verge of starvation. But, he added, the military authorities cannot divest themselves of the "silly, shameful fear of Russia." He advocated for India a mobile and strong army whose measure of capacity would be not numbers but efficiency. The transformation expeditions, he maintained, were devised with a view to self-interest and the credit for expansion—"K.C.B.—hunting," as Sir Henry Cotton wittily called it.

You will, of course, receive a verbatim account of the proceedings and will see how well Sir William presented India's case; I explained the definite issues which the Congress delegates intend to put before the people of this country, namely, the renewal of Periodical enquiries in India, after the manner of the days of the East India Company, and the advisability of securing further discussion upon Indian questions in the House of Commons by placing the salary of the Secretary of State for India on the British Estimate. So keen was the interest taken in the lecture and the subsequent discussion that more than one member of the audience expressed the hope that a verbatim account would appear in the Hampstead papers. Both Sir William and Sir Henry, I may add, have returned to England deeply touched by the enthusiastic demonstrations their visit to India evoked, and both appear to have renewed both youth and energy during their stay in the East.

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE FORMED.

DEPUTATION TO ENGLAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Benares, Mar. 19.

Yesterday a public meeting of the raises, leading citizens of Benares and representatives from Allahabad, Lucknow, Ghazipur, Mirzapur, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Aligarh, Agra, Jalaun and Gorakhpur consisting of Hindus, Mahomedans, Indian Christians and Europeans was held in the Duke of Edinburgh town hall to form a Reception Committee of the twenty-first Congress to be held in Benares in December next. The meeting was overcrowded. Not less than 1000 men were present. The Hon'ble Munshi Madhohal presided. Resolutions appointing the reception Committee was moved by Goshain Bhawanipuri, seconded by Pandit Chanoal and supported by Syed Fazal Hussain of Aligarh, Rai Bahadur Raghunandan Prasad, Messrs. A. C. Mukerjee, C. Y. Chintamani of Allahabad and Rev. Edwin Greaves.

Mr. Greaves expressed full sympathy with the Congress which he said was a perfect loyal movement and ought to be supported by Christian Missionaries, who are citizens, and wanted to touch the heart of the people. He gladly became a member of the Reception Committee as he thought it an honor. He hoped that the Congress will benefit Benares and Benares will benefit the Congress. The Reception Committee consists of above 300 gentlemen representing all classes and communities of the whole province.

The second resolution appointing Pandit Bishun Narain Dar, delegate of the United Provinces on the Congress Deputation to England was moved by the Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya seconded by Munshi Sankata Prasad and Mr. A. P. Sen of Lucknow and supported by Moulvi Nasiruddin Ahmed, Pandit Gokarnath Misra, Rai Sahab Murlidhar of Ambala and Syed Fazal Hussain. Both the resolutions were carried by acclamation. Munshi Gangadhar Verma proposed a vote of thanks to the chair and eulogised the Chairman for his devotion and services to the cause of the Congress. A meeting lasted for several hours. Great enthusiasm prevailed. The Reception Committee will meet to-day to appoint office-bearers, executive committee and to select a site for the pandal.

BOMBAY COURT OF WARDS ACT.

Bombay, Mar. 18.

At the Bombay Legislative Council to-day, when moving the second reading of the Bombay Court of Wards Act, the Hon. Sir James Montagu said that the Bill had careful consideration by the Select Committee and great care had been taken to avoid conflict with other Acts. In Select Committee they had been able to come to a conclusion on certain points, but there remained certain points of difference and the Hon. Mr. Dikshit had made a dissenting Minute in which he suggested that clause 40 (1) was one of the provisions which had rendered the Bill unpopular. The Hon. Member said that the Bill had found favour both in the English and Vernacular Press and there was no justification for saying that clause 40 of the Bill had rendered the measure unpopular in any way.

Latest news from Kabul states that the Amir held a durbar and conferred the title of Nihil Sultanat on Prince Nasirullah Khan (who visited England some few years ago) and the title of Moim Sultanat on Sirdar Inayatullah Khan, his eldest son, who has just returned from India. Sirdar Abdul Kadoo Khan, (brother of Colonel Mahomed Ismail Khan, the Amir's Envoy in India) has been made Prime Minister with the title of Moim-ud-dowlah. Sirdar Futtee Khan, a nephew of the Envoy, has been made Minister of Police for the whole Province. The Mission will proceed to Simla direct from Kabul.

Major Ramsay, C.I.E., Revenue and Judicial Commissioner of the Province, leaves Quetta on a long leave home on the 21st instant; his successor, Mr. A. Williams, I.C.S., on his way out on return from leave, is expected at Quetta about the first week next month. Meanwhile Major Archer, Political Agent, officiates. Major Tighe, Political Agent, Sibi district, goes on duty with ex-Amir Yakub Khan, being succeeded by Major McConaghey, at present officiating Political Agent, Khelat, on resumption of that appointment by Major Showers, C.I.E., who is expected back from leave early next month.

The announcement that two companies of Sappers are to be employed in improving the Hindustan-Tibet Road will not cause any surprise, for since Gartok has been opened as a mart there has been an obvious need to finish the road from Simla to the Tibetan frontier. The last section was purposely left unmade for some twenty miles, when the Government of India, through their engineers, laid out what was pretentiously called the Tibet Grand Trunk Road, the idea being to have difficult bit of ground on the actual frontier. The result has been that trade has never sought the Simla route that to and from Almora being preferred. It does not follow, writes the "Pioneer," that under the new conditions there will be any marked change, but still every facility should be given to traders from the Punjab side. The road, itself beyond Narikanda can be widened with advantage, and the Sappers will have plenty of work to do in the coming season.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Weather in Darjeeling.—After the spell of unreasonable weather a message from Darjeeling Sunday night states that the weather has cleared and the days are bright.

Official.—Mr. Gordon Ramsay will be placed on special duty in connection with the Agricultural Bank's question in Bengal, while Mr. Gouray is acting as Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor.

Monetary.—The reserve in silver held by the Paper Currency Department amounted on the 18th March to Rs. 9,33,11,962, against Rs. 15,88,19,122 held in gold coin and bullion. The total value of notes in circulation was Rs. 37,38,72,245.

The Rolt Case.—As we have already said the Commission on the Rolt Case is now engaged in writing its report in Calcutta. We now learn that it will be submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal before he leaves for Darjeeling.

Hail Storm.—A correspondent writes from Dacca on the 17th instant, as follows:—An extraordinary hail storm occurred at Dacca town this evening at 6-20. Stones of the size of cricket balls fell for nearly ten minutes. One stone, lifted ten minutes after falling, measured eleven inches in circumference.

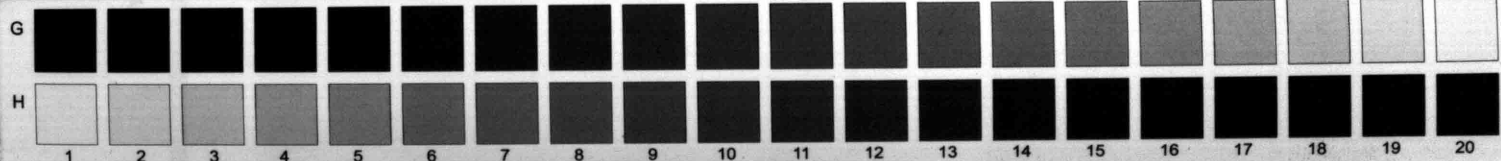
Savings Bank Rules.—Important changes are to be made in the rules of the Savings Bank Department of the Post Office. From the 1st July the deposits are to be divided into two classes. One is to be held at call, and the other subject to six months' notice of withdrawal. The rate of interest on deposits at call will be 3 per cent., and the subject to six months' notice will be allowed 3½ per cent. This is a step in the right direction, as Sir Arthur Fanshawe, the Director-General must have from experience found that a large number of depositors who are poor and in humbled circumstances deposit money in the bank for long periods, and it is aimed to benefit them that the increased interest is allowed. Possibly the object of the six months' notice of withdrawal is to reduce work in the Savings Bank Department as the inducement of the increased interest will present depositors from withdrawing their accounts as often as they do at present.

The Viceroy's Tour.—The Viceroy will probably leave Calcutta on the 31st instant for Pusa. His Excellency will then proceed to Lucknow to visit the Balie Guard, the Emambari, and confer with Sir James. La Touche regarding the Prince of Wales's programme there. From Lucknow His Excellency will visit Agra and issue orders for the pitching of Their Royal Highness's camp on that same historical plain where H.M. the King had his camp. Arrangements will also be made for an entertainment at the Taj, and at the Dewankhas, all invitations to which will be issued by Sir James and Lady La Touche to meet Their Royal Highnesses. Lord Curzon will then proceed to Delhi to personally define the arrangements for the Royal visit. From Delhi His Excellency will proceed to Meerut, where the Imperial Cadet corps will be inspected, and probably the names of the four recipients for commissions will be announced. His Excellency will proceed to Simla reaching there on the 12th April.

Alleged Elopement with a Dancing Girl.—On Monday, before Mr. D. H. Kingsford, Chief Presidency Magistrate, Babu Sukumar Chatterjee, appeared on behalf of a woman and made an application against three young men, by name Shoshi, Gyan and Chandi, under the following circumstances. The defendants were known to the complainant. They used to visit her daughter Rani above 13 years old. On the night of the 18th instant, the three defendants called at her house at 10 p.m. As night advanced, the old woman went to sleep at midnight, however, she was roused by the servant from sleep and was informed that Rani and the three men were not in the room. She immediately got up and searched for her daughter but could not find her anywhere. She had on her person some gold ornaments, which she had taken away. The Court after hearing the facts, ordered the issue of a warrant against Rani, for her production in court.

A Special Train.—The Eastern Bengal State Railway have just issued a notification declaring their intention to run a special train fortnightly to and from Darjeeling whose timings are to be so arranged as to be more convenient for business men who are anxious to go up to the hill station for the week-end. The Manager of the E. B. S. R., in broaching the proposal, says:—"In view of the unsuitability of the present timings of the mail trains to and from Darjeeling for business men desirous of spending a week end there, and of the impossibility of altering those timings without involving a crossing of the Ganges ferry at an hour which would be very inconvenient for the public generally, and especially for ladies and children, it is proposed, if sufficient support is received, to run special train for 1st class passengers only to Darjeeling, leaving Calcutta on Thursday evenings after the close of the English mail and returning to Calcutta on Tuesday morning in ample time for business. It is hoped that eventually the traffic will develop to the extent of justifying a weekly service, but at the outset, and subject of course to the response which is now received, the intention is to run the service fortnightly between the 13th April and the 13th June."

"Landlords and Tenants."—"Landlords and Tenants" is the title of a leaderette in the "Journal" of Sunday last. We have read, with no slight amusement, the remarks made by the writer on the representation of the British Indian Association regarding the proposed amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act. "The landlords of Bengal," the writer says, "are up in arms against a bill which the Local Government has introduced to amend the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885. From the heated opposition that is being directed against certain provisions by the British Indian Association I conclude that the bill is one deserving the fullest support of all who would see the condition of the ryot improved and the power of the rapacious landlords diminished." These lines clearly show that the writer has not read the Land Revenue Circular suggesting the introduction of a bill against which the so called "heated opposition" of the British Indian Association is directed. The bill has been introduced, but is proposed to be introduced, and the British Indian Association has been invited to express its opinion upon the subject. It is clear also that the draft bill has not yet been examined by the writer, for had he done so he would never have said that the bill should be supported, not on its intrinsic merits, but simply because of "the heated opposition" which is being directed against it by the British Indian Association.—The "Hindu Patriot."



Howrah Vital Statistics.—349 births and 479 deaths were recorded in Howrah in the month of February 1905. The birth-rate was 26.5 per 1,000 per annum and the death-rate 36.4. There were 85 deaths from cholera, 8 from small-pox and 64 from plague.

Victoria Memorial Hall.—We believe the question is still unsettled as to what marble is to be used in this building. The choice seems to be between Greek quarries, ready to turn out large quantities but at a high cost, and Indian and Burma quarries, workable at a lower cost, but in which there are as yet no means of supplying the material on a large scale or of finishing it by mechanical process.—"Indian Engineering."

New Building Scheme in Calcutta.—We gather that the near future will see many big undertakings set on foot, involving important architectural additions, in Calcutta. Commercially this city is developing rapidly and the demands on behalf of mercantile firms are difficult to meet. Besides this the City improvement scheme will render it possible for landlords to make better use of their grounds.—"Indian Engineering."

Friday Union.—At the inaugural meeting of the above club held last Friday in the evening Babu Abinash Chandra Ghose B.A. delivered an interesting address on "The Growth of our National Life." The lecturer among other things pointed out very clearly and in his usual impressive way, that the facilities afforded by the British Government for fusing the people of different nationalities into one homogenous whole, are great; and in order that we may grow into beneficent power it is desirable that we should make the best use of the factors that are at work amongst us. The meeting was a crowded one.

Scientific and Industrial Association.—The following five scholars of the Association for the Advancement of Scientific and Industrial Education of Indians started for England on the 9th March 1905 by the "Reva":—Messrs K. C. Nandi, I. B. De, L. M. Sen, D. K. Ray and B. A. Taber. The following four scholars have also started for Japan by the "Palomotta":—Messrs L. B. Vidyant, M. C. Ray, S. P. Gupta and J. N. Sahai. The following 3 other students also left by the "Palomotta" for Japan under the care of the Association:—Messrs J. N. Sarkar, S. M. Bose and M. Hossain. Four more scholars of the Association who have been unavoidably detained will start by the next steamer for Japan and two for England.

Postal.—The following permanent appointments are made in the Postal Department, with effect from the 13th February 1905:—Mr. E. A. Doran, Postmaster General, 2nd grade, at present officiating in the 1st grade, to be confirmed in that grade; Mr. C. J. Laluka, Deputy Postmaster General, 1st grade, to be Postmaster General, 2nd grade; Mr. C. Goodburn, Deputy Postmaster General, 2nd grade, to be Deputy Postmaster General, 1st grade; Mr. G. A. T. Bennett, Deputy Postmaster General, 3rd grade, on furlough, to be Deputy Postmaster General, 2nd grade. The following acting appointments are also made in the Department, vice Messrs. Cornwall, Harrison and Bennett, on leave.—Mr. W. Maxwell, I.C.S., Postmaster General, 2nd grade, and Deputy Director General of the Post Office, to act as Postmaster General, 1st grade, from the 13th February to the 1st March 1905, vice Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson, I.C.S., on leave. Mr. F. Whympere, Postmaster General, 2nd grade, to act as Postmaster General, 1st grade, from the 2nd March 1905, during the absence on furlough of Mr. C. H. Harrison, I.C.S. Mr. I. G. J. Hamilton, Deputy Postmaster General, 3rd grade, to act as Deputy Postmaster General, 2nd grade, during the absence on furlough of Mr. G. A. T. Bennett.

A CASE OF ADMINISTERING STUPEFYING DRUG.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Hogchiv, Mar. 19. Four up-countrymen, by name Raghu Raj Bhunia, Biglal Bhunia, Ram Dutt Mssir and Gauri Sankar Tewari, were put on their trial before the Hogchiv Sessions. They were charged with administering stupefying drug to one Deo Narain Rohidas, a grocer by profession, with a view to rob him of his money as also causing hurt to him. The accused made Deo Narain smoke some intoxicating herbs, which made him mad, and he having robbed him of his money left him lying on a railway line so that a passing train may put an end to his life and thus save them from difficulties and troubles. But the man escaped the terrible fate that was intended to overcome him and informed the Police of the matter. The Police duly arrested them and put them on their trial. The Jury on the evidence before it, unanimously found accused Nos. 1, 2 and 4 guilty under Sec. 324 I. P. C. and not guilty under Sec. 328 I. P. C. in the proportion of three to two, and they unanimously declared accused No. 3 not guilty. The Court thereupon sentenced accused Nos. 1, 2 and 4 to 5 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 20 each or in default one month's additional imprisonment and discharged accused No. 3.

Mr. Kirk, Director-in-Chief, Indo-European Telegraphs, has been granted three years' extension of the appointment.

The United Provinces Legislative Council will meet at Lucknow on Tuesday the 11th April, when the Financial Statement will be presented.

The following is the summary of crop and weather in the U.P. for week ended 15th March:—All districts report rain. Dehra, Garhwal, Almora and Bijnor have received almost two inches. The rain on the whole has done good. It is, however, reported to have injured peas in Jaunpur and Rust has appeared in several fresh districts. Hail has caused damage in Behraich, Jaunpur and Ghazipur. The harvesting of spring crops has commenced in places. Fodder is scarce in parts of Bijnor, Etawah and Unao. Prices continue high.

An extraordinary shooting accident is reported from Sagar. Some time ago, Private McPherson, "F" Company, Welsh Regiment, proceeded to Sagar on a shooting pass, and was there accompanied by an experienced shikari. On Thursday they succeeded in shooting a large panther, and hastened to capture their prey. But the animal was not dead, and on their near approach sprang at the shikari, bringing him to the ground. McPherson, hastily loading his rifle, fired, but unfortunately the bullet found its way to the shikari, who died from the wound. McPherson himself was badly mauled, and is now in the local hospital. The police exonerate him from all blame.

High Court.—March 20.

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justices Henderson and Geidt.)

TROUBLES OF A PETITIONER.

Sonaram B. Sangma, a native of Goalpara in Assam, in August 1904 while residing at Alipur, 24 Perganas received a Porwana from the Dy. Commissioner of the Garo Hills ordering his immediate presence before him. Sonaram sent a representation saying that owing to urgent business he was unable to leave Calcutta and praying that the nature of the business requiring his presence might be mentioned. In reply to this representation Sonaram was informed that the Chief Commissioner of Assam, in reference to a petition made by him in respect to a certain land, directed the Dy. Commissioner to send for Sonaram and inform him that it was not open to him to arouse discontent by pretending right over certain land and that if he did not abstain from renewing the agitation he would be bound down for three years. On 29th September another Porwana was received by Sonaram in which the Dy. Commissioner directed him to show cause why he should not be bound down under section 110 I.P.C. Apparently Sonaram took no action upon the Porwana. He went home and towards the end of January last while returning to Calcutta one day he was arrested at Goalpara. He was taken to Dama and ordered to execute a bond of Rs. 10,000 to be of good behaviour for three years or in the alternative to suffer rigorous imprisonment for the same period. The above order was passed; it was alleged, without holding legal enquiry or recording evidence. Since then Sonaram is suffering imprisonment in the Gauhati Jail.

Mr. Cotton, with Babu Surendra Nath Ghosal, who moved this court on behalf of Sonaram, urged that the proceedings of the Dy. Commissioner was void and that under the peculiar circumstances, the mere fact of taking bonafide steps against personal grievances and praying remedies by representations and memorials was not an unlawful or illegal act.

Their Lordships passed the following order:—Let a rule issue upon the Dy. Commissioner of the Garo Hills to show cause why the order under section 110 should not be set aside on the ground (1) that the order was made at Dama, a place outside the local limits of his jurisdiction and (2) that the circumstances do not come within sec. 110.

USING FALSE TRADE MARK.

Babu Dasarathi Sanyal with Babu Chandra Sekhar Banerjee on behalf of Motilal and Premisul moved for a rule upon the Chief Presidency Magistrate to show cause why the conviction and sentence passed upon the petitioners who were piece goods merchants lately purchased 13 boxes of woollen shawls from Messrs. Ker Taruk and Co. bearing labels "K.L. Das and Sons." The petitioners sold some of the goods in the market. On the complaint of Kanhai Lal Dass, carrying on business under the name and style of K.L. Dass and Sons the petitioners were placed on their trial before the Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta under section 482 I.P.C. (using false trade mark) and under section 486 (selling goods marked with false trade mark) and eventually convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 50 each in default to undergo 7 days imprisonment. Their Lordships after hearing learned Vakils issued a rule on the terms prayed for.

A RULE ISSUED.

Babu Jadunath Kanjilal, Vakeel, moved on behalf of one Mohamed Sheikh who was convicted of having wrongfully confined one Dhonsa Sheikh and was sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment for one month and to pay a fine of Rs. 50 by a 1st class Magistrate at Gouhati. The petitioner appealed to the Sessions Judge of the Assam Valley Districts, who dismissed the appeal only in these words "I see no reason to interfere" after hearing both sides at length. The learned Vakeel contended that the Judgment so passed was not in accordance with law as laid down in sec. 367 Criminal Procedure Code, which required the appellate Court to indicate the points for determination and to state reasons for its findings. Nothing of the kind was done in this case.

Their Lordships directed a Rule to be issued calling upon the District Magistrate of Kamrup to show cause why his judgment should not be set aside as being bad in law and the appeal reheard. Pending the hearing of the Rule the petitioner was directed to be released on bail, and it was ordered that intimation of the fact should be sent down at an early date.

MORTALITY IN JESSORE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Jessore, Mar. 19. Most of the rural areas of Jessore were formerly very healthy, but the silting up of the river channels has proved their ruin. There are three municipal towns in the District, Moheshpur, Kotchandpur and the town of Jessore.

The death rate of Moheshpur in 1904 is 46 per mille, which is larger by 4 than the average death rate of the District, and larger by as compared with 35 per mille in 1903.

The death rate of Kotchandpur in 1904 is 30 per mille which is less by 12 than that of the District and lesser by 2 as compared with 28.8 of 1903.

The only place in the District which shows comparatively good health is the town of Jessore whose death rate is 18 per mille in 1904 as compared with 23 per mille of 1903 and 21 per mille of the preceding ten years. The health of the town of Jessore now compares favourably with many healthy towns in Bengal.

It is to be noted that the mortality of the Jessore jail is rather heavy in comparison with that of the town. While it is 18 per mille in the town, it is 30 per mille in the jail.

Infant mortality is very high in the District.

Total number of births was 62,602 and the total number of infant deaths was 13,461. The rate of death per mille of infants is thus 215, or in other words one-fifth the children die within the 1st year of their births.

The figure is simply appalling. Should not something be done to arrest the evil?

WEATHER IN NORTHERN INDIA.

There is much in the meteorological conditions of the present year to remind those who were in Northern India when Lord Lytton's Durbar was held at Delhi, of the weather of 1877. Fortunately for the show itself, which terminated on the 6th of January, rain held off till the 7th of that month. But then it began in earnest and continued off and on until the latter end of March especially in districts which were within the influence of the Himalayas, and what was rain in the plains was snow in the hills. There was not, it is true, any exceptional occurrence of frost after the first week in January when, as visitors to the Lytton Camp will remember, ice often appeared in pans of water left outside the tents at night. But otherwise the weather was very similar to that of the current season. The sequel was that in these Provinces no rain of any importance fell in the monsoon months until the 4th of October. It was this circumstance that led to the now well-known theory adopted by the Meteorological Department that an excess of snow in the Himalayan regions prevents the heating of the soil in the extensive regions north of the plains of Upper India from becoming sufficiently great to draw up the monsoon. For the rays of the summer sun are reflected by the snow back into space and are not in this theory, it is certain that the monsoon of 1877 which did its duty in breaking over South India at the proper time was deflected at right angles into China by way of Burma and failed to struggle up into Northern India. The conditions of 1905 will at any rate serve to test the value of the meteorological theory.

INVENTIONS AND DESIGNS.

Applications in respect of the under-mentioned inventions have been filed under the provisions of the Inventions and Designs Act of 1888, in the office of the Secretary appointed under that Act during the week ending 11th March 1905:—William Henry Walters, assistant in the Great Eastern Hotel, of 2-2, Weston Street (off Bentinck Street), Calcutta. Improvements in life-buoys and the like.—John Prothero Davies, engineer, of 19, Fawcett Road, Putney, England. Improvements in and relating to water tube boilers.—Frank Eustace Wilkins Bowen, engineer, of 6, Newcastle Street, Farringdon Street, London, England. Improvements in explosives.—Frank Eustace Wilkins Bowen, engineer, of 6, Newcastle Street, Farringdon Street, London, England. Improvements in explosives.—Henry Livingston Sulman and Hugh Fitzalis Kirkpatrick, Picard, metallurgists, both of 44, London Wall, London, England, and John Ballot, merchant, of 62, London Wall, London, England. Improvements in the separation of metalliferous minerals from gangue.—Cosmo Kendall, mining engineer, of Abbot'sleigh, Church Road, Upper Norwood, in the county of Surrey, England. Improvements in or pertaining to the separation of graphitic substance from associated rocky matter or gangue.—Donald Clark, metallurgist, of Baringsdale, in the State of Victoria Commonwealth of Australia. An improved process for the separation of gold from silver and other metals and metallic substances with which it is commonly associated in slimes and in precipitates on zinc, or other metals or substances.—Jean Marie Andre Faure, engineer, of 21, Place du Champ de Foire, Limoges (Haute Vienne), France. Improvements in machines for decorticating ramie and other fibrous plants.—Nur Din, Suraj Din, gunsmiths of Lahore city, and William Henry Frivett, retired Inspector of Police, also of Lahore. Invention for facilitating the working of Persian wheels in drawing water from wells.—The South African Remedy for Piles Syndicate, Limited, manufacturers, of Strathmore House, Rissik Street, Johannesburg, South Africa. Medicine for the cure of piles, hemorrhoids and complaints of a like nature.—Arsh Shir Temulji Mirza, mechanical engineer, Jamnagar, Kathiawar, Bombay Presidency. Improved automatic sluice gate.—Henry Colbeck Michell, manufacturer, of 35, Queen Victoria Street, in the city of London. Improved manufacture of non-conducting coverings, blocks and slabs suitable for covering steam pipes, boilers and the like and for other purposes.—The Westinghouse Brake Company manufacturers, of 82, York Road, King's Cross, London, England. Improvements in vacuum brakes for railway and like vehicle.—Henry Holmes Jellett, district engineer, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, Karagpur British India. Improvements in centric for arches and the like.—Charles W. Merrill, metallurgical engineer, of Lead, South Dakota, in the United States of America. Pressure filter and process for removing solid, semi-solid or unfiltrable material from the contents thereof.—Herbert John Grimwade, Secretary to a public Company, of 60, Aldermanbury, in the city of London. Improvements in means for securing nuts, bolts, screws and the like.—Guy P. Boys, Barrister-at-Law, of 1, Edmonstone Road, Allahabad. Invention for the carrying and keeping of cartridges entitled "The Comes Cartridges Magazine."—Frederick Shirliff, Engineer, of Messrs. Burn and Co., Ltd., Howrah. Improvements in machines for decorticating and cleaning fibrous plants.

Germany's little war in South West Africa against the Hereros has up to date cost £8,500,000, and is apparently as far from a conclusion as at any time.

The following articles are alleged to have been found inside an alligator which has just died in Cincinnati Zoo:—A meteor, weighing two and a half ounces, three teeth of a garden rake, three pairs of spectacles, three dollars and eighteen cents, nine combs, a dog knob, a pair of scissors, an iron boot jack, and seventeen tooth-brushes.

Racial animosity is rampant in Travancore, and the enmity between the Nairs and the Brahmins is now reaching a crisis. With the meagre information on hand, writes the "People's Guardian," it is unable to father the responsibility for the present state of feeling on either class. But it could say this much, that the public outside Travancore can form no adequate idea of the strain of feeling that exists in that country. It behoves the leaders of the two parties to intercede and bring about a reconciliation which will be conducive to the best interests of both. At present class is set against class, and interests against interests. Each party has its organs in the public prints which freely resort to the language of vituperation and ridicule.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE UNREST IN RUSSIA.

London, Mar. 18. The mobilization rumours have caused fresh strikes at Lodz and Warsaw.

London, Mar. 19. The Secret Police of Moscow have discovered a revolutionary organisation, and seized a store of infernal machines, hand bombs, explosives, arms and printing presses and correspondence relating to the plot to assassinate Duke Sergius. Three hundred arrests have already been made.

London, Mar. 18. The Court Martial in connection with the Neva incident of the 19th January, when a live shell was fired in saluting, has found that there was no malicious intent. Three officers have been sentenced to eighteen months detention for neglecting their duties and two gunners to two years in a disciplinary battalion.

London, Mar. 20. Gorky is living at Riga under police supervision. Visitors are not allowed to see him. He is much weakened by imprisonment.—"Englishman."

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, Mar. 18. Fighting continues unabated thirty miles north of Tieling. The Japanese are pressing on both flanks.

London, Mar. 18. Reuter's correspondent wires from St. Petersburg that negotiations with the bankers for a 5 per cent. internal loan of two hundred million roubles (£20,000,000) has been virtually concluded.

London, Mar. 18. Generals Kuropatkin and Linievitch telegraphed to the Tsar on the 17th, respectively resigning and assuming supreme command in accordance with His Majesty's orders.

London, Mar. 18. The St. Petersburg press is changing its tone and is now demanding the prosecution of the war and praises Kuropatkin's energy and determination to face over-whelming difficulties and approves the appointment of Linievitch as Commander-in-Chief.

London, Mar. 17. Reuter's Tokyo correspondent says that the Russians burned their provisions and fodder at Tieling which were piled round the station, and two-thirds were destroyed. Numerous depots were secured, and a great number of prisoners were captured by the Japanese right wing.

Newspaper despatches at St. Petersburg estimate the casualties at 19,000 in the battle of Tieling. General Kuropatkin was obliged to abandon his stores and eighty guns.

It is reported that General Kuropatkin is already "en route" for St. Petersburg. The bare announcement that General Kuropatkin has been superseded by General Linievitch, and the absence of any complimentary references to his services, is much commented on in St. Petersburg.

Reuter's correspondent with General Oku says that Tieling was occupied after a severe fight, the Russians retiring in confusion. It is not believed that the Russians will make another stand south of Harbin.

The Japanese have covered almost ninety miles in a fortnight fighting practically every inch of the way.

London, Mar. 18. The conservative element in the high councils at Tokyo, which formerly opposed the advance to Harbin, now favours pressing the Japanese advantages and carrying the war to the utmost limit.

London, Mar. 18. The statement that General Kuropatkin has started for St. Petersburg is confirmed. General Linievitch has now assumed command.

London, Mar. 18. Count von Buelow, speaking in the Reichstag, said that there was absolutely no reason why Germany should endeavour to prevent the placing of a Russian loan in Germany, who would equally put no difficulties in the way of the Japanese in a similar contingency.

It is reported in this connection that Japan is about to float a loan in Germany. It is understood that the representatives of French bankers have left St. Petersburg without concluding the Russian loan.

London, Mar. 18. If satisfactory terms can be arranged, a number of New York bankers are ready to participate with German financiers in bringing out a Japanese loan.

It is officially announced that the Russian Gold reserve yesterday was 1,349 million roubles and the circulating credit notes 903 millions, the amount legally required to cover these being only 602 millions.

London, Mar. 18. Reuter wires from Antananarivo that Admiral Rozhdevsky's fleet left Nosibbe on Thursday, its destination being unknown.

London, Mar. 18. A commission has been appointed, under the presidency of General Roop, to investigate the circumstances of the capitulation of Port Arthur, and to try General Stocssel.

London, Mar. 20. Russia's last hope is centered in the Baltic Squadrons, and peace will not be considered until the admirals join forces and give battle.—"Englishman."

London, Mar. 20. The Japanese have occupied Fakumou, north west of Tieling.

London, Mar. 20. The Japanese have reached Kaiyuan, 23 miles north of Tieling, which the Russians evacuated on Saturday, having first set fire to the station.

Reuter with Kuroki wires on the 13th that repairs to the Hanho Bridge are almost complete, and that trains will run to Mukden and beyond within a week.

London, Mar. 20. Marshal Oyama reports that the Russian counter attack at Kaiyuan has been repulsed. The Russians are burning the bridges south of Kaiyuan.

London, Mar. 20. A number of Russian guns have been found buried at Mukden.

GENERAL.

London, Mar. 17. The Queen has started for Lisbon.

London, Mar. 18. Both the French Chambers have passed the two-years military service Bill.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

GENERAL.

London, Mar. 17. The steamer "Asia" bound to Calcutta, collided with a Cork liner in the Mersey last night. Both were badly damaged. The Asia had to return and is docking.

London, Mar. 18. Sir West Ridgway, presiding at a meeting of the Anti-Sea Duty League declared that the increased duty was unjust, harsh and cowardly and urged the exaction of a pledge from every candidate at bye-elections to vote for a reduction of the duty. The Executive Committee adopted the suggestion.

NEWS LATER THAN THE MAIL.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

BATTLE OF MUKDEN.

FULLER DETAILS.

London, Mar. 5. General Kuroki's force at Pensi-hu has captured the Russian positions on the eastern heights of Kantun and Chonku. A strong Russian counter-attack made at night in the direction of the Sha-Ho, was repulsed. General Oku sent a detachment to reconnoitre the outposts five hundred yards north of Apatal. The Russian trenches were captured by a desperate bayonet charge against superior numbers. General Oku's casualties on the night of the 1st and the morning of the 2nd instant numbered 2,000. The Russian losses were heavier. The Russians have been expelled from Changton and Safan-tai, to the north-west of Changton.

GREAT ENCIRCLING MOVEMENT.

The converging and encircling movement aimed at both flanks of the enemy is being conducted by the Japanese with great numerical superiority, and is everywhere succeeding, and is assuming a more and more decisive character along the whole front. General Kuropatkin's entire army is being forced back upon its bases. Opinion at St. Petersburg regarding the situation in Manchuria is frankly pessimistic.

KUROKI ACROSS THE SHA-HO.

General Kuroki, having crossed the Sha-Ho, has, despite determined resistance, by means of night marches gained great success. On Thursday he occupied the Russians' first line of triple defences among the hills beyond the river.

St. Petersburg reports imply that Mukden is completely isolated, and that the Russians are retreating on Tieling. Also that a breakdown has occurred on the railway.

General Kuropatkin reports that a Russian detachment at Kubiack, inflicting enormous losses on the enemy, the General of Japanese being annihilated.

Oku on Wednesday opened a terrific bombardment with one hundred enormous guns, greatly damaging the Russian defences and villages on both sides of the railway. The Russians were unable to reply. The Japanese left rested at a spot 12 miles south-west of Mukden, and their right near Tamashan, 15 miles south-east of Fushu, and thirty miles east of Mukden. It is estimated that 350,000 Japanese and 300,000 Russians were engaged in this the greatest battle in the history of the world.

RUSSIAN DIVISION ALMOST ANNIHILATED.

A telegram received at St. Petersburg from Harbin states that the Japanese on Thursday recaptured the Putloff and Novgorod Hill after a terrific bombardment with 11-in. mortars.

General Rennenkamff's division was almost annihilated. The Russians have abandoned all their positions on Hunho, in order to escape being surrounded.

RUSSIAN ATTACKS REPULSED.

A Japanese official report states that the Russians in the direction of Singhin attempted several counter-attacks, and that these were all repulsed. The engagements now proceeding at Pensi-hu, and north of Sha-Ho are, it is stated, developing favourably. A quantity of provision and forage was captured at Sin-min-tung.

KUROPATKIN'S VERSION.

General Kuropatkin admits that the Japanese carried the entrenchments in front of Kaotuling and the heights which formed the centre position of his left flank. He declares, however, that a counter-attack dislodged them. A despatch, the continues, received from the Russian commander in the Jenstian-Kandolian region reports that 20 Japanese battalions, which were repulsed leaving masses of corpses, the enemy having made parapets of the dead bodies of their fallen comrades. General Kuropatkin adds three attacks on Kaotuling were repulsed after the Japanese were within 200 paces of the Russian trenches.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

JAPANESE SUCCESS.

A HEIGHT OCCUPIED.

(From the Japanese Consul) Bombay, Mar. 20. On Thursday on the right bank of Liaohu our detachment dispersed eight Russian squadrons having artillery, whereupon we occupied the height, north of Tieling, at the right bank of Liaohu, and commanded the retreating enemy consisting of one infantry division and ten squadrons. The above report was received yesterday.

THE BATTLE OF TIELING.

(From the Japanese Consul.) Bombay, Mar. 18. The Railway station and facilities at Tieling existing on a large scale, rival those at Liaoyang. Large quantities of Russian provisions and food were stored there, but nearly two-thirds were burnt by the enemy. Our trophies are considerable, but not yet counted. The prisoners in the direction of our Right are numerous, but the exact number is not reported.



CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

BUDGET DISCUSSION.

PROSPERITY BUDGET.

A Special meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta was held at the Town Hall yesterday at 4 p.m. The Hon'ble Mr. R.T. Greer, Chairman of the Corporation presided and there were about twenty five commissioners present.

The Chairman proposed that the recommendation of the Budget & Special Committee, to adopt a Budget Estimate of the Corporation, and to determine the rates and taxes to be levied in the ensuing financial year be considered.

In doing so he said:—The Budget estimate for the year 1905-06, which the Corporation are asked to adopt to-day, possesses many interesting features. The expenditure for the year has usually exceeded the receipts, but that this year we anticipated that the receipts will exceed the expenditure (I am talking only of Revenue Funds) by over Rs. 1,09,000, and to that extent the closing balance will be better than the opening balance. For the year 1904-05 the Budget shows that the expenditure is in excess of the estimated receipts by nearly two lakhs. The Budget has been framed up on lines which have met with general approval and is in strict accordance with the provisions of the Act. It has received the fullest consideration at the hands of the General Committee, the Sub-Committee of the General Committee and a Special Committee of the Corporation, and each item in it has been most carefully scrutinised. The thanks of the Corporation are due to the members of the Special Committee for the commendable promptitude and great care with which they have discharged the task entrusted to them, and I hope that the Budget which has now been laid before you will be unanimously adopted.

You will notice in the Loan Budget that whereas the General Committee proposed to raise loans aggregating Rs. 18,50,000, the Budget now before you contemplates loans aggregating Rs. 23 lakhs. The Special Committee have considered it necessary to add to the expenditure from borrowed funds under various heads. They have provided Rs. 25,000 to be spent upon the drainage of the Fringe Area, for which a complete scheme is now under preparation by the Chief Engineer who hopes to place it before the Corporation in a few weeks; Rs. 50,000 have been provided to meet the cost of the reconstruction of collapsed unused sewers, and a sum of Rs. 1,27,000 has been added for the additional cost of the diversion of the filtered water supply to the area west of the Kidderpore Docks, the re-arrangement of the pipes being considered necessary in consequence of the recent accident to the pipes laid under the Docks. The Special Committee have also added a sum of Rs. 50,000 for the construction and flagging of footpaths, so that the total work during the year of lakhs of rupees upon 5,000 has been estimated. A sum of Rs. 5,000 is set apart for additional urinals, Rs. 6,000 for additional stand-posts, the old for an electrical installation in the old office building, and provision has been entered in the Budget for the extension of both filtered and unfiltered pipes in various roads which are now without them. It should also be noticed that the continuous water supply charges have been increased by Rs. 34,000 after careful consideration by the Special Committee. The cost of new lamp-posts, hitherto charged to borrowed funds, has now been transferred to the debit of the revenue funds according to the opinion of the Advocate-General. We have only included in our capital Budget such works as are likely to be carried out during the year, omitting a number of sanctioned projects which have been hung-up in consequence of the recent orders of Government in view of the operations of the Improvement Trust. A list of these has been prepared and they involve an expenditure of several lakhs of rupees. Such of them as may not come within the scope of the Trust's operations may at a later date be carried into effect by the Corporation.

With regard to the Revenue Budget, while there has been no attempt to overestimate the receipts, care has been taken in the cutting down of expenditure to secure economy combined with efficiency, the figures have been carefully prepared and there is not likely to be much difference between the estimates and the actuals. Arrangements have been made to introduce an afternoon conservancy throughout the Town without increasing the Gorkhans charges. Besides adopting the Budget Estimate the Corporation are required under the law to determine the rates at which the Municipal rates and other taxes shall be levied in the next ensuing financial year. In discharging this duty I would earnestly ask the Commissioners to make no alteration in the proposals as set out at the bottom of page 1 of the Budget. The question has received the fullest consideration at the hands of both the General Committee and the Special Committee, and in anticipation of their recommendation receiving the full approval of the Corporation to-day the assessor has under my instructions already prepared and issued the rate bills for the first quarter of 1905-06.

Khan Bahadur Serajul Islam seconded the proposal of the Chairman and in doing so thanked the members of the committee in bringing out a prosperous budget.

Mr. Bertram considered that in some points the present budget was a good and proper one. Sufficient provision was made for road improvement. But it was their duty to see that the budget allotment was carried out. What was needed was that the Executive should make the improvement according to the grant. Hitherto it was not carried out, but he hoped that it would be done in future and a disgrace of the Corporation wiped out. Another point he referred to was the municipal trading. They had an income of Rs. 2,99,324 from markets, Dhobikhams etc. Deducting the expenditure on those heads they had a surplus. If they had paid more attention in another direction their income would have increased by another half-a-lakh of Rupees. He said that if they found means to supply filtered water to the ships in the part they could have earned that amount and he suggested that by removing the office near where the ships lie it could be done at less expenditure. One thing which was most satisfactory, he said, was that the expenditure was less than income.

Mr. Cotton began by referring to a remark made in certain quarters that Opposition in the Corporation was brisk. The remark, he said, was true in some respect, but it was so because the Executive and the officials were made to act according to the

wishes of the oppositionists. There were some omissions in the Budget. In the original there were allotment of 100 lamps in each district, but the actual allotment was less than that number. Again there was no provision for paving the dumping grounds in the northern part of the town. The refuse was collected there and never wholly cleared. Something went into the ground. This omission was either due to oversight or confusion. He suggested that Rs. 10,000 be allotted for this purpose. The next item about which he said was the grant of Rs. 20,000 for the reception of their Royal Highnesses to Calcutta. From the mail papers he learnt that it was the wish of the King-Emperor that no presents should be given to the Prince. He took objection to this item, not because he was a disloyal subject, not because he was willing to offend the loyal commissioners, but because they were exposing themselves to a rebuff. At the commissioners' meeting it was voted for a present to the Prince of Wales, but now it was allotted for the reception of the Prince.

Mr. Braunfeld said that they were delighted at the prosperous budget but he was not sure whether it was really a prosperous one. If it was a sound one he desired to put it to a test. If it stood that test then it was a really sound one. He proposed a reduction of 25 per cent of taxation. He proposed that rates be fixed as follows:—General rate, 7 p.c.; water rate, 6 p.c.; lighting rate, 2 p.c.; and sewage rate, 2 p.c. What he suggested was that instead of the existing 19½ p.c. the rates should be fixed at 17 p.c. If the Budget failed in that test, then it was a mere juggling of figures a mere sham show of prosperity. They must not take more money than what was absolutely necessary. It was illegal and arbitrary. By reducing the rate they would benefit the rate-payers for the money would fructify in the pockets of the rate-payers. That was the principle of all Budgets in all countries. The 8 lakhs of rupees taken from the rate-payers would not be expended and it was an offence to take that amount. Hence a reduction ought to be made. He formally proposed that the rates be fixed at 17 p.c. instead of 19½ p.c. and that the borrowing capacity be fixed at 16 lakhs instead of 18 lakhs.

Dr. R. G. Ker seconded Mr. Braunfeld's proposals.

Mr. Aparajit regretted that he could not support the valuable proposals of Mr. Braunfeld for they were brought at the last moment. If he had brought them when it was being considered by the committee they would have deserved their serious consideration. He supported Mr. Cotton's proposal for granting Rs. 10,000 for paving dumping grounds. He also proposed that Rs. 25,000 be budgeted for drainage works in the fringe area. As regards water-supply he said that it was a serious danger to limit the supply of filtered water. The poorer rate-payers were not supplied sufficient quantity of filtered water, for they could not pay sufficiently. They were obliged to use unfiltered water. It was a danger to the health of Calcutta. As regards the grant of Rs. 20,000 for the reception of the Prince of Wales he said it was not too much but they would be required to illuminate the roads and the Town Hall, to decorate the city and that would come up to another 20,000 rupees. He did not like that they should be niggardly in their reception but what he wanted was the actual amount that should be spent. He objected to the manner in which it was entered in the Budget.

Babu Radha Churn Pal said that the Budget was a satisfactory one and it was pleasing that the Executive had listened to the suggestions of the commissioners. He however could not support Mr. Braunfeld's proposals, for they were brought at a late hour.

Babu Purnanath Mullick proposed that Rs. 1,86,000 be allotted to widening Bancharam Okkur's Lane and Rs. 24,000 for metalling the Hazra road.

Babu Amulyadhore Addy suggested that the general rate be fixed at 9½ p.c.

Dr. Haridhore Dutt suggested to reduce the rates by either 1 or 1½ p.c. and seconded the proposal of Babu Amulyadhore Addy.

Mr. Cotton opposed the proposal of Mr. Braunfeld on the ground that if the rates were once reduced they would not be able to raise again, the rate-payers, he said, would not be benefited by the reduction considering that the Improvement Scheme would soon be an accomplished fact and Government would ask them to supply the money from the fund raised by taxes.

In closing the discussion the Chairman said that Rs. 10,000 would be paid from the Revenue Fund for paving the dumping grounds. The proposal for opening out of the Bancharam Okkur's Lane should be put on the list of work to be done by the Improvement Committee. As regards the Reduction of rates he said that they were accustomed to it. Every year Mr. Braunfeld made similar proposals. To their grief they would know very soon of the Improvement Scheme. He admitted that taxation in Calcutta was very heavy. The increase would not continue. Houses were pulled down and they would not be raised. So far as he knew the Improvement Scheme would be launched this year. If they reduced the rates Government would ask them to supply the fund. As regards the water supply he said that the Engineer was considering a scheme of doing away with unfiltered water supply which was dangerous to the health of the town and obtained nowhere. He then put to vote the several proposals made by the Commissioners in the course of the discussion. Excepting the proposals of reduction of rate all the proposals were carried unanimously.

Mr. Cotton then proposed the recommendation of the Budget Committee to increase the Vice-Chairman's salary from Rs. 1400 to Rs. 1500.

Several Commissioners supported the proposal, which was carried unanimously when put to vote.

The Chairman next proposed that the Budget, as amended, be adopted.

It was put to vote and carried.

A Coorg correspondent sends us the following description of the "audacity of a Coorg youngster of 18 years":—"On the evening of the 7th instant, at about 9-45 p.m., a leopard cub had entered into one of the Coorg officials' Lodge at Somwarpet, North Coorg. A Coorg boy of 18 years who saw it tried to catch the same, but it was so furious that he had to use force. It then entered one of the rooms. The boy following it with a stick, killed it on the spot. It was hung up before the Lodge by the boy in expectation of its mother, but it did not turn up. Next morning the carcass of the cub was shown to the people of Somwarpet and to the Munsiff of Mercara. The Subedar was absent in Camp. The Munsiff and others who saw it, certified it to be the leopard cub."

PEACE, ECONOMY, AND REFORM IN INDIA.

SIR W. WEDDERBURN AT HAMPSTEAD TOWN HALL.

IRELAND, RUSSIA, AND INDIA.

A meeting of the Hampstead Peace and Arbitration Society was held at the Town Hall on Monday, February 27, which was presided over by Sir Henry Cotton, K.C.S.I. who was supported on the platform by the Rev. W. Urwick, Colonel Hanna, and Mr. C. E. Maurice. The lecturer was Sir William Wedderburn, Bart, and his subject was "Peace, Economy, and Reform in India."

The Chairman, in introducing Sir William Wedderburn, said: The event of the hour is, of course, the report of the International Arbitration Commission on the North Sea incident. I think we may, as representative of a society for peaceful arbitration, congratulate ourselves on the result of the Commission of enquiry. It is a great triumph to our principles that the dispute should have been referred to arbitration. The time is not so very remote in the history of this country when I fear there would have been no thought of arbitration in such a matter, and we should have been plunged into the horrors of war. There is, however, an advance in public opinion, and an advance, I trust, too, in the growth of public morality, and there was no hesitation on the part of our Government in referring the issue involved from the excited public opinion of England at the time to arbitration, and now we have received an award which I believe is accepted favourably by all classes of opinion in this country. That I call a triumph to the member of the Arbitration Society (Hear, hear.) Now, I have to introduce to you the speaker of this evening, my old friend Sir William Wedderburn. (Applause.)

Sir William Wedderburn is one of the most distinguished administrators whom this country has sent to India, but he is much more than that. There are plenty of able Indian administrators among you who have retired from service in that country, and who have settled down quietly in this one of the ordinary type. While he was in India he devoted himself not only to the service of the Government but to the service of the people. (Hear, hear.) There is no Indian civilian who has aroused such feelings of gratitude among the residents of the Bombay Presidency as Sir William. This I speak from my own knowledge, for I accompanied him to India the other day, and the reception which he met with at the hands of the people of Bombay Presidency was simply marvellous. Nothing could exceed the enthusiasm which was displayed. Sir William Wedderburn may possibly allude to this matter, but there can be no doubt that these symptoms of gratitude, this unparalleled enthusiasm, were due to the return of Sir William Wedderburn to their midst. It was due to the return of their old friend, whom they have never forgotten, and whom they never will forget. (Applause.) Sir William Wedderburn retired from the service of India many years ago. I think it is some sixteen years ago since he came back to this country, and since then he has never abandoned the ideal of his life, which is the amelioration of the condition of the Indian people. For some years he sat as a member of Parliament, and was on all occasions the undoubted champion of the Indian people, and now that he is not in Parliament he works, if it is possible, harder than ever for the cause of India. I would that there were more like him in this country. Sir William Wedderburn has practically devoted his life to the service of India, and there is no one who can speak with greater authority on the subject with which he deals this evening. (Hear, hear.)

Sir William said, I thank Sir Henry Cotton for the kind terms in which he has introduced me this evening. It was my privilege to accompany him to India, and to hear his address to the Bombay Congress. By general consent that address was a model of what such an address should be; moderate, sympathetic, statesmanlike. Again, a few nights ago, I heard Sir Henry speak at the National Liberal Club, on "The Indian Problem." He then described the reactionary policy of Lord Curzon, who, as head of the great Indian military bureaucracy, stands for aggression abroad, and repression at home. Sir Henry also explained the attitude of the Indian National Congress, which is entirely opposed to such a policy; and which voices the unanimous feeling of the Indian people in favour of Peace, Economy, and Reform. The British people are the ultimate arbiters of India's destiny; and the "Indian Problem" is how should the British people decide as between these opposing forces? I submit that the only right and safe solution of the problem is a decision in favour of Peace, Economy, and Reform: the will of the people should prevail.

This same struggle, between centralised officialdom on the one hand, and the will of the people on the other, is going on all over the civilised world; and curiously enough, it has just at the present moment reached an acute stage in countries widely separated both by distance and circumstances. I mean, in Ireland, in Russia, and in India. In Ireland we have Dublin Castle pitted against the Nationalist organisation, which represents the wishes of the Irish people. There can be no much doubt as to what the end will be as regards Ireland. A trumpet blast is being sounded in Parliament, and soon the wall of Jericho, that is, of Dublin Castle, will come tumbling down. I will read to you the amendment on the Address, moved by Mr. John Redmond; and if you will be so good as to substitute "India" for "Ireland", and "Indian people" for "Irish people", you will have a fair statement of the political situation in India. The amendment represents to his Majesty "that the present system of government in Ireland is in opposition to the will of the Irish people, and gives them no voice in the management of their own affairs; that the system is consequently ineffective and extravagantly costly, does not enjoy the confidence of any section of the population, and is productive of universal discontent and unrest; and has proved to be incapable of satisfactorily promoting the material and intellectual progress of the people."

Again, in Russia we have the Czar, as the head of a military bureaucracy, hitherto all powerful, confronted by a vast peasantry and proletariat, demanding representative institutions. Here we have an object-lesson of official autocracy, pure and simple; bearing its natural fruit of failure abroad, and rebellion at home.

In India the outward conditions are not dissimilar, but the attitude of the people is very different. We have in India, as in Russia, an all-powerful and irresponsible military bureaucracy. At the head of it is Lord

Curzon, who is a sort of Czar; only, perhaps, more so. Here also there is a vast population desirous of having a voice in the management of their own affairs. But at this point the resemblance ends; for whereas the population in Russia is leading to bloodshed and revolution, the Indian people, in stating their case through their Congress representatives, are respectful, law-abiding, and constitutional. What they want is to have an end of aggression and repression and to obtain a revival of the policy of Lord Lawrence and Lord Ripon; peace abroad, and progress at home. That is the gist of the Congress resolutions. For 20 years they have reiterated their position, year by year. During that period they have suffered many things; from war, famine, and pestilence. But though it all they have remained patient, orderly, and loyal to the British connexion. Surely, from mere compassion, a humane ruler should listen with sympathy to the tale of their woe. But there are more solid reasons than sentiment why foreign rulers, responsible for the lives and happiness of so vast a population, should welcome the co-operation of the most experienced and influential leaders of the Indian community. When I was a boy we lived in Italy, and I remember well the attitude of the Italian population towards the Austrian Government in Venice. They absolutely boycotted every Austrian official, and made administration impossible. How different is the attitude of the Indian population to their foreign rulers! Instead of making administration impossible, they accept British rule as the basis of the Congress programme; they show how its defects may be remedied so as to make it popular and strong; and they believe that it may become a truly national government, if we are really guided, as we profess to be, by the noble principle laid down in the Queen's Proclamation in 1858.

Such being the case, is it not strange that, instead of warmly welcoming the Congress movement, the officials at Calcutta and Westminster should regard it with distrust and antagonism? The explanation is to be found in the natural antagonism that exists, all the world over, between centralised officialism and popular aspirations. The move complete the centralisation, the greater the alienation. Not long ago Lord G. Hamilton, as Secretary of State, admitted the increasing unpopularity of our Indian government. I will briefly indicate how grievances arise from our centralised system. As you are aware, some 80 per cent. of the Indian population consists of peasant cultivators and their dependents, grouped in self-governing village communities, something like our rural parishes; and in order to be prosperous and happy all that these little republics ask from the central power is to be taxed in moderation, and according to custom; to be protected from external violence; and to be let alone in the management of their internal affairs. Unfortunately, this last condition is exactly the one which an active centralised administration, framed on European models, finds it impossible to fulfil. In the early times of our rule the good old Native system continued, the Collector of the District representing the Government in all departments and dealing with the villages through the hereditary village officers and servants. But of late years the great centralised departments have arisen, and taken all power out of the hands of local Collectors: Police, Forest, Salt, Excise, Public Works, Survey, Irrigation, Sanitation, Registration, Vaccination, and so on; their name is legion. Each of these departments has its director at headquarters, in Calcutta, Madras, or Bombay, as the case may be, where he has the ear of the Government; while, far away, in the rural districts, the departments are represented by a swarm of ill-paid and hungry Native subordinates, who growl about the villages, and gradually fatter themselves by plunder and extortion. Among all these petty oppressors, the life of the poor cultivator may be likened to that of a toad under a harrow, so jarred is he and upset in all his dearest interests and prejudices. It can be easily understood how such a system produces increasing irritation and unrest throughout the country. The system is a regular manufactory of grievances; and for these grievances there is practically no means of redress. The local collector, who used to be the "Gharib Parwar," the "Protector of the poor" is now powerless. If he comes into collision with the department, he is sure to get the worst of it. I deliberately repeat there is for the Indians practically no redress of grievances. But you will say, does not an appeal lie to the higher authorities in India, to the Secretary of State, and to Parliament? Yes, an appeal lies; but in order to understand how futile is any hope of redress, we must remember who the men are to whom the appeal is made. The Indian Civil Service includes good material. But unfortunately the spirit of "Imperialism," and the system of promotion, do not tend to place in high office men of independence and strong convictions. The men who most easily climb to high office are those whose backs are supple, who are not burdened with hampering convictions, and who are equally ready to promote the policy of a Lord Lytton or a Lord Ripon; getting thus two steps on the ladder of promotion, for every single step obtained by their rivals, whose principles prevent them from zealously promoting a policy of which they disapprove. It thus results that many of those who reach the heights of Simla are tainted with Bal-fourism, that is, they are men without "settled convictions"; and they there form a clique, the "Simla clique," adverse alike to the rank and file of the service, and to the interests of the Indian people. Such men are not of the stuff to fight the big departments, of the powerful interests; so, when the complaint of grievance comes before them, the weaker usually goes to the wall. Then what hope is there from an appeal from Simla to the Secretary of State at the India Office? The Secretary of State, poor man, is himself generally quite ignorant of Indian affairs and he sits surrounded by a Council mainly recruited from the Simla clique and their friends; so that the appeal to the Secretary of State in Council practically means an appeal to the very officials who are the authors of the grievance. As regards the supposed control by Parliament, I can speak from seven years' sad experience in the House of Commons. I say adversely that practically no control at all is exercised by either House of Parliament and that when Indians suffer wrong, whether it is an individual, or a class, or the whole people, there exists no machinery through which justice can be obtained. The theory, of course, is that the Secretary of State for India is responsible to Parliament. But this is altogether a delusion. Having at his back the Government

majority, he is, in Indian matters, not the servant but the master of the House of Commons. No doubt, also, he is supposed to occupy a quasi-judicial position, and to give impartial advice to Parliament, as the ultimate Court of Appeal; but instead of this, when he speaks in the House of Commons, he comes forward as the champion of the official hierarchy, against which the complaints are made. Deriving all his views and information from the officials at the India Office, he becomes naturally the apologist of all official acts, and resents every complaint as a reflection upon the administration of which he is the head. Under these circumstances, what can an independent member do, even in such scandalous cases as those of the Natu brothers and Mr. Tilak? To the average member Indian grievances are distasteful; and, apparently without shame, even a Cabinet Minister confesses to "colossal ignorance" of Indian affairs. With a few noble exceptions, also, little help is obtained from the public Press, which finds material for cheap jocularities in the fact that the House of Commons grossly neglects its duty towards India, and at once empties its benches if questions affecting 250 millions of our unrepresented fellow-subjects are to be discussed. Indeed, as regards Indian affairs, British journalists appear to have abdicated their function as independent monitors of the public. You will have noticed how contemptuously Mr. Wyndham referred to the Press in his celebrated letter to Sir Antony MacDonnell. He said that he would "ask Lord George Hamilton to see that the Press" did what was required. How are the mighty fallen, when the great organs of public opinion are treated as being at the beck and call of the India Office!

I think I have shown that there is no provision for the redress of those grievances which must necessarily arise under an autocratic foreign rule. Nor is there any prospect of improvement in this respect. On the contrary, the tendency of an imperialistic autocracy is to be always increasing its power, always encroaching upon the liberties of the subject. We must bear in mind that with our official system the interests of the rulers and the ruled are not at all identical. The primary interests of the people are Peace, Economy, and Reform; which mean for them freedom from the waste of militarism, reduction of taxation, and redress of grievances. But the professional interests of the civil and military services are to be found, not so much in peace as in territorial expansion, with their natural accompaniments of titles and decorations, and the multiplication of highly-paid appointments. To officials, economy and reform are naturally distasteful, as representing reduction of emoluments, and curtailment of authority. How can we expect them, as a class, to meet the popular wishes? During Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty we have striking instances of the imperialistic and retrogressive activity, in the invasion of Tibet; in the attack upon municipal self-government at Calcutta; in the Education Act, which destroys the independence of the Universities; in the measures against the freedom of the Press; and in the extraordinary refusal to allow an enquiry into the economic condition of the famine villages.

(To be Continued.)

DISPUTE OVER WATSON'S PATENT PRESS.

Mr. Beachcroft, the special Land Acquisition Judge of Alipore after a protracted hearing of about two months delivered judgment in an important and big appointment case on Saturday last. Mr. Treaninarn, the Editor of the "Capital" and Mr. D. King of the "Calcutta Bank" the liquidators represented of the interest of Messrs. "Watsons Patent Press" Company Ltd. were the tenants of a plot of land of which Babu Purno Chander Saha was the land lord. The land is on the outskirts of the town of Calcutta near Bagbazar. Babu Purno Chander claimed the full compensation and declined to recognise the tenants as having a permanent and transferable right. The tenants while conceding the land lord's interest claimed the balance of the compensation money. The dispute was principally upon the interpretation of a "Patta" dated the 17th June 1835. The property since then had changed hands from party to party till it reached the hands of the Liquidators. The original rent reserved was Rs. 532 annually and had remained unchanged for the last 70 years. No attempt has ever been made by any of the landlords who came in one after another to charge this uniform rate. There was a previous land acquisition case in respect of the same property but at that time no attempt was made by the landlord to oust the tenant or to deny his title as a permanent tenant. This property has a present value of Rs. 134000 but the landlord's interest in 1835 was purchased at Rs. 10,000. The sellers of the landlord's interest in the different deeds had declared the land as leased out permanently to the W. P. Press Company Ltd. Numerous mortgage deeds by the then landlord owners showed also that the landlord looked upon the tenants as a permanent one and the rent as fixed for ever. Between 1835 and 1874 there were also numerous deeds of attornments and ratifications which clearly describe the tenant's right as permanent and heritable. Babu Ramtaran Banerjee urged on behalf of the landlord that the original "Patta" of 1835 did not convey permanent right as it does not contain words of inheritance. But he overlooked the use of the term "and" in the plural whenever its use becomes necessary. He went on to say that a clause in the "Patta" prohibited alienation and wished to get over the right of the tenant to alienate to the leasehold reserved to him by the subsequent clause which said that in case of any alienation by himself or the tenant the rent to remain fixed for ever. The opposite party on their part interpreted the "Patta" as a permanent one. Babu Huro Prosad Sastri who was asked to translate the Bengalee "Patta" was of opinion that it did create permanent heritable interest. The Judge however has made his own translation and comes to the finding that the "Patta" did not create permanent interest inferred from the conduct of the parties and the declaration in the mortgage deed by Jibannrassa Begum, a former land lord after she had come to know of the terms of the "Patta" that the lease to the Watson Press was a "Mowrasse" one created a right not granted at the inception of the tenancy in 1835. The Judge therefore gave the capitalised value of the rental at 20 years purchase to the landlord and gave the balance of the money to the tenant,



Mofussil News.

Colgong (Bhagalpur) Mar. 17.

A virulent type of plague is doing havoc in the whole of the Bhagalpur District. With the advent of the cold season plague appeared in Colgong, a very important commercial town on the banks of the Ganges. The people left the town and lived temporarily in the neighbouring mango groves and the spread of the disease was considerably arrested. Here the people throw bodies into the small channels of the Ganges where there is little or no current. Thus lots of dead bodies are seen floating in the channels the water of which is used for drinking purposes by the neighbouring villagers. This led to the spread of the disease far and wide again.

Mirzapore, Mar. 13.

Owing to cold the crops have been entirely destroyed. Mr. Aute, the Joint Magistrate, who was a great favourite to the Police, has been transferred to Kasin Sub-Division. Gorakhpore District. He left Mirzapore on the 6th instant. All the Indian Executive officials were to see him off at the Railway station and Mr. Ravazul Hossain, Bar-at-Law, and two other Z-mindars were the only conspicuous non-officials. The Municipal election in the town took place on the 8th instant. It was the only contested election in the history of this town and the affairs connected with it were very sensational.

Mednupore, Mar. 16.

This little station is one of the sanitary places in Bengal, which is largely resorted to by the sick from all parts of the Presidency. The malaria-stricken people of Bengal come here in large numbers. People also come here from the plague-infected Barhar. But it is now in the throes of that fell disease. The infection has spread also to Girdh which has got direct Railway communication with Madhupur. Fortunately the disease did not spread here alarmingly. The authorities should take precautionary measures without putting the people to unnecessary trouble. The recent visit of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to this place, has given rise to a rumour to the effect that the Government has under its contemplation to transfer the headquarters of this Sub-Division from Doghur to Madhupore, and the establishment of a College here. Though there is nothing to confirm the rumour, yet they are the crying needs of the town. The advent of the hot season is being daily felt. Wednesday last we had a shower of hail followed by heavy rain. The weather at present may be said to be fine.

Comilla, Mar. 15.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pratt visited this town and inspected the local Judge's Court, and the Subordinate Judge's Court. He was accompanied by Babu Barada Charan Sarkar, Shrestadar, Alipore Judge's Court. His manners were affable and he was very courteous. He went to the Bar Library and freely talked with the pleaders. On Friday last the Members of the Bar Association invited him to a tea party. The Bar Library was tastefully decorated. The District Judge, the Sub-Judge and the Munsifs were all invited. It was indeed a very pleasant ceremony. He was introduced to almost all the pleaders. He left for Chittagong that very night. Such cordial sympathy between the Bench and the Bar will always connect the good relations between the Rulers and the ruled. We need it all the more in these bad times. For all this we are specially thankful to the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Pratt, Mr. Brown and the members of the Bar Association. Babu Chandra Kanta Ghosh M.A., Head Master of the local Yusuf H. E. School, has been offered a teachership in the Ramali School. He left for Ranchi the other day. We are very sorry to lose him though we are glad of his promotion. He was a model teacher, a strict disciplinarian, and he loved his students with all his heart. In private life he was a perfect gentleman and a man of virtuous disposition. The second teacher of the school, Babu Adyaita Chandra Rakshit, is officiating at present in his place. We recommend him to the school authorities to give him a trial. He has been in this school since its foundation. We are indeed very glad to find Miss Lilan Edgar M.A., of the Theosophical Society in our midst. She arrived here last night. She will deliver a number of lectures here in course of this work. She met the members of the Theosophical Society this morning at the local Theosophical Hall. This evening she will speak on Theosophy and Modern Thought. She is staying at the house of our much reputed townsman Prince N. O. Dev. Varma, the President of the local Theosophical Society. She will leave the town on Saturday next. We cordially welcome her in our midst.

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The great pain relieving power of Chamberlain's Pain Balm has been the surprise and delight of many sufferers from neuralgia and sciatica. The excruciating pains characteristic of these diseases are quickly allayed by this liniment. For sale by
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Nervous and Mental Overstrain give rise to a wide range of nerve and brain disorders, and frequently lead to complete breakdown or nervous prostration. Unfortunately, ailments of the kind referred to seem almost inseparable from modern conditions of life. Business and professional men, Teachers, Writers, Students, all who bear a heavy burden of responsibility, and those whose social duties make heavy demands on their Nervous and Mental powers, are liable to suffer more or less constantly.

There are innumerable so-called remedies for nervous overstrain that are offered. These in many cases merely exert a stimulating effect on the nervous system and by compelling fresh effort without renewing the nerve-tissue they further strain and injure the nervous system.

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MANAGER,
BHARAT VAISAYANILAYA,
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Krishnagar, Mar. 17.

I regret to announce the unexpected death of Capt. Charnica, R. E. of the Murshidabad Branch E. B. S. Railway, at Krishnagar, from the effects of suspected hydrophobia. A funeral procession was formed and the deceased captain was buried with due honor.

Serampore, Mar. 16.

Our new Sub-divisional Officer, Mr. Cornes, has just been posted to that place of historic renown, the district of Murshidabad, as Magistrate and Collector during the absence of Mr. Hallifax. Babu Haribhushan De will hold temporary charge of the Sub-division, while a Sub Deputy Magistrate from Hooghly comes here as second officer. A Deputy Magistrate from the Sudder, vested with first class powers, should have been deputed to this important Sub-division. Within the last 25 years we have had no Sub-Deputy Magistrate here. The newly appointed Small Cause Court Judge, Babu Bhuvan Mohan Ghosh, who was formerly Subordinate Judge and Assistant Sessions Judge, Bhagalpur, Munghyr, sat on the Bench here for the first time on the 11th instant. The local bar, headed by the Government Pleader, accorded him a hearty welcome. In his address he continued that the new Judge had been known to the pleaders by repute as an ornament of the Subordinate Judicial Service but it pleased Providence to give them an opportunity of making his personal acquaintance, which, they trusted, would, in course of time, ripen into friendship. They also trusted that the cordiality of feelings, between the Bench and the Bar, which had existed for a long time, would continue. The Judge thanked the pleaders for their welcome. While Babu Khetra Mohan Saha is entertaining the people at his Exhibition at Serampore, the "Sitala puja" at Chattri is celebrated on a grand scale. It is gratifying to note that a twist merchant of Chattri, Babu Kshetra Mohan Ghosh, has provided the temple of Sitala with a "chadni" at a cost of Rs. 1,700. The Konnagar people also celebrated "Raj Rajeswaripuja" lately. Babu Sib Chandra Banerjee, L.M.S., a local medical practitioner, treated a thousand beggars to a somewhat sumptuous repast. The Commissioner of Burdwan holds a Durbar at Hooghly on the 20th instant at 4-30 p. m. for presenting "Sanads" and "Khilats" to Rai Bahadur Swam Chand Dhar and Rai Sahab Braja Nath Saha. The leading zemindars, judicial and executive officers and holders of titles and certificates of Honor have been invited.

MYMENSING NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Mymensing, Mar. 9.

POLICE RULES.

It is pleasing to see that the authorities are keeping an eye over the local police. We had recently some prosecutions against police officers and these prosecutions, had, no doubt, some Saturday effect upon the whole Department; but all the efforts of the authorities cannot produce the desired effect. The other day a man named Beharam Bepari was robbed off about 7 or 8 thousand rupees. He lives in a village called Sukia, in the Fulbaria thana of this District. The son of this man lodged information to the police station immediately after the occurrence and told the Sub-Inspector and the Inspector the names of all persons whom he and his father Beharam could recognise by torchlight and whom they saw committing dacoity in their house. The Panchayet of another village, about 17 or 18 miles distant from Sukia, happened to be at the thana at the time and he observed that some men of his village were absent from home the night previous. The Inspector and the Sub-Inspector jointly investigated the case and hauled up some men of the Panchayet's village before the court with the prisoner's confession and the approver's testimony. This is all the evidence that could be collected by the joint efforts of these officers in a matter like this. The confession was retracted before the Jury and the approver hopelessly contradicted the statement made by him before the committing Magistrate and the result was that the men were acquitted. What is surprising is that the police instead of taking any step whatever to arrest the men who were recognised by the complainant, hauled up some who live a long way off from the scene of occurrence.

THE SESSIONS JUDGE.

Mr. J. E. Webster, the Sessions Judge of this District, is a comparatively junior officer. But he has made himself known as a strong-minded officer. He has to hear appeals from the conviction of first class Magistrates, both paid and unpaid. But the manner in which he disposes of appeals has made the people quite panic-stricken. Of course the people can go to High Court, but how many people have the courage and wherewithal to do it?

TANGAIL PRAMATHA MANMAFHA COLLEGE SCHOLARS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Tangail, Mar. 15.

The following is the list of students who have secured the College Scholarships on the results of the competitive examinations held in 1904:

2nd Year Class.—Savage Scholarship.—Jitendra Nath Mukerjee, Bindu Basini H. E. School, Tangail. Founder's Scholarship.—Nirban Chandra Nandi, Shasaratola H. E. School, Chittagong; Suresh Chandra Singha Choudhury, Subornakhal Saimukhi High School, Nanda Lal Biswas, Bongong H. E. School.

1st Year Class.—Thomson Scholarship.—Ananta Nath Dutta, Barisal Zilla School, Founder's Scholarship.—Satish Chandra Chatterborty, Santosh Jahnui H. E. School, Umesh Chandra Choudhury, Habigonj High School, Sylhet; Jogendranath Majumbar, Bindubasini H. E. School, Tangail; Devendra Mohan Sarkar, Bindubasini H. E. School, Tangail.

WHOOPIING COUGH IN JAMAICA.

During the epidemic of whooping cough which was prevalent in Jamaica, Chamberlain's Cough Remedy was freely used. Mr. J. Riley Bennett, Chemist at Brown's Town, Jamaica, says of it: "I cannot speak too highly of this remedy. It has never failed in a case where I have recommended it and grateful mothers are daily thanking me for advising them to use it." For sale by
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INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, February 27.

Education of Children on Plantations in Assam.—Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he has yet received a report from the Government of India (as promised on March 19, 1904) in regard to the provision of adequate facilities for the vernacular education of the children employed or resident upon plantations in Assam and other planting districts in India; and, if so, will he state the purport of the report.

Mr. Brodick: I received in September last an interim reply from the Government of India, which shows that the subject is receiving attention. The report generally confirms what I understood to be the case, and stated in my reply to my honourable friend on March 18 last, that the classes employed to labour on tea gardens do not display much desire for education for their children in any part of India, but it is hoped that it may be found possible to offer some special encouragement to induce them to do so, and the matter will not be overlooked. I shall receive reports in due course.

The Bengal Excoise Bill.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the Bengal Excoise Bill has been referred to the Government of India for instructions as to certain clauses dealing with the procedure to be adopted to ascertain the existence of local opinion in regard to the opening of liquor shops; whether he will state whether there is any conflict of opinion between the Government of India and the local government upon the question of principle involved in these clauses; and he will be in a position to state the views of the Government of India upon the subject.

Mr. Brodick: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. So far as the principle is concerned that the law should fix, as far as possible, a definite procedure for ascertaining local opinion, there is, I believe, no conflict of opinion between the two Governments. I cannot conveniently make any statement as to the views of the Government of India until an amended Bill shall have been introduced into the Bengal Legislative Council. I have ascertained from the Viceroy that he has not yet received the reply of the local Government to the letter of the Government of India on the subject of the procedure provisions of the Bill.

Tuesday, Feb. 28.

Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty.—Mr. MacNeill asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether Lord Curzon of Kedleston, who, on his departure from India, had, in accordance with statutory provisions, "pro facto" vacated the position of Governor-General of India, was, for several months during his residence in this country, and previous to his reappointment to the Governor-Generalship of India, practically discharging from this country the functions appertaining to the office of Viceroy, and directing and dictating the policy of the Indian Government in its controversy with the Tibetan Government as to the terms of the treaty with Tibet; whether confidential communications between the India Office and the Acting Viceroy of India were open to the perusal of Lord Curzon when in this country; and whether there is any, and, if so, what precedent for the active interference in the government and policy of India of a person holding no official position, and irresponsible to Parliament, and exempt from its criticism.

Mr. Brodick: It is not the case that Lord Curzon, while he was in this country, practically discharged the functions appertaining to the office of Viceroy. During that time his Majesty's Government were in frequent consultation with him on matters relating to India, including Tibet, and many confidential documents were shown to him; but as long as he held no official position he took no official part in the government of India. His Majesty's Government were glad to avail themselves of the experience which Lord Curzon had recently gained during the six years of his viceroyalty, and it was obviously desirable that, as Viceroy-designate, he should be kept fully informed on current questions.

Mr. MacNeill: When did Lord Curzon become Viceroy-designate? Before he did so, were not confidential communications between the Acting Viceroy and the Cabinet submitted to him?

Mr. Brodick: Lord Curzon became Viceroy-designate on the notification of his re-appointment. I do not remember the precise date. His Majesty's Government are always glad to avail themselves of the experience of retired Viceroy, and the Viceroy designate was kept fully apprised of all that was going on before he left for India.

Coopers Hill College.—Sir John Gorst asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether, in view of the closing of Coopers Hill College, it has been determined to give a temporary monopoly of the instruction of forest students to the University of Oxford; if so, whether this scheme is a strictly temporary expedient for one year only, and whether in a permanent scheme the graduates of all universities in the United Kingdom will enjoy equal opportunities for entering the Indian Forest Service; and whether he will lay the correspondence on this subject and the regulations for entrance and instruction of Indian forest students upon the Table of the House.

Mr. Brodick: The details of the scheme are still under consideration, and I will ask my right hon. friend to repeat his question shortly.

Army Reorganisation in India.—Mr. Buchanan asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether Lord Kitchener's proposals for Army reorganisation in India have been adopted by the Government of India; what is their estimated cost; and will papers on the subject be laid before the House.

Mr. Brodick: Lord Kitchener's proposals for Army reorganisation in India have been accepted in general principle, but details are not yet thoroughly worked out; it is, therefore impossible to give their estimated cost, and at present papers on the subject cannot be laid before the House. I have agreed to the Government of India making a provision for special military expenditure in the Budget of 1905-1906.

Wei-hai-wei.—Replying to Mr. Bright, Mr. Petyman stated that the expenditure to date in round figures on the naval station at Wei-hai-wei is 93,000. During the ensuing year 1905-1906 it is estimated that a sum of 7,660 will be required, which is mainly for dredging operations.

Wednesday, March 1.

Precautions against Famine.—Mr. David Morgan asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether, in view of the fact that damage has been done to the growing crops in the Punjab by frost, and of the danger of famine in that district in May and June, he will say what precautions are being taken to meet distress.

Mr. Brodick: I am aware, that unusual cold weather has prevailed this year in Northern India, and that serious damage from frost has been sustained by the crops, especially in the United Provinces of Agra and Oude. In the Punjab the injury is probably less, as the crops there are later. The Viceroy, with whom I have been in communication, informs me that there is no cause for anxiety. Should any distress unhappily arise in any local area, the local governments are fully prepared to deal with it in accordance with the provisions of the Famine Codes.

Thursday, March 2.

The Indian Budget.—Mr. Weir asked the Secretary of State for India: If he will arrange to bring forward the Budget statement at an earlier period of the session than on former occasions; and can he see his way to arrange for details or accounts to be quoted in pounds sterling as well as in rupees.

Mr. Brodick: I am not at present able to give information as to the date in the present session on which the usual resolution concerning the revenue and expenditure of India will be moved. It has been the practice for some years to present to the House statements showing in sterling all the important figures in the Indian accounts and estimates. The Secretary of State's explanatory memorandum and the return of net income and expenditure for 11 years are prepared in sterling. In the tables accompanying the financial statement which is prepared in India, the practice is (as the hon. member will observe on referring to pages 83-90 of last year's statement) to show some figures in sterling only and some in rupees and sterling. As this statement and the accompanying tables are primarily prepared to be considered and discussed in the Governor-General's Council in India it would be inconvenient to make any considerable alteration in its form, but I will ask the Government of India whether they can without inconvenience arrange to give, in the body of the statement, the sterling equivalent of some of the figures which are now quoted there in rupees only.

Excess of Expenditure.—Mr. Schwann asked the Secretary of State for India: If he will state the chief causes of the Indian Government's increased expenditure, during the first eight months of the financial year under the head of military services, of 100 lacs in excess of the Budget estimate; have there been any recent savings under that head, or is that excess likely to be increased during the remaining portion of the year ending with next month; to what unforeseen circumstances is attributable the excess in those eight months under the head of civil debts; to what amount, beyond the Budget Estimate of 18,435,500, for the home charges, have the Secretary of State's drawings on India reached at the present date, and to what purpose are these excess drawings being applied; and what is the present amount of the Indian Government's cash balances in this country and in India.

Mr. Brodick: I gather that the hon. member's question is based on the account published in the "Gazette of India" of Jan. 28, but the excess of 100 lacs (approximately) shown in this account in the military expenditure in the first eight months of 1904-1905 is an excess over the expenditure for the corresponding period of 1903-1904, not over the Budget Estimate for 1904-1905. A comparison between the estimated actual military expenditure in 1904-1905 will be given, as usual, with explanations in the Financial Statement of the Government of India, which will be made in the course of the present month. I anticipate that the expenditure on Army Services in 1904-1905 will exceed the Budget Estimate by more than 100 lacs, the excess being chiefly due to the greater cost of the Tibet Mission and to outlay which it has been decided to incur in connection with the reorganisation and improvement of the Indian Army.

The account to which I have referred shows an increase of 100 lacs in 1904-1905 in permanent debt incurred in India; this increase is over 1903-1904, and is explained by the fact that a rupee loan of three crores was issued in 1904-1905, whereas the loan of 1903-1904 was for only two crores.

The drawings on India amounted to 21,150,000, on Feb. 28. The excess over the amount required to meet the Home charges (i.e. the payments in this country charged against revenue) is devoted to defraying capital expenditure on railways and irrigation works and to replenishing the balances of the Secretary of State in Council.

The balances of the Government of India on Jan. 31, 1905, amounted to 8,360,000, and those of the Secretary of State in Council on Feb. 28 to 10,480,000.

Military Study in Japan.—Mr. MacNeill asked the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that the War Office lately invited applications from officers for two years' residence and military study in Japan, with certain emoluments and privileges, he would state how many officers applied from each branch—Engineer, Artillery, Cavalry, and Infantry; whether, seeing that three Infantry and one Artillery officer were selected, he would state who were the persons who made the selection, and on what grounds did they prefer three Infantry officers to all the Artillery officers who applied; whether any further similar appointments were to be made; and, if so, would he direct the selection board to consider the claims of the scientific branches of the Service.

Mr. Arnold-Forster: The number of officers who applied was as follows:—Engineers 15; Artillery, 46; Cavalry, 11; Infantry, 84; Army Service Corps, 9; and Royal Artillery, 1. Of these all who had my Medical Corps, 1, were excluded, not passed for promotion, were excluded, leaving—Engineers, 2; Artillery, 15; Cavalry, 8; Infantry 39; and Army Service Corps, 4. The selection was made finally by the Chief of the General Staff; four selections are made annually. There were already in four Artillery and three Engineer officers in Japan as compared with three Infantry officers and two Cavalry officers; in these circumstances the selection of three Infantry officers and one Artillery officer was considered a proper proportion.

The Master of Elitbank: Are these appointments open to officers of the Indian Army?

Mr. Arnold-Forster: A certain proportion of officers have been appointed from India but I am speaking only of those appointed from home.

THE BENGAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

A number of matters of interest were discussed at the meeting of the Bengal Provincial Agricultural Association held at Writers' Buildings, Calcutta, last Friday.

Resolutions were adopted on several other matters. The Association decided to ask Government to open this year four farms of 30 acres each at four centres, and suggested that jute should be cultivated from the best seed to be purchased locally. The Association also suggested that in the following year farms of 100 acres be opened in the same localities, of which 75 acres should be kept for jute seed and 25 acres for demonstration of the improved methods of growing the crop. Packets of bacteria used in America for fertilising the cowpea and pea crop were handed round. It was decided to try one of them on the Government farms and to send the other to Mr. Berghiel, the bacteriologist, for experiment. Mr. Mann explained to the Association that bacteria are now believed to have no influence on the fermentation of tobacco.

A recommendation made by Mr. N. G. Mukerji was approved, namely, that expert silk reapers from Malda, Birbhum, Rajshahi and Midnapore should be deputed for thorough training to Bangalore or Kashmir in the Japanese methods.

In regard to the small crop-cutting experiments conducted at Outback and Dumraon, in accordance with recommendations of the Irrigation Commission, the Association resolved to ask Government to undertake a large number of such experiments on irrigated and unirrigated areas next year.

The Association also agreed to ask Government to sanction and open at least four large farms at convenient centres demonstrate the results achieved by the experimental farms on a commercial scale.

Another matter discussed was a proposal to bring out a sugar expert to suggest improved varieties of cane, improved method of cultivation and remedies against disease. The cost was estimated at thirty thousand rupees for the first year.

A FIRE-WALKING CEREMONY.

There was a fire-walking ceremony on the 13th instant in the village of Chakkarpalayam, near Palghat, in connection with the temple of the local goddess. The festival, which is an annual one, began on Sivaratree day (4th March) and continued for ten days, terminating with the ceremony referred to. The story of the Mahabharata was enacted every night during the festival. The fire pit was about 16 feet long and 12 feet wide and was well filled with burning cinders to a depth of fully five inches. The fire-walkers, who numbered about forty-seven, went through preliminary purificatory ceremonies and marched in procession from the temple to the river and back to the fire-pit. After offering "puja" in front of the pit they rushed over the fire amidst beat of tom-tom and other primitive music, headed by the pujarias of the temple. The ceremony went off without a hitch, and none of the fire-walkers appeared any the worse for the ordeal. Thousands of villagers witnessed the ceremony.

ARRIVAL AT COLOMBO.

Colombo, Mar. 17.

Prince Frederick Leopold of Prussia has arrived here with his son on his way to the Far East whither he goes as Military Attache on the Russian side. Shortly before the Prince started for the Far East he was the bearer of an autograph letter from the Kaiser to the Tsar embodying the former's plans for the conclusion of hostilities, which Germany would strongly support on terms honourable to Russia. These plans are said to be based on the opinion of the German Military Authorities, that Russia cannot bring the war to a successful issue. The Prince landed at noon and was received by a military guard of honour, and is a guest of the Governor and Lady Blake. He remains his voyage to-night.

Mr. C. H. Harrison, is appointed Deputy Director of Post Offices in India, vice Mr. W. Maxwell, who proceeds on six months' leave. Messrs. Caspersz and Holmwood are gazetted to officiate as Judges of the High Court, vice Messrs. Justices Brett and Pratt who proceed on furlough on 1st April.

During the coming year, 1905-06, the Government of India propose to raise a rupee loan of a crores of rupees, for expenditure on Railways and Irrigation Works. They reserve to themselves full liberty to vary the amount now announced, to any extent that may be considered desirable.

The latest crop and weather report states rainfall has been general throughout Bengal, the United Provinces, Assam, the North-West Province, and the Punjab. In the United Provinces rain has been beneficial and in the North-West Provinces has repaired most of the damage done by frost. Rain has also fallen in parts of Bombay and Rajputana, but it is still needed in Madras, Bombay, Hyderabad and the Central Provinces.

General Linievitch, who has been appointed to succeed General Kuropatkin, was a prominent personality during the march of the Allies on Peking in 1900. He will be remembered as the Brigadier who attempted to steal a march on the Allied troops by making an attack on the Peking walls a day before the allotted time in order it was said, both to have the credit of being the first to relieve the Legations and to get in before the others when it came to the looting. The manoeuvre did not succeed, because it was precisely in the quarter from whence the Russians attacked that the Chinese made the most unexpected resistance. General Linievitch was wounded in this affair. In the present war he was first commanding at Vladivostok. Thence he was summoned to St. Petersburg, and later got the command of what was known as the Third Manchurian Army. In the recent fighting this army held a position on the Russian right flank, and judging by all accounts was the first to be annihilated. General Linievitch seems to have escaped, there is probably not a soldier in the world who will envy him his new position.

RHEUMATISM CAN BE CURED.

Many sufferers from this painful disease have been surprised and delighted at the prompt relief obtained by applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. A permanent cure may be effected by continuing its use for a short time. It will cost you but a trifle to try it. Sold by
All Chemists and Storekeepers Price 1 Re. 2.

ONE-MAN RULE.

JUSTICE AND PRESTIGE IN INDIA.

Calcutta, Feb. 2.

Stated baldly and broadly, there is little, possibly, to attract attention or arouse sympathy in England in the persistent cry which Indian reformers are raising for the separation of the Executive and Judicial functions. But there is, in reality, a great deal that is important beneath the surface for the question at issue is nothing more or less than the independence of the Judiciary; and Englishmen, who desire to appreciate the true inwardness of all that a bureaucratic system of government denotes, cannot more profitably employ their time than in a consideration of the position created deliberately by the civilian rulers of India, and retained as deliberately under a mistaken notion of the requirements of prestige.

The present is an opportune moment in more ways than one for a statement of the case at the bar of English public opinion. Lord Curzon has had before him since the year 1899 a memorial praying for the reform, signed not by "Mr. Jabberjee" and his fellows, but by Anglo-Indians of such eminence and experience as Sir R. Garth, Sir R. Couch, Sir C. Sargent (each an ex-Chief Justice of recognised authority), Sir W. Markby, Sir J. Scott, Sir J. Budd Phear, Sir R. Wilson, and, last but not least, the late Lord Hobhouse, whose death is an irreparable loss to the cause of Indian progress. The Viceroy has as yet declined to show his hand. But the opportunity is there, if he chooses to employ it.

"THIEF-CATCHER AND JUDGE."

The genesis of the existing system may be told in the fewest words. Before the days of Lord Cornwallis the head of an Indian District combined in himself all civil, criminal, and fiscal functions. In 1793 they were divorced of their civil duties; and in 1833 the work of collecting the revenue was assigned exclusively to a special staff of Deputy Collectors and Assistants. A further change was effected in 1839, when the Judicial and Executive functions were separated; and in 1843 Deputy Magistrates were created for the relief of the District Magistrates, who were now distinct from the District Collectors.

There were thus two separate cadres in each district—the one concerned with magisterial, the other with fiscal, matters. But with the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 came the re-establishment of the union of the two functions is one and the same person. And so the machinery of administration has remained to the present day.

On the face of it, the combination is only defensible—if, indeed, at all—on the strongest evidence of political expediency and necessity. As was observed nearly seventy years ago by Sir Frederick Halliday, himself a distinguished Indian civilian, and the first Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, "The union of magistracy with that of collector has been stigmatised as incompatible, but the unaction of thief-catcher with judge is surely more anomalous in theory and more mischievous in practice." Yet this is the system which at the present moment is in force throughout India.

The entire judicial administration of the country in its higher grades is named by the Civil Service, outside the High Courts, which are constituted under Royal Letters Patent, but which are nevertheless not without their leaven in the shape of a certain proportion of civilian judges. The duty of holding sessions trials is discharged by district judges, who, along with a native subordinate staff appointed by the High Court, and subject to appellate control by the district judge, are also concerned with the work of civil justice. But under the district magistrate's orders are grouped the entire body of subordinate magistrates, who dispose of the enormous current mass of criminal cases and commit the graver to the sessions.

THE MISCHIEF AND ITS REMEDY.

The mischief arising from this multiplicity of functions in the hands of one man is done, not merely by the cases which the district magistrate tries, and which it is obviously not possible for him to approach without a prejudice engendered by the police enquiry he has previously been making into the prisoner's antecedents, but quite as much also by the power which is vested in him to transfer a case from a subordinate who shows sign of independence to a pliant and ready tool, and to interfere at every stage of the case with advice which is equivalent to a command.

These are no imaginary evils, as a perusal of the mass of typical cases in the Indian Law Reports will amply demonstrate. The only adequate remedy lies in completely separating the executive and judicial functions, and in placing all judicial officers, whether civil or criminal, under the control and supervision of the judicial authorities.

And with this must run an equally essential reform—the substitution of trained lawyers for non-professional judges and magistrates drawn from the ranks of the Civil Service and in some parts of India from the army. A man cannot make a good judge, or discharge wide magisterial powers with any satisfactory result unless he has first had some proper grounding in legal matters, and has enjoyed some practical experience in the working of the law.

At the present moment young civilians of ten years' standing are acting as district and Sessions Judges in the most advanced districts in Bengal, vested with the powers of life and death, and of transportation for life, and sitting in appellate judgment over grey-haired native judicial officers of thirty years' experience.

It is a matter of common occurrence to find young civilians taken straight from the financial department and the settlement officer's camp, and placed upon the Bench. Englishmen laugh at the Chinese mandarin, who because he has passed an examination, thinks himself competent for any post from the office of Chief Justice to that of Lord High Admiral. Why do they not look nearer home? There is absolutely no reason why

in this year of grace such absurdities should be the rule in India, except one: and that is the attitude of the Civil Service, who stand arrayed in a solid phalanx, prepared to resist to the last any attempt to deprive them of the appointments they now hold.

A LAME EXCUSE.

And yet no claim is made that reform in this or in other direction can be introduced into all parts of India at one stroke. It may be necessary in the backward and undeveloped portions of the Indian Empire to encourage the rule of the one man. But it has long since outlived its welcome in the tranquil and settled regions of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay.

The solitary objection of substance hinges on the question of prestige. But so long as the head of the district retains the powers which the control of the police, the revenue, and the executive give him, what loss of prestige can he suffer by his deprivation of the right to judicially try and punish the criminals he himself places in the dock? At best it is a lame excuse; and, when it is opposed to an over-whelming demand from Anglo-Indians and the records of numberless cases, it should not be allowed to prevail for a moment.—"London Daily News."

Reports from the North-West Frontier Province state that the recent heavy rains have been very beneficial to the crops, and have repaired most of the damage done by the frost.

The following articles are alleged to have been found inside an alligator which has just died in Cincinnati Zoo:—A meteor, weighing two and a half ounces, three teeth of a garden rake, three pairs of spectacles, three dollars and eighteen cents, nine combs, a door knob, a pair of scissors, an iron boot jack, and seventeen tooth-brushes.

The Berar Revenue Administration Report for last year bears witness to the richness of the province which has passed to the Government of India with the transfer of the Berars. Eighty-five lakhs of revenue were got in during the twelve months, being an increase of eight lakhs on the total of the preceding year, and Sir Frederick Lely draws attention to the ease with which the collection is made at the present assessment rates. The Chikhli and Mehkar taluks of the Buldana district are described as being still far from having returned to prosperity after the last famine, but the condition of this area appears to be exceptional. Elsewhere the people have been doing well. A noticeable indication of the improvement which has occurred in their condition is to be found in the birth-rate which stood at the high ratios of 56.9 and 48.16 per mille in 1902 and 1903, respectively, figures only once previously reached in the province for thirty years. The one really unsatisfactory point about the Berars last year was the unhealthiness. The death-rate was no less than 41.74 per mille against 32.80 in 1902, plague accounting for six per mille and fevers for eleven per mille.

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Raj Bahadur Dwarka Nath Bhattacharya, Retired Sub-Judge writes:—

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Babu Dina Nath Roy, Assistant Manager of the "Patrika" writes:—

"My grand daughter had been suffering from chronic dysentery attended with fever and other complications. When some of the eminent physicians failed to cure her, I placed her under the treatment of KABIRAJ KESHAB LAL ROY, who, I am glad to say, cured her within a very short time. The case of my grand daughter has convinced me that Ayurvedic medicines, if properly prepared, are most efficacious for chronic diseases."

MANAGER, BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA, CALCUTTA.

THE RAMMOHAN LIBRARY.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY.

Saturday evening at 5-30 o'clock a large number of Indian gentlemen assembled in the hall of the Deaf and Dumb School, Upper Circular Road, to celebrate the inauguration ceremony of the Rammoohan Library which has recently been started at 101 Upper Circular Road.

Babu Narendra Nath Sen, the President of the Library, explained the aims and objects of the institution, and said that the establishment of the Library in the locality—Sukea's Street and its neighbourhood—removed a long felt desideratum. The Library, he said, was named after the late illustrious Raja Ram Mohan Roy as he was for a long time a resident of the locality. The Library was opened upwards of two months ago and the success it had achieved within this short time encouraging. There were already no members on the roll, each paying an amount of subscription provided in the Rules and Regulations of the Library. Healthful literature would only find a place on the shelves of the library and English, Bengali and Sanskrit books would only be kept there. Sir Goroob Das Banerjee then moved the first resolution which ran as follows:—

"That the Rammoohan Library which has recently been started with the object of promoting the intellectual development of the people of the native quarter of the town be opened."

Messrs. R. H. M. Rustomjee and Maulvi W. Hossain seconded and supported the resolution respectively. Some other resolutions regarding the Rules, Members, Office-bearers and the Executive Committee of the Library were then adopted after which the meeting terminated.

The Chairman, the Member, the Secretary to the Railway Board, and the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence will respectively take rank in articles 19, 21, 49, and 52 of the Warrant of Precedence for India. On Friday last the Down Punjab Mail was detained at Achaldia about nine hours due to a serious derailment of a goods train at that station.

That servants are not slow to assert their rights in Burma is exemplified in some recent court cases. In one a servant sued for the sum of Rs. 13, wages alleged to be due. The Court declined to consider a set-off of Rs. 8 claimed by defendant in respect of a pair of geese and a banntam fowl not accounted for by the servant. The latter obtained a decree, the mistress being informed that the claim relative to the poultry should form the subject of a separate case.

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