

Calcutta, April 2, 1905.

prevented from absorbing everything, and a comprehensive and statesmanlike view taken of the duties of the State and of the exceptional opportunities which the present position of the finances affords to Government, a vast deal could be done to improve the condition of the people and thereby also to deepen, broaden and strengthen the true foundations of British rule in this land.

Another subject, which I wish earnestly to bring to the attention of Government, is that of the Municipal bodies in those parts of the country which have suffered severely from successive visitations of the plague.

experience how we are simply powerless, at present to undertake any large works of improvement and what a struggle we have to make merely to keep things going. Our plague debt to-day is about 24 lakhs of rupees—a sum nearly equal to our annual income—and it will take something like fifteen years to clear it off, which means that for fifteen years, our small margin of income over expenditure will not be available to us for any other purpose.

ter in the Parliamentary Statute of 1833 and the Proclamation of Queen-Empress in 1858. The Statute and the Proclamation have respectively pledged the word of the British Parliament and the British Sovereign to the people of India that all offices in the country shall be equally open to all without distinction of race, colour, or creed.

as a temporary arrangement, may be accepted as inevitable. As a permanent arrangement, it is impossible. This question thus is to us a question of national prestige and self-respect—and we feel that our future growth is bound up with a proper solution of it.

SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

An exchange of appointments is sanctioned between the following officers:— (1) Maulvi Muhammad Ismail, B.A., an Assistant Master in the Patna City School and (2) Babu Satya Rupa Mitra, Sub-Inspector of Schools, Singhbhum.

LORD CURZON'S BUDGET SPEECH.

It is very difficult to deal with a Viceroy who professes love for India, but who will never acknowledge the simple truth that, as a foreigner and, not being in touch with the country, he is not in a position to decide what will harm or what will benefit the Indians.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. Includes a ruler and a color calibration chart at the bottom of the page.

(From our own Correspondent.)

London, Mar. 10.

THE EXTRAVAGANT POLICY OF PUNITIVE EXPEDITIONS.

It made one open one's eyes and doubt the hearing of the ear to listen to a member of the Government denouncing in rigorous terms the extravagance and costliness of punitive expeditions whether on the Indian frontier or in Somaliland. It was Earl Percy who addressed the House of Commons on the subject. The attention of the House was occupied by the Somaliland campaigns and the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in defending the Government's changed policy, favoured the House to the usual torrent of words in which he always conveys his ideas. As not long ago he was Under Secretary for India he perchance gathered useful information on the subject of frontier expeditions. In any case he did not hesitate to roundly condemn them on the score of costliness and extravagance, and he certainly had the costliness and extravagance of the chase after the "Mad Mullah" in Somaliland brought home to him by various speakers in the House of Commons. But the Government is going to do better in future; it abandons military expeditions in Somaliland; it contents itself by arming the friendly tribes on and defending the coast line. This is after millions of money have been wasted, and each varying policy of the Government has been as stoutly defended as the latest by Earl Percy. The wild Somalis, who seem to have been most unreliable, are to have arms; but the peaceful, industrious people of India are denied their use even for self-protection against wild beasts. By the way, early next week Mr. Field will ask Mr. Brodrick a question on that subject. With regard to Earl Percy's declaration, I may add that it is not often that the military expeditions undertaken on the frontiers of India are so strongly condemned by a member of the Home Government. Mr. Lloyd-George, too, summed up the Tibet Mission in an apt sentence. He said: "Only a few thousand pounds were to be spent in order to leave Mr. Brodrick's card on the Dalai Lama, but instead of that the trip was converted into a great military expedition." Mr. Herbert Roberts is to make sure next Tuesday, by means of a question to Mr. Brodrick, as to who will pay for the Indian troops which are to be left in Somaliland.

THE FISCAL DEBATE.

The great event of the week in Parliament has been the debate on the fiscal question which Mr. Winston Churchill brought in on Wednesday evening. I have rarely seen such an expectant attitude among Members. Even in the afternoon there were groups of Members in the Lobby talking with almost bated breath of the coming discussion in the evening and speculating as to its results. It was the one absorbing theme. Not only among Members was the excitement intense; it was shown by the crowds of strangers eagerly on the watch to catch a Member's eye as he passed through the Outer Lobby, or keenly gazing in the direction of the entrance to the Commons in the hope that the card committed to the tender mercies of the official messengers had reached its destined mark, and that the Member would appear. So great was the demand for places in all the Galleries to which strangers are admitted that every available seat was almost instantly filled as soon as the doors were open, and numbers of late-comers had to go away disappointed. On the floor of the House, too, there was a full attendance. It reminded me in this respect of the day when Mr. Balfour rose to announce the conclusion of the Boer war and to read out the terms of peace. That was one of the days that are memorable, and the intense excitement was then entirely joyous. But on Wednesday evening the aspect of the House was different; it was in a determined mood; and the young Member, who so ably, so earnestly, and so calmly, asked for a straight answer to a straight question, won the applause of both sides. Mr. Winston Churchill's reputation has been greatly enhanced by his excellent speech, and by the admirable manner in which it was delivered. Long before this letter reaches you, you will have heard the result of the division—a majority for the Government of 42—and the principal points of the speeches. There were not many speakers, for the debate was only allowed three hours. Mr. Chamberlain was a distinct disappointment; he came in late, and like the Government, covered behind the wall of "Previous Question." Neither in Mr. Balfour, nor Mr. Lytton did I come out and fight. The great cry was, let the forthcoming Conference be fettered by any expression of the opinion of the House. The fallacy of the idea was exposed by Mr. Asquith, and Lord George Hamilton made an excellent and forcible speech. He voted against the Government, and in his speech declared his intention to do so. Mr. Balfour chided him on the point; but he, like many others, have found that when Lord George's deepest convictions are aroused, "when party feeling will not make him swerve from what he considers the right path. If only he had put as much real earnestness into his term of office on India's behalf, the people of the country would have had reasonable regret his resignation. As the time grew on for the division to be taken, there was considerable excitement, and the reading out of the numbers was attended by hearty cheering. It must be added that Mr. Balfour looked supremely unhappy during the course of the debate, and Mr. Chamberlain actually seemed to be waiting for a word from the Prime Minister of approval of his policy. It was because such a word was not forthcoming that the Government majority reached 42. Passing along one of the corridors late in the afternoon I came upon Mr. Winston Churchill intent in conversation with one of his supporters; the two young men were passing up and down an unfrequented part of the House, and were earnestly discussing the great question. It is true that the young Member (Mr. Oldham takes himself very seriously; he feels strongly on this question, and he is most determined fighter. Hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House look up to him as a careless boy, or an enthusiast carried away by ambition. But whatever they may say, Winston Churchill is destined to be a formidable figure in British politics; he is one of the ablest of the younger men in the House.

Talking of young Members, I had the opportunity on Wednesday of being introduced to the new Member for Buteshire, Mr. Norman Lamont, who took his seat that day. He has won for Liberalism the constant

had any such intention of withdrawing his complaint, he might have done it by simply stating that he did not choose to proceed with the case. There is a saying of one having received both "pach and pajjar," that is the position of Babu Nandi. By the bye did Babu Nandi receive any public subscription for the purpose of carrying on the case? If so, what has he done with the money? Has he returned the contributions to the subscribers? Has he disclosed the names of those who had helped him in the matter? A bridge is not a private place. There Mr. Carey was speaking something to somebody. What right had he then to tell Babu Nandi to go away from there; and, when he refused, to chase and assault him? Of course he is a Magistrate of the District. But the law does not permit him to assault or drive away a man, who was listening to his conversation at a public place. Besides, Mr. Carey was speaking as a private gentleman and not in his capacity as a Magistrate of the District. When Mr. Beaton-Bell assaulted Kesub Lal Mittra during the administration of Sir Charles Elliot and the approved party did not proceed with his case, the Government publicly censured that official. Similarly the Government of Mr. Andrew Fraser has a duty to do in connection with the present case, though it has been compromised. Certainly it has something to say to Mr. Carey, and that not in private, so that the outside public may know that the Government is severely upright, and does not excuse even a Magistrate, when he breaks the law.

It speaks well of the fairness and the liberality of the English nation that the way the table was turned upon Lord Curzon by an Indian Journal has pleased and not irritated them, and their sympathies are not with their countryman, who now governs India, but with the Indians who were vilified. As the reader is aware that a large number of English papers commented on the aspersions cast upon Indian character by Lord Curzon and his Korean incident. One of the most amusing paragraphs appears in the "Weekly Times" of March 12th. Here it is:—

"I laughed, this week, at the comments of an Indian magazine which a correspondent has sent me on Lord Curzon's recent very unfortunate attack at Calcutta on Oriental untruthfulness. Truth, said Lord Curzon, was a product of Western civilisation! 'Well, it may be, but I must confess George Nathaniel's share was not a large one. This, according to his own statement in his book, 'Problems of the Far East,' was how Lord Curzon told the truth in his youth:—

"Before proceeding to the Royal audience I enjoyed an interview with the President of the Korean Foreign Office. . . . I remember some of his questions and answers. Having been particularly warned not to admit to him that I was only thirty-three years old, an age to which no respect attaches in Korea, when he put to me the straight question (invariably the first in an Oriental dialogue), 'How old are you?' I unhesitatingly responded 'Forty' 'Dear me,' he said, 'you look very young for that. How do you account for it?' 'By the fact,' I replied, 'that I have been travelling for a month in the superb climate of his Majesty's dominions.' Finally he said to me, 'I presume you are a near relative of her Majesty the Queen of England.' 'No,' I replied, 'I am not.' But observing the look of disgust that passed over his countenance, I was fain to add, 'I am, however, as yet an unmarried man,' with which unscrupulous suggestion I completely regained the old gentleman's favour. 'After that, I doubt whether the wily Oriental is in it with the present Indian Viceroy, whose admiration for truth perhaps was acquired later on in life, under his wife's management. It is pre-eminently a Yankee quality.

Oh, it sticks in the gorge
Of Truthful George,
Likewise Na-tan-i-el,
That the nigger beast
Of the wily East
Should taradiddle tell.
For this "man without guile"
Went many a mile,
In the days of candid youth;
And always did well,
Taking care to tell
Naught but the naked truth.
That is, you all know,
What seem'd to him so,
Or likely to pass as such.
If a little white lie
You boggle at, feel
He was only talking Dutch!"

The above para shows how almost every English paper has its own way of criticising the Convocation speech and the Korean incident of the Viceroy, which had convulsed both India and England.

It is officially announced that Sir Louis Dene has completed the duties entrusted to him by his Majesty's Government and concluded an agreement with the Amir, the mission was to leave Kabul on the 29th March. It is suspected to arrive at Landikotal on 8th April. The Amir was to give a banquet to the mission on the night of the 26th at Sardar Nasrullah's house and a farewell interview on the 27th.

An experiment by a European with a steam plough near Twante, Burma, showed remarkable results, proving the fertilising advantages of sun and air. Adjoining fields were sown with exactly the same paddy. They produced plants with an average of 11 stalks each of 155 grains. The steam ploughed area produced plants of an average of 20 stalks and each plant averaged 260 grains. It is stated that the experiment is to be continued on a larger scale in the present year.

The Rev. Dr. Sandilands, late of the United Free Church Mission whose extradition from England was reported some time back was brought to trial at Bhandara on a charge under section 313 and two charges under 376 I.P.C. On being put up before the 1st class Magistrate at Bhandara accused waived his right as a British subject and was accordingly tried before a special Magistrate with powers under section 30 C.P.C. The first charge taken up was that of performing an illegal operation on one of the girls of the Mission Orphanage. Accused was defended by Mr. Cama, Barrister-at-Law, while the prosecution was conducted by Mr. Armstrong Public Prosecutor, Nagpur Division. The case was heard in camera. On the 25th instant the Magistrate delivered judgment: He found accused guilty of an offence under section 313 I.P.C. and sentenced him to five years rigorous imprisonment. It is understood that the further charges will not be proceeded with unless the conviction and sentence in the above case are altered on appeal.

This Bombay Court of Wards Bill and the Madras Land Encroachment Bill have no doubt been passed, but they met with strenuous opposition from the non-official members of the Council and the Indian press. The Hon'ble Sir Pherozshah Mehta characterized the Bombay measure as one illustrating the spirit of over-legislation, which has of late over-taken the Indian Legislature. Other non-official members spoke as strongly against the Bill. The Government, however, found in the great philosopher and ever, Dr. Bhandarkar a valuable support. He sought to silence the non-official members by calling on them to have implicit faith in the good intentions of the Government. But his advice fell flat upon them. On the contrary, the Hon'ble Sir Pherozshah Mehta retorted by observing that the worthy Doctor was unfit, by temperament, training and habit, to pronounce on the merits of such a measure of vast practical significance. But all the opposition of non-official members, as excerpted, went for nothing, against the phalanx of official votes.

A similar scene was enacted when the Madras Government sought to pass the Land Encroachment Bill. Be it said to their credit, the official members freely allowed the non-official members to say all that they had to say against the measure. Nay, they left many of the statements of the latter unchallenged. Only they did not accept anything put forward by the non-official members. The latter voted solid against the passing of the Bill and, when it was passed, the Hon. Mr. Stokes made a graceful acknowledgment of the "help" they had received from the non-official members, and regretted that they could not meet their wishes! And need we point out what this "help" is? It is this that the Government would be able to declare to the world that, the measure was passed after hearing the arguments of its opponents and thus full justice was done to the people! The expanded Councils are not only a farce and a delusion but also a snare. We wonder if any Indian, who is sincerely anxious to serve his country, can honestly enter these Councils, knowing full well, that while his protest goes for nothing, he is indirectly made a party to proceedings which are disastrous to the interests of his country.

The answers given to certain questions put by the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose in the Bengal Council as regards the selection of text books are more ingenious than convincing. The questions throw abundant light on the ways of the educational autocrat, Mr. Pedler; and Mr. Carnduff, in reply, sought to hide the real state of things in a cloud of words. Those who are aware of the inner working of the present system of selecting text-books can not but view the matter in any other light. Thus, "a limited number of books" published by Indian authors, has been made to hold responsible for their practical exclusion from their being selected as text-books. But, pray, how can a different condition of things exist, in the face of the ingenious and tight-tugging machinery devised by Mr. Pedler? Under the present system, books have to be first submitted to the Director's office; there they are suffered to accumulate and rot for a long time before they are passed on to the Text Book Committee. Bear also in mind that not only text books but even books for libraries and prizes must pass through Mr. Pedler's sieve. Need any body wonder after this, if the number of books published by Indian authors is so limited? Formerly the selection of text books for L.P., U.P., M. V. and M. E. Classes was in the hands of the District Boards and the Divisional Inspectors. Under the new system, the Director has taken the whole patronage solely, and exclusively in his own hands. Is it then a matter of wonder that the same book or books are prescribed for all the Divisions to the exclusion of others of a similar, if not superior, merit? Had the selection of text books been in the hands of the Divisional Inspectors, a larger number of authors would surely have come in for a patronage. But, under the rule of Mr. Pedler and his "experts", the same book or books come to be prescribed year after year and for all the Divisions alike, though there may be other books of the same nature approved by the Text Book Committee.

A STRANGE piece of reasoning we have been treated to is that the power of selecting text books for the 6th class downwards of the H. E. School and for all M. V.; U. P.; and L. P. Schools has been placed in the hands of the Director for the purpose of securing uniformity and fairness. But it should be remembered that the competition for scholarships is not between one Division and another, not even between one district and another. Where is then the need of so much anxiety for securing uniformity at the Scholarship Examinations? This uniformity may be amply secured, if Divisional Inspectors are left to choose for their own Divisions books from the approved lists.

We all know tastes differ. What Mr. Pedler's expert considers to be the best book in the world, may not be thought so by other experts. Is it then fair that only Mr. Pedler's experts should be the sole arbiters? The best course will be to give by turns a fair chance to all such books as have been approved by the Text Book Committee, such approval being held to be a sufficient guarantee for the suitability of the books. A fair field will be given to the various authors, if the reins of officialdom are less tightened and freedom of action is allowed to Divisional Inspectors and District Board Committees.

MR. PEDLER'S doctrine of the "survival of the fittest" is unsuited to India, where the people are weak and miserable. The truth is that we are just beginning to enjoy the sweets of Mr. Pedler's parental control. Educational Department is going to be converted into an official bureau from top to bottom. All this is part and parcel of the reactionary policy that has set in under the regime of Lord Curzon.

THERE is a grim humour in the way the case brought against Mr. Carey by Babu J. M. Nandi has ended. There is no doubt that it was J. M. Nandi who had been assaulted, and it was Mr. Carey who assaulted him. But we see in the case the spectacle of the party so assaulted practically apologizing to the party who assaulted him! The history of the world can not show an example like this. J. M. Nandi admits before the public, though he did not say so in as many words, that he had been well served in being assaulted. If J. M. Nandi

Registration Rs. 17,00,000
Under the old Settlement the income of the Bengal Government with regard to the above sources of revenue would have been as follows:—

Share Stamps	Rs. 1,56,00,000
Excise	Rs. 83,50,000
Assessed Taxes	Rs. 25,00,000
Forests	Rs. 5,90,000
Registration	Rs. 8,50,000

Total Rs. 2,78,90,000
Add to the above the sum of Rs. 2,50,000 the Provincial share of the Customs revenue now lost to the Bengal Government, and the whole amount comes to Rs. 2,81,40,000.

Let us now see the receipts from the above heads of revenue under the new Settlement:—

Share Stamps	Rs. 1,04,00,000
Excise	Rs. 73,06,250
Assessed Taxes	Rs. 12,50,000
Forests	Rs. 2,95,000
Registration	Rs. 17,00,000
Imperial grant	Rs. 50,00,000

Total Rs. 2,59,51,250

Thus, under the old Settlement the income of the Bengal Government would have been Rs. 2,78,90,000 for the current year, but under the new, it was Rs. 2,59,51,250; in other words, the Government of Bengal suffered a loss of Rs. 19,38,750 by the new arrangement! Surely the result is not one which ought to fill the Lieutenant-Governor with gratitude to the Supreme Government.

But the real situation is still worse. By offering an annual grant of fifty lakhs of Rupees the Government of India has not only snatched away the various heads of revenue, but deprived the latter of those which are progressive. Thus while the Government of Bengal will have to remain content with a fixed lump sum of fifty lakhs per annum, the Government of India will continue to enjoy the three-fourths and half shares of the increasing revenues from Stamps, the Assessed Taxes, Forests respectively. In other words while, year after year, the Imperial Exchequer, from the improved administration of the Local Government will go on swelling by leaps and bounds, the latter will have to keep its body and soul together with its fifty lakhs, unless the Supreme Government throws a few crumbs now and then for its assistance, out of sheer pity.

The Financial Statement of the Bengal Government does not present any very striking features. It is in fact an exact copy of what was presented last year. What, however, the representative members of the Council have got to show is that under the new Settlement the Local Government has lost all along the line, and that neither the Lieutenant-Governor nor the Financial Secretary was justified in thanking the Supreme Government in the way they did for having thrust it upon the people of Bengal. On the other hand, as the protector of their interests, the Lieutenant-Governor should have protested against this gross injustice. As we have shown in our leading article, the immediate effect of the new Settlement is a loss of about Rs. 20,00,000 to Bengal, whereas it means gradual prosperity to the Supreme Government as all the sources of revenue whose shares have been imperilled by the new Settlement are progressive.

WITH regard to items of non-recurring expenditure there are some to which objection can very reasonably be taken. For instance, a sum of Rs. 50,000 has been contributed to indigo experiment. It is indigo planters, and not the general taxpayers, who should pay this amount. Similarly, a sum of Rs. 1,57,000 has been set apart for the benefit of Calcutta nurses. As these nurses are needed by the Europeans and well-to-do Indians residing in the imperial city, it is manifestly unjust to throw this burden upon the tax-payers who do not need the services of these nurses. The wrong is all the more unjustifiable as no provision for medical help to the millions in the interior has been made. Here are a few more items. A sum of Rs. 39,000 has been made over to Dow Hill Girls School, and a sum of Rs. 6,000 has been sanctioned for a Commercial Class in Girls' School, Kurseong. As these institutions are for the benefit of the Christians, it is scandalous that Hindu and Muslim tax-payers should be made to pay for them. All these items of expenditure demand the attention of the Hon'ble members.

A CORRESPONDENT at Bankipur writes to us to say that one of the objects of the Viceroy's visit to Pusa is to get an address from the Behar Landholders' Association. This is what he states:

"I am going to write to you on a matter which, judging from the present state of things, will no doubt surprise you. You know that Lord Curzon is expected to pay a visit to Pusa by the end of the current week. This occasion is to be taken advantage of by interested people to try to undo the effect of the protest meetings recently held at Calcutta and Madras in connection with His Excellency's Convocation speech. This they want to do by forcing the Behar Landholders' Association to present an address to His Excellency. It should be noted here that the above mentioned body gave an address to the Viceroy (Lord Curzon) on the occasion of his visit to Bankipur in 1902. It has been arranged that about a dozen of the leading members of the Association (8 of these having been selected from Bankipur) will form a deputation for the purpose. On previous occasions, other Viceroy's have passed through other towns in this province, but this body never took the trouble to go out of its way to present an address. This is significant. And the fact that the address has been drafted by a very high official who is under special obligation to the Viceroy is still more significant. The members were never consulted about the matter, neither was the proposal ever brought before a meeting of the Association. All at once they got a notice to be present at Pusa on the morning of Saturday next."

We do not know who are the authors of this movement. All that we can say is, that they will not serve the Viceroy but do him great disservice by getting up such a demonstration; for, it will not be possible to persuade the public to believe in its genuineness. On the other hand, the Viceroy will be placed in a most awkward position if, after the recent protest meetings, certain Indian gentlemen were to come forward and present him with a validatory address. We sincerely trust that our correspondent has been misinformed; but, if such a movement has really been set in motion, Lord Curzon, we hope, will not encourage it.

Now, the amount of total revenue realized from the sources of income, enumerated above, during the current year, is as follows:

Stamps	Rs. 2,08,00,000
Excise	Rs. 1,67,00,000
Assessed Taxes	Rs. 50,00,000
Forest	Rs. 11,80,000

send such a thrill of joy through the system of every Indian? It is not because he did us any substantial service, but because he freely mixed with the Indian leaders and sought their advice. But what is the attitude of Lord Curzon towards them? It is one of deep-rooted prejudice and antipathy. We were simply staggered when we read the following sentences in his Excellency's budget speech:—

"It is in the disposal of surpluses that, in my opinion, the responsibility of the head of the Government does most definitely come to . . . It is one of the first of his functions, in consultation with the Finance Minister and his Colleagues to consider the fair and equal distribution of the bounty which good fortune may have placed in their hands. I have found no more pleasing duty than this during the past six years; and in acting as we have done; it is no vain boast to say what we have proceeded throughout upon definite principles and on what seemed to us to be logical lines. My view has always been that as the revenue of this country comes in the main from the people of the country it is to the people that the disposable surplus, if there be one should return. And who are the people of whom I speak? They are the patient humble millions, toiling at the well and the plough, knowing little of budgets, but very painfully aware of the narrow margin between sufficiency and indigence. It is to them that my heart goes out. They are the real backbone of our economic prosperity. They give us nearly 20 millions sterling per annum in Land Revenue alone, or about one-fourth of our entire receipts. And alongside of them are the artisan, the petty trader, the small shopkeeper, the minor official, the professional man of humble means,—numerically much smaller than the cultivating classes, but representing different and very important sections of the population—all relatively poor, and all entitled to some return when the State has the wherewithal to give."

Does His Excellency mean what he states in the above? That is to say, is his heart really filled with love for the lower millions? Or does His Excellency express indirectly by the above his prejudice of the educated classes in India? It is quite true that the humble millions and petty traders contribute their mite to the Imperial Exchequer; but, so do the educated classes also; and they have therefore their claims too upon the Government. But his Lordship has not one kind word for them.

Let us admit that His Lordship actually feels keenly for the humble millions. At another time he also expressed another kind of sentiment, namely, that he was pained at the spectacle of foreigners sucking the moisture of the soil which should sustain its children. Yet there is not the least doubt that His Excellency himself is a foreigner and is the best paid official in the world. Not only he but there are thousand other foreigners who are feeding upon the fat of this country. Nay, when deficit was the order of the day and the greatest famine of the century had overtaken the land, the officials increased their own salaries in the name of compensation allowance.

Was ever a Civil Service as princely paid as ours we have got? Since His Lordship's heart really weeps for the poor millions, the best thing he could do to help them is to reduce his own pay and ask his colleagues and other members of the Civil Service to follow his noble example. Deed is always better than word.

BENGAL BUDGET.

RESULT OF NEW SETTLEMENT.
The present Financial Secretary of the Bengal Government introduced his last year's budget with these words, namely that his "Budget is neither a prosperity Budget nor a famine Budget but it is what I may call a Financial Settlement Budget." And what was this "Financial Settlement Budget"? We were told that this new "Settlement" constitutes a new departure and must powerfully, although indirectly, strengthen the financial position of the Local Government." And both Sir Andrew Fraser and the Hon'ble Mr. Shiras warmly thanked the Government of India for its "liberality" towards the Local Government. But has the new Settlement really strengthened the financial position of the latter? The Financial Secretary this time is quite silent on the point.

First of all, let us explain the difference between the old Settlement, and the new that was introduced last year with a trumpet. It is quite true that the Local Governments under the previous Settlement were drained in a ceaseless manner almost to the last drop, but yet the Government of Bengal was allowed to retain for its use the larger shares in the following heads of revenue:—

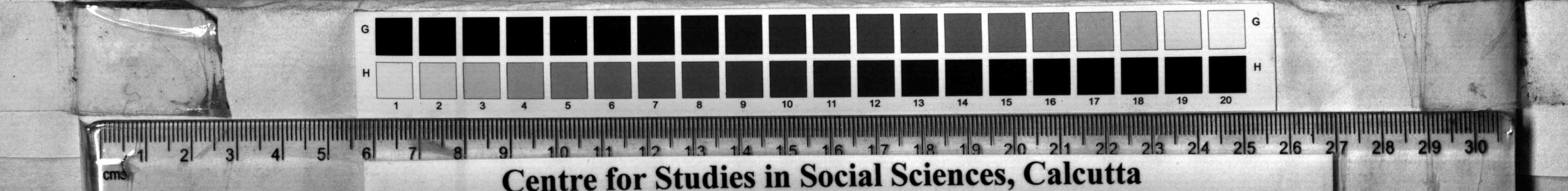
- (1) Stamps—Provincial share three-fourths; Imperial one-fourth.
- (2) Excise—Provincial one-half; Imperial one-half.
- (3) Customs—Provincial share entire.
- (4) Assessed Taxes—Provincial one-half; Imperial one-half.
- (5) Forests—Provincial one-half; Imperial one-half.
- (6) Registration—Provincial one-half; Imperial one-half.

So, under the old Settlement, the Government of Bengal was allowed one-half share in the revenues derived from Excise, Assessed Taxes, Forests and Registration; three-fourths in Stamps, and a full share in Customs Revenue.

Under the new Settlement, however, the share in Stamps is reduced from three-fourths to one-half; the share in Excise from one-half to seven-sixteenths; the entire Customs revenue, which belonged to the Bengal Government, is imperilled and this source of income is thus lost to the former; the share in Assessed Taxes is reduced from one-half to one-fourth; the share in Forests is reduced from one-half to one-fourth. The Registration revenue, which was previously divided half and half between the Provincial and the Imperial Government is provincialized and this is of course a gain to the former.

In return for the above sacrifice of revenues the Government of India undertook to contribute annually Rs. 50,00,000 to the Government of Bengal. This is the arrangement under the new Settlement, for which the Lieutenant-Governor last year expressed his fervent gratitude to the Imperial Government. Let us now examine by working out figures whether we have to offer congratulation or condolence to ourselves for the new Settlement.

Now, the amount of total revenue realized from the sources of income, enumerated above, during the current year, is as follows:



which was represented by the ex-Secretary for Scotland, Mr. Graham Murray, and the appearance of Mr. Lamont was greeted with tremendous cheers by the Opposition.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Bank Rate.—The Bank of Bengal rate for demand loans has fallen to 7 per cent.

Plague Statistics.—There were 126 cases and the same number of deaths from plague in Calcutta on Thursday, when the total mortality was 160 i.e. 8 less than the average of the previous five years.

P. W. D.—Babu Frankrishna Sen, Sub-Engineer, second grade, Mahanadi Division is granted privilege leave for 15 days.

Plague Mortality in India.—A rise of no less than 8,354 took place in the number of plague deaths in India last week, owing to a further very serious increase of the disease in the United Provinces, the Punjab, and Bengal.

Hony. Magistrates.—The following gentlemen are either appointed or re-appointed Hony. Magistrates of the Benches against their names:—Maulvi Shah Sharafuddin, Ahmad, Independent Bench at Shaikhpura, in the district of Monghyr; Babu Karuna Nidhan Sinha, Sadar Independent Bench at Hooghly; Babu Chandra Kumar Roy, Chittagong Sadar Independent Bench; and Babus Jaganendra Nath Ray, Prasanna Kumar Nandy, Tara Chand Sen, and Lal Harakh Nath Sahi Deo, Raachi Sadar Independent Bench.

Killed by Hallstorm.—Our Burdwan correspondent writes: In the afternoon of the 20th instant, when the sky was overcast and a hailstorm prevailed in all its fury and violence the newly-married wife of one Ramdas Hazara an inhabitant of village Raigram under the Manteshwara thana, happened to be out with her mother-in-law on the bank of a tank.

Education of Sadsus.—The Private Secretary to the Maharaja of Burdwan, in reply to a letter addressed to the latter, thus writes to Lala Tahl Ram:—The Maharajahdiraj of Burdwan has received the latter which you addressed him on the subject of the Education of Sadsus and making them useful members of society.

Tiger-fighting.—Under the above heading a correspondent writes:—Lately a hunting party from Calcutta visited Santipur, Jalesore, B. N. Railway. There were five sportsmen. The clever and brave Shikari Anada Kanta Jana set them in places where animals were expected to come out of the jungle.

The Dinapur Deadman's Case.—In connection with the statement, to which currency has recently been given that Mr. C. H. Reid, late Joint Magistrate of Dinapore, tried, convicted and fined a person who was dead, it has been ascertained that the following are the facts:—The case was heard before the vacation, and the 25th October, 1904, the first day after the re-opening of the Courts, was fixed for the delivery of judgment.

The Railway Board.—The Railway Board have issued a memorandum, dated Calcutta, the 22nd March, 1905, calling the attention of the several Railway Administrations to the following matters, for which early provision should be made:—(1) Facilities for passengers to obtain their tickets a longer time before the departure of the trains than they are at present able to do.

The Governor of Madras has promised to perform the opening ceremony in connection with the new Coonoor water-supply. The exact date of the ceremony has not yet been settled, but it will be shortly after His Excellency's arrival at Ootacamund, at the end of April or the first week of May.

Damage to Crops.—According to recent official accounts frost damages to crop are reported from Shahabad, Mymensingh, Ranchi, Palamau, and Darjeeling where potatoes, brinjals, and beans have suffered considerably.

Plague in Jail.—For the last four days a very virulent type of bubonic plague has broken out in the Alipore Central Jail. Eight or ten cases are daily cropping up with as many deaths.

Survey Examination.—An examination for admission to the Provincial Service of the Survey of India will commence on the 28th August next at various centres, which will be notified later to candidates receiving nominations.

Survey Examination Result.—The following is list of Candidates who have passed the Survey examination for Pleaders held in February 1905:—Babus Hari Das Basu, Nanda Kisor Mukerjee, Jitendra Kumar Das Gupta, Hari Jiban Banerjee and Upendra Nath Kundu, C. E. College, Sibpur; Babu Provas Chandra Goswami, Bihar School of Engineering; Babus Rai Mohan Karmokar, and Kedareswar Roy, Dacca Survey School; and Babus Nihar Ranjan Banerjee, Laksmi Narayan Sarkar, Gopal Chandra Mukerjee, Hanseswar Chatterjaya, Krishna Lal Chatterjee, Kali Das Nandy and Dines Charan Roy, Cuttack Survey School.

The 'Assam Gazette'.—Srijit Parsu Ram Khound, Extra Assistant Commissioner, is appointed Sub-Registrar of Gauhati in addition to his other duties. Rai Sahab Prudoma Kumar Basu, M. A., Principal of the Muralichand (Private) College, Sylhet is appointed to the Provincial Service of the Department of Education as Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley. Mr. S. G. Hart, I.C.S., is appointed a Settlement Officer in the district of Sibsagar; and Mr. J. McSwiney, I.C.S., in the district of Kamrup. The Chief Commissioner approves the re-nomination of Babu Hari Charan Das as a member of the Sibsagar Local Board, and appoints him as Vice-Chairman of the Board.

Assam Crop Prospects.—Moderate rain in Surma Valley. Slight rain in all other districts except Nowgong. More rain wanted for tea and early rice in Kamrup. Hooping of tea, pressing of sugarcane, and gathering of mustard still in progress. Ploughing for early and late rice continues; sowing commenced in places. Tea prospects generally fair. Prospects of early transplanted, rice good, and outturn of linned fair in Sylhet. Outturn of sugarcane generally fair; of mustard good in Darrang and fair in other districts. Cattle disease prevalent in three districts. Prices of common rice—Sibsagar 18, Dhubri, Gauhati, Tezpur, Nowgong and Sibsagar 16, and Dibrugarh 14, seers per rupee.

Sub-Overseer Examination.—The following are the results of the Sub-Overseer Examination of the Dacca School of Engineering for the year 1905:—Dwijendra Kumar Datta; Bankim Behari Banerji, Saldendra Mohan Ghosh, Jamin Kanta Mitra, Hem Chandra Das, Dinesh Chandra Biswas, Herambo Mohan Ganguli, Mahendra Chandra Pal, Kartic Chandra Ray, Harendra Chandra Banerji, Satis Chandra Basu, Jyotish Chandra Banerji, Surendra Chandra Choudhury, Jitendra Nath Mitra, Kamini Kumar Uki, Rai Mohan Banerji, Mahesh Chandra Rakshit, Asutosh Das Gupta, Hari Charan Nandi, Gurupada Bhounick, Rebat Charan Chatterji, Narendra Nath Sen Gupta, Charu Kumar Sen, Jatindra Nath Sarkar, Barada Kanta Chakravarti, and Ram Ranjan Saha.

The Craster Fraud Case.—Judgment, was delivered in the case of Administrator-General vs. E. H. Cowie, Debendra Nath Dutt and Banku Behari Banerjee on Wednesday. The following is the result of the finding of Mr. Justice Sale in the matter: The defendant Cowie is responsible for the sale proceeds of the 863 Bank of Bengal shares realized through the Broker Mr. Ward. He is also responsible for the sum of Rs. 2,162-8-0 shown to have been drawn by him from the Bank of Bengal as dividends in respect of those shares. He is also responsible for the sum of Rs. 2,668 shown to have been realized by him from the firm of D. L. Cowie and Co. out of the funds belonging to Craster's estate.

The Craster Fraud Case.—Judgment, was delivered in the case of Administrator-General vs. E. H. Cowie, Debendra Nath Dutt and Banku Behari Banerjee on Wednesday. The following is the result of the finding of Mr. Justice Sale in the matter: The defendant Cowie is responsible for the sale proceeds of the 863 Bank of Bengal shares realized through the Broker Mr. Ward. He is also responsible for the sum of Rs. 2,162-8-0 shown to have been drawn by him from the Bank of Bengal as dividends in respect of those shares. He is also responsible for the sum of Rs. 2,668 shown to have been realized by him from the firm of D. L. Cowie and Co. out of the funds belonging to Craster's estate. These sums make a total of Rs. 1,07,425. He is entitled to credit for the sum of Rs. 2,639 paid in respect of Administration duty and stamps; the sum of Rs. 526-7-0 recovered from the firm of Messrs. Sanderson and Co., and the sum of Rs. 100 recovered from the firm of D. L. Cowie and Co. These three sums make a total of Rs. 3,265-7-0. Deducing that sum from the total realizations it leaves a balance of Rs. 1,07,160-1-0. To this sum must be added as against Cowie the sum of Rs. 22,426-12-0 which on his own statement he is bound to account in respect of Craster's estate. There is due from him to the estate Rs. 1,29,586-13-0 for which there must be a decree in favour of the Plaintiff with costs on scale No. 1. As regards the surety defendants they are liable in respect of the sale proceeds of the shares amounting to Rs. 1,05,595. They are also responsible in respect of the sum of Rs. 2,162-8-0 in respect of the dividends making a total of Rs. 1,07,757-8-0 and subject to the credit immediately to be mentioned they are also responsible for the sum of Rs. 2,268 drawn from D. L. Cowie and Co. for the purpose of Administration duty. These sums make a total of Rs. 1,10,025-8-0 and from this sum must be deducted the total of the three sums, namely Rs. 2,639 paid for Administration duty, Rs. 526-7-0 realized from Messrs Sanderson and Co. and Rs. 100 realized from D. L. Cowie and Co. making a total of Rs. 3,265-7-0. Deducing that sum from the former total the balance comes to Rs. 1,06,760-1-0 for which the surety defendants are liable. There will therefore be a decree against them for that sum with costs on scale No. 2.

The Governor of Madras has promised to perform the opening ceremony in connection with the new Coonoor water-supply. The exact date of the ceremony has not yet been settled, but it will be shortly after His Excellency's arrival at Ootacamund, at the end of April or the first week of May.

The Governor of Madras has promised to perform the opening ceremony in connection with the new Coonoor water-supply. The exact date of the ceremony has not yet been settled, but it will be shortly after His Excellency's arrival at Ootacamund, at the end of April or the first week of May.

High Court.—March 30.

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justices Henderson and Geidt.)

A CASE OF CULPABLE HOMICIDE CONVICTION SET ASIDE.

Mr. Jackson, with Babu Mammatha Nath Mukerjee, appeared in support of an appeal preferred by one Jorie Poddar who had been convicted by the Sessions Judge of Midnapur of an offence of culpable homicide and had been sentenced to transportation for 8 years.

The accused was the paramour of one Baroda Dasi who as well as her husband were supported by him. The husband laid an information at the thana that the accused had quarrelled with Baroda and had killed her with a stone pestle. The police came and found the body of the woman lying on the ground with a stone slab placed on the chest and severe injuries on the head. The accused was thereupon placed on his trial with the result that the two assessors who sat with the Judge found him not guilty and the Judge convicted and sentenced him as aforesaid.

Learned Counsel contended that the accused had absolutely no motive for committing the crime and that the conviction rested entirely on the husband who had given different versions of the occurrence on different occasions, and the conduct of the husband lent colour to the suggestion that he was the real offender.

Mr. Douglas White appeared in support of the conviction.

Their Lordships agreeing with the contention of the appellant's Counsel acquitted the accused.

THE NOTORIOUS ONDAL GANG.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Burdwan, Mar. 26.

Reports of heinous crimes committed by the notorious Ondal gang of robbers and dacoits have already appeared in the columns of the 'Patrika.' The brutal treatment to which the gang subjected Babu Bepin Behary Guha, Head Constable, who was deputed against it by the District Superintendent of Police, was also duly reported. The following account of the gang some leading members of which have been convicted, will prove interesting to the reader.

There live some bad characters of 'Gola' and 'Bagdi' castes at Srirampur, a mile off from the Gadal Railway station. They have no ostensible means of subsistence and are suspected to earn their living by committing theft, robberies, and dacoities. Formerly, some of them had been employed in the railway service, when they had learnt the art of jumping into trains while in rapid motion. Some members of the gang would untrain themselves into rushing goods trains, and throw away on the railway side bags and sacks of goods to be carried by some 25 or 30 others. They would then sell these goods in about 15 neighbouring villages.

It is now six years that existence of the gang has been known. During these years, some of its members were 'challenged' six times on different charges of committing dacoities, robberies, and of being members of unlawful assembly; but, on each of these occasions, they managed to get off scot-free. In 1903, however, 8 of them were sentenced to undergo imprisonment for 3 years in a bad livelihood case, while 12 others, convicted of the same offence, were released by the appellate court. To prove a charge against them in a satisfactory manner was not an easy affair; for, they were sure to burn down the houses of those who bore witness against them and otherwise harass them in an open audacious manner.

In September last, Babu Bepin Behary Guha Head Constable, was deputed by the District Superintendent of Police to keep a strict watch over the gang, and it must be stated to his credit that, with the help of only two Constables, he was able to put a check to the progress of the crime. He, however, suffered very heavily at the hands of the ruffians who assaulted him brutally on two occasions and beat him within an ace of his life, in consequence of which he had to be abed in the Rangunj Hospital for about a couple of months. Subsequently, through the instrumentality of the said Head Constable, three leading members of the gang were arrested and placed on their trial before Mr. Pitterson, Sub-Divisional Officer of Rangunj. All the three accused were found guilty of the charges of assaulting a public servant and of being members of an unlawful assembly and were sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for nine months each.

AGRA ELOPEMENT CASE.

ROMANTIC DETAILS.

Agra, Mar. 30.

In the Cantonment Magistrate's Court today James Alber, D'Rozario, of the Government Telegraph Department, lately of Calcutta, surrendered to his bail. The accused, arrested under section 497 on the complaint of Lewis Manuel D'Jeyes, described as an artist of Calcutta, with his wife, Mary Frances D'Jeyes. Mr. George Wiggins appeared for the complainant and Mr. T. G. Willis for the accused. The complainant stated, in his examination-in-chief, that he married his wife at Bombay in 1894, and went to Calcutta in 1901. There he and his family made the acquaintance of the accused, who lost his wife in April last, and ten days after her death he proposed the marriage to the complainant's sister. The proposal was accepted and he was received into the complainant's house as Miss D'Jeyes' fiancée. Up to this time the complainant and his wife had been living very happily on the best of terms. On the 6th November last his wife suddenly left his house, and for some months afterwards he attempted to find her proved unavailing. The other day complainant wrote to Rev. Father Sylvester, Catholic chaplain at Agra, about his wife, and heard from him that she was living with the accused. He then came to Agra and instituted the present case. Cross-examination was reserved. Mr. A. Nunes, of Bombay, father of Mrs. D'Jeyes, was called to prove the marriage. The case is proceeding.

Supreme Legislative Council.

BUDGET DISCUSSION.

On Wednesday afternoon the Supreme Legislative Council met at 11 a.m. to discuss the Financial Statement for 1905-1906 presented a week ago by the Hon'ble Mr. E. N. Baker. As there was a great demand for visitors' tickets special arrangement was made to accommodate a large number of visitors. The meeting was held in the Throne Room of Government House. All the Hon'ble members were present and the visitors numbered nearly one hundred including ladies and gentlemen, the softer sex occupying the first two rows.

His Excellency Baron Courzon, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, presided and there were present: His Honour Sir A. H. L. Fraser, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, His Excellency General Viscount Kitgel, Chief of Khartoum, Commander-in-Chief of India, the Hon'ble Major-General Sir E. R. Eyles, the Hon'ble Sir A. T. Arundel, the Hon'ble Sir Denzil Ibbetson, the Hon'ble Mr. H. Erle Richards, the Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Hewett, the Hon'ble Mr. E. N. Baker, the Hon'ble Mr. Gopal Krishna Gokhale, the Hon'ble Mr. E. Cable, the Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Muhammad Sahib Bahadur, the Hon'ble Mr. H. Adamson, the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur B. K. Bose, the Hon'ble Sir Rameshwara Singh, Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga, the Hon'ble Rai Sri Ram Bahadur, the Hon'ble Mr. L. A. S. Porter, the Hon'ble Mr. A. D. Youngusband, the Hon'ble Mr. L. Hare, the Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Sim, the Hon'ble Nawab Fateh Ali Khan, Kazilbash.

After the reply was given by the Hon'ble Sir A. T. Arundel on the question of the Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Muhammad, began the discussion with the speech of the most junior members.

The Hon. Nawab Fateh Ali Khan, Kazilbash began the discussion in a short speech congratulating Government on its prosperity Budget.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Sim said that the grants made to local bodies and the further reduction of the salt tax were most opportune. Agricultural improvements, extensive irrigation and opening of new railways etc., should engage the attention of the Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. L. Hare congratulated the Government for granting increased expenditure on police as directed in the Police Commission's Report. He said that the establishment of the Pusa Agricultural College was most opportune.

The Hon'ble Mr. L. A. S. Porter said that considering the loss of crops due to frost and deficient rainfall, the remission of taxes and the abolition of famine cesses were very wise steps adopted by the Government. The increase of pay to police Sub-Inspectors was very desirable. Educational grants in the United Provinces, according to him, were inadequate.

The Hon'ble Rai Sri Ram Bahadur congratulated the Finance Member for presenting an interesting Budget. Remission of taxes and abolition of cesses were necessary as the country was passing through scarcity and famine. Reduction of Salt Duty was a direct relief to the poor. He referred to the urgent necessity of the separation of the Judicial and Executive functions. He spoke at great length to the needs and grievances of the people of the United Provinces.

The Hon'ble Maharaja of Durbhanga read a very lengthy speech which was published yesterday.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur B. K. Bose delivered a short speech which was also published yesterday.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. Cable said that surpluses were the rule and not exception and this year they were very well distributed. He urged for a gold reserve as it was a sign of security. Speaking of the Railway Board he hoped for the sympathetic adjustment of railway rates and urged for greater railway communication. Referring to the fiscal controversy now going on in England he said that India ought to have its own fiscal policy. Egypt and South Africa now did not afford facilities to capitalists and he hoped that India would supply the want.

The Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale made a very lengthy speech which will be found elsewhere.

The official members then replied to the various points urged by the non-official members.

After Messrs. Ibbetson and Hewett the Hon'ble Sir A. T. Arundel spoke at some length. He expressed his entire dissent from Mr. Gokhale's view, that the land revenue could be regarded as a tax on the land. Rai Sri Ram Bahadur had commented on the small number of Indians employed in certain Departments of the Public Service as compared with the number of Europeans and Eurasians. In drawing these conclusions it must not be forgotten that all Europeans and some persons of pure European descent were statutory natives of India. Of the departments mentioned by Rai Sri Ram Bahadur the only one with which he had to do was the Police, but there were one or two Departments with regard to which he could speak.

As regards the customs Indians did not care to board ships and come in contact with seafaring men while in the mint the European employees were chiefly mechanics because qualified natives could not be obtained. With regard to the Police the Government Resolution on the report of the Police Commission was published last Tuesday and in carrying out the reorganisation of the police it was intended to appoint 219 Deputy Superintendents whose status would be that of Assistant Superintendents and whose salary would be Rs. 250 rising in four grades to Rs. 579. These 219 appointments were intended to be held by natives of India and under the circumstances he could not understand the Maharaja of Durbhanga's remarks on the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. Baker gave a joint reply and the discussion came to a close with the speech of the Viceroy.

The Council was adjourned sine die.

In consequence of the outbreak of plague at Rangoon, a meeting of the Marwari community was held in the Plague Commissioners' Office, to select a segregation camp for that community. The site was chosen and other arrangements made.

It is satisfactory to learn that H. E. the Governor of Madras is now recovering from his recent attack of dengue fever. The attack was a severe one and Lord Amphil has been considerably pulled down by it. He is now better, however, and well on the way to recovery.

TELEGRAMS

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE UNREST IN RUSSIA.

London, Mar. 28.

Violent outbreaks are taking place in many parts of the Caucasus, both in the town and country. Peasants declare they can only obtain concessions by force, and are therefore attacking the Municipal buildings and country seats. The Government is sending troops.

There is a marked recrudescence of unrest throughout Russia, apparently in pursuance of a mot d'ordre. Warships and military reinforcements have arrived at Yalta, and order has been restored.

Systematic constitutional agitation has begun in Finland, and is spreading considerably. A demonstration at Abo was attended by twenty thousand, the crowds parading streets and waving revolutionary flags with the hands playing national airs.

London Mar. 30.

The insurrection in Georgia is spreading. It is stated that the authorities in the mountainous districts have been deposed and a provisional Government has been proclaimed. Anarchy reigns at Batoum, Erivan and Kars.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

London, Mar. 28.

It is understood that the intention to mobilise on a large scale has for the present been abandoned, and only drafts will be sent sufficient to stiffen the army of Linievitch, who will pursue Fabian tactics.

News from Guntzuling states that the Japanese are again advancing, which caused the rearguard to retreat thirteen miles to Choumaedzi, forty miles south of Guntzuling.

London, Mar. 28.

The 'Daily Telegraph' is taking up the idea of strengthening the Alliance between Great Britain and Japan and says it receives general approbation in the City, especially if the idea is enjoying the moral support of America.

London, Mar. 29.

Reuter from Durban wires that the steamer 'Dart' from Rangoon, sighted thirty warships and fourteen colliers on the 19th instant, steaming eastward 250 miles to the North-East of Madagascar.

London, Mar. 29.

Reuter wires from St. Petersburg that Russia has outlined the conditions under which she is prepared to negotiate peace. It is stated with every semblance of authority that thanks to the good offices of the United States and France, the question of peace has now assumed a practical shape.

London, Mar. 29.

The Japanese loan has closed and has run about ten times over-subscribed.

London, Mar. 29.

General Linievitch, reporting a skirmish at Huanchilin on the 26th states the positions of the armies are unchanged, but a Russian unofficial telegram states that Choumaedzi has been abandoned.

London Mar. 30.

It is understood that Russia has indirectly made known to Japan the negative conditions on which she would negotiate, namely, no cession of territory and no indemnity. A Russian semi-official agency says that, despite the general inclination in favour of the conclusion of war, Russia has not proposed, and is not prepared for peace conditions.

London, Mar. 30.

Despite semi-official denials there is every reason to believe that Count Lamodorf has intimated in certain friendly quarters the conditions which Russia is prepared to entertain. There will probably be much informal diplomatic discussion at the different Chancelleries concerned before anything resembling negotiation occurs.

London, Mar. 31.

The 'Time's' St. Petersburg Correspondent states that Russia and Japan have selected President Roosevelt to act as mediator, and that negotiations are already in progress, and early suspension of hostilities may be expected.

London, Mar. 31.

A Daily Mail telegram from Aden states that sixteen colliers are leaving Jibuti under sealed orders. It is believed that they are going to Batavia or Diego Garcia.

London, Mar. 31.

A Daily Chronicle despatch from St. Petersburg says that the Finnish Senate has offered to contribute a million sterling towards the expenses of the war on condition that no Finnish were sent to the Far East. The Tsar, after a long consultation with his Ministers, accepted the offer and 26,000 men are consequently exempted from going.

GENERAL.

London, Mar. 30.

The Prince and the Princess of Wales accompanied by Sir David Fisher inspected the 'Renown' at Portsmouth to-day.

London, Mar. 31.

The Lords have read a second time the Bill authorising the enlistment of the Militia for service abroad when embodied.

London, Mar. 31.

During the debate last night in the House of Lords on the Militia Bill, Lord Lansdowne said: "The growth of naval and military expenditure had become a serious menace to the financial stability, and we would have to consider in what direction it was possible to arrest the progress of colossal expenditure. All were agreed that the pruning knife should not be applied to naval expenditure, nor should we diminish the troops available for active operations. In India, the colonies, and elsewhere. Therefore any retrenchment must be applied to Home defence only."

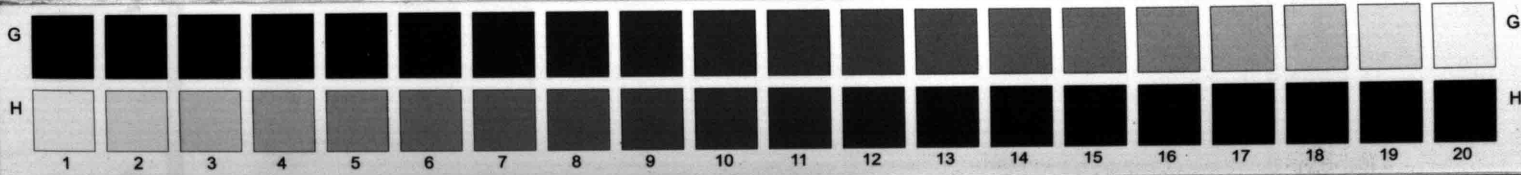
INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE MONGHYR ELECTION CASE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Monghyr, Mar. 30.

The following is the order of the Munsiff referred to elsewhere. No huzira has yet been filed on behalf of the plaintiff although it is 34 minutes past 12 noon. The plaintiff says that he is going to file a huzira. He must therefore be taken to have closed his evidence.



Bengal Legislative Council.

BUDGET DISCUSSION.

The Council met yesterday at 11 a.m. His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, presided and there were present the Hon'ble Mr. L. Hare, the Hon'ble Mr. K. G. Gupta, the Hon'ble Mr. B. L. Gupta, the Hon'ble Mr. E. W. Collin, the Hon'ble Mr. R. W. Carlyle, the Hon'ble Mr. W. A. Inglis, the Hon'ble Mr. L. P. Shirres, the Hon'ble Mr. H. W. C. Carnduff, the Hon'ble Mr. R. T. Greer, the Hon'ble Babu B. N. Basu, the Hon'ble Babu Saligram Sing, the Hon'ble Mr. O. F. Larmour, the Hon'ble Mr. A. A. Apar, the Hon'ble Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar, the Hon'ble Mr. J. Chowdhury, the Hon'ble Asif Kader Saiyid Wasif Ali Mirza of Murshidabad and the Hon'ble Raja Ban Behari Kapur.

INTERPELLATIONS.

The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu asked:—
 (a) With reference to the replies given to Questions V (3) at the Meeting of this Council on 17th December, 1904, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the orders of Sir John Woodburn's Government rescinding the resolution of the Municipal Commissioners of Bhadreswar making over the Manicknagar Ghat Road to Messrs. Thomas Duff and Co., in February, 1900, and also the opinion of the Legal Advisers to the Government in the matter?
 (b) Will the Government be pleased to state if Messrs. Thomas Duff and Co., in their letter, dated the 4th December, 1903, to the Government proposed that either of the two alternative roads, e.g., the Manicknagar Ghat Road or the Paikpara Ghat Road, will suit their purpose? Is it not a fact that the lands on both sides of both these roads belong to Messrs. Thomas Duff and Co.?
 (c) In the Government Resolution dated the 17th September, 1904, paragraph 4, it is stated that if the Manicknagar Ghat Road was not given up to Messrs. Thomas Duff and Co., the use of the road by the employees of the Company who have lands on both sides of the road would entirely destroy the privacy of the road and make it unsuitable for its present purpose of access to and from the river for bathing purposes. Would not the same inconvenience arise with regard to the Paikpara Road, which leads to the river and the land on both sides of which also belonging to the Company?
 (d) Is it not the fact that the people of Bhadreswar and its neighbourhood attach special importance to the Manicknagar Ghat Road, which leads to an ancient ghāt held in great sanctity by the people and largely used by them, specially on Hindu bathing days and on occasions of other Hindu ceremonies?

The Hon'ble Mr. Shirres replied.
 "Sir,—The following are the replies to the questions asked by the Hon'ble Member:—
 (a) A copy of the letter containing the orders of the late Sir John Woodburn has been laid on the table. The legal opinion referred to was given on an unofficial reference and forms part of a succession of office notes. It is not usual to lay such papers on the table, and the Lieutenant-Governor sees no reason to depart from the usual procedure in the present case.
 (b) In the letter referred to Messrs. Duff and Co. said that the closing of one of these roads, preferably the Manicknagar Ghat Road, would enable the Company to lay out a more complete compound, but the offer which Messrs. Duff and Co. made related only to the Manicknagar Ghat Road.
 (c) The answer to this question is in the affirmative.
 (d) It is reported that people of Bhadreswar do not attach more importance to the Manicknagar Ghat than to the neighbouring ghats known as Paikpara Ghat and Mukdan Baksh's Ghat which are equally used by the people on Hindu bathing days and on occasions of Hindu ceremonies. It is also said that no special importance attaches to the Manicknagar Ghat Road by the reason of the fact that it leads to Manicknagar Ghat."

No. 60T.—M., dated Calcutta, the 30th April, 1900.
 From—H. L. Stephenson, Esq., I. C. S., Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Municipal Department.
 To—The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 295M, dated the 10th—17th April, 1900, I am directed to say that, under section 63 of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884, Government confirms the order of the Magistrate of Hooghly, dated the 1st March, 1900, suspending as being in excess of their powers the execution of the resolution of the Commissioners of the Bhadreswar Municipality, passed at their special meeting held on the 11th February, 1900, with reference to the petition of Messrs. T. Duff and Co., regarding the diversion of the Manicknagar Ghat Road, and directs that the said orders continue in force without modification permanently.

The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu asked:—
 (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a paragraph that appeared in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika," dated 28th February, 1905, in which Mr. Carey, the District Magistrate of Hooghly, is said to have called for of his own accord the records of the case of one Arzoon Khan, an under-trial prisoner, from the Joint-Magistrate of Serampore and decided the same himself and made the complainant, one Nassir, pay Rs. 18 for the expenses of the accused?
 (b) Does the Government think the aforesaid action of the District Magistrate is justified?

The Hon'ble Mr. Carnduff replied:—
 "Sir:—The facts appear to be these. Arzoon Khan was a youth who, having been induced to come to Hooghly from Peshawar by his former master, the person referred to as Nassir, desired to return and applied to Nassir for money to enable him to do so. The application was refused; and therefore Arzoon stole the property and went to Peshawar, whence he was brought back under arrest on a warrant issued at the instance of the owner of the property stolen. The District Magistrate ascertained these facts in the course of an official visit to the jail, withdrew the case, which he thought a particularly hard one, from the file of the Joint-Magistrate to his own, and, after convicting the accused, verbally directed, not the complainant, as the Hon'ble Member thinks, but Nassir, whom he regarded as responsible for all that had happened, to pay the accused's expenses home. This direction, which was not a judicial order and could not have been enforced, was promptly complied with."

"Under the law, a District Magistrate is competent to transfer, if he thinks fit, any case to his own file from that of a Subordinate Magistrate, and it is not for the Government to consider whether or not Mr. Carey exercised his discretion properly in this instance. For the rest, the Lieutenant-Governor considers that Mr. Carey's action, though hardly discreet, was obviously prompted by the best of motives, and that the man Nassir apparently acquiesced in Mr. Carey's view of his duty to the boy."

The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu asked:—
 Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a report of the work done during the last five years, with the amount of money spent in each year, in connection with the opening of the "Bhil" route between the "Madhumati" and the Kumar in the district of Faridpur, and state in how many years more the work is likely to be completed, and also whether it is intended to make the canal under construction navigable in all seasons of the year?
 The Hon'ble Mr. Inglis replied:—
 "Sir:—Work was commenced on a channel through the Bil between the Madhumati and Kumar rivers in March, 1900. Each year since then the channel has been improved during the dry season. A little over eleven lakhs of rupees have been spent in all. The canal is now effective for steamers and boats at the season when the rivers are high. It is intended to deepen the channel so that it may be effective throughout the year. This may probably take three years to carry out, as it is necessary to procure from England dredging plant of a special design."

The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu asked:—
 (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the distribution of the Mohsin funds under the following heads:—
 (i) Allotments for Madrasa education (the expenditure of each Madrasa being shown separately).
 (ii) Allotments for College education, including Collegiate schools.
 (iii) Allotments for making up the short-falls allowed to the Muhammadan students in Government and private schools.
 (iv) Allotments for salaries of the Persian teachers and the Arabic Professors employed in Government and private schools, and colleges.
 (v) Will the Government be pleased to frame rules prohibiting the indiscriminate award of the Mohsin Fund aids to Muhammadan students, rich or poor, meritorious or otherwise, and providing for a more judicious distribution, so that only deserving poor Moslem students may receive the benefit of the Fund?
 The Hon'ble Mr. Carnduff replied.
 "Sir,—I lay on the table a statement giving the information asked for by the Hon'ble Member.

Allotments from the Fund are placed at the disposal of the Principals of Colleges, the Head Masters of Schools or the Secretaries of Associations managing Muhammadan educational institutions, as the case may be, and to these authorities is left the distribution of aid towards the education of deserving, but poor, Muhammadan youths. No instances of the injudicious application of the moneys so distributed have come to the notice of the Director of Public Instruction or the Government of Bengal."

The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu asked:—
 (a) Is the Government aware of a widespread feeling of dissatisfaction and uneasiness amongst the Muhammadans of Bengal owing to the danger with which their religious, charitable and educational institutions have been threatened by the recent Privy Council and High Court rulings on the subject of "Wuqf" estates?
 (b) Is the Government aware that in many instances Mutwallies are treating "Wuqf" properties as personal properties to the great prejudice of "Wuqf" institutions, and that moneys have been raised in a large number of cases on the security of "Wuqf" estates?
 (c) Is the Government aware that numerous educational institutions, such as Madrasas and Mukhtabs, which were the principal means of imparting primary education to Muhammadan boys and were maintained out of the income of "Wuqf" estates, are now falling into decay or being abolished?
 (d) In view of the circumstances above referred to, and having regard to the backward condition of education amongst the Muhammadans and the solicitude which the Government has always been pleased to show towards the Muhammadan community in matters of Education, will the Government be pleased to appoint a Committee, consisting of a European President and two Muhammadan members, for the purpose of making the following inquiries, viz:—
 (i) to ascertain the extent to which the recent rulings of the Privy Council and the High Court have affected Muhammadan educational institutions;
 (ii) to ascertain what funds are still available for these institutions;
 (iii) to consider whether a special officer of the Education Department should not be deputed to inspect and supervise the Madrasas and Mukhtabs now being maintained out of what are unquestionably "Wuqf" funds and not falling within the scope of the rulings above referred to; and
 (iv) to consider if any special legislation is necessary to protect and preserve such funds and carry out the objects of the original endowments.

The Hon'ble Mr. Carnduff replied:—
 In 1894, and again in 1899, the Government was approached by the Central Muhammadan Association on the subject of the judicial rulings referred to by the Hon'ble Member. On each occasion the memorial submitted was considered by both the Government of India and the Government of Bengal, and on the second the Association was informed that a proposal for the settlement in perpetuity of Muhammadan property under the name of wakf could not be favourably entertained. The highest judicial authority, namely, the Privy Council, has held that Muhammadan law itself does not countenance the extension of the doctrine of wakf so as to admit of the creation of such perpetuities; and an alteration of the law which would enable every Muhammadan to settle his property in the manner proposed would be contrary to the general policy of the Government and, in the opinion of the Government, unsuited to the conditions of the country. The Settled Estates Act, which was passed by this Council two years ago, goes as far in the direction of proving for family settlements as is thought safe.

By the receipt of the two memorials mentioned above the Government of Bengal has been made aware that it is contended among Muhammadans that the decisions of the High

Court and the Privy Council are not in consonance with the Muhammadan law. But the Lieutenant-Governor has perceived no other indication of the existence of the widespread feeling of dissatisfaction and uneasiness, or of the disastrous consequences, alluded to by the Hon'ble Member; and, in the circumstances, His Honour is not prepared to take any such action as is now suggested.

(The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu asked:—
 Will the Government be pleased to state what has been done to improve the prospects of Sub-Deputy Collectors for whom a sum of Rs. 70,000 was provided for in the Budget for the current official year?
 The Hon'ble Mr. Carlyle replied:—
 "Sir,—A letter was received this month from the Government of India sanctioning the following alterations in the Subordinate Civil Service:—
 1. The total number of Sub-Deputy Collectors has been increased from 104 to 225.
 2. The service has been graded so as to provide regular promotions from grade to grade.
 3. A new grade, consisting of 11 appointments on Rs. 250, has been created, which will enable Government to reward the services of Sub-Deputy Collectors who have worked satisfactorily, but who are not fit for promotion to the Provincial Service.
 4. Sub-Deputy Collectors are to be allowed to count temporary services towards leave and pension from the date on which the three following conditions are fulfilled:—
 (1) Two years' continuous temporary service as Sub-Deputy Collector.
 (2) The passing of departmental examinations.
 (3) The attainment of the age of 20 years."

The Hon'ble Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar asked:—
 1. Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact, as stated in the "Bengalee" of the 18th March, 1905, that although the Government of India, Home Department Resolution Nos. 1084-93, dated the 22nd June, distinctly laid down that seven Civil Surgeoncies should be reserved for Assistant Surgeons, only four such appointments have actually been granted to them since 1898, and that thus not only has the Government of India Resolution Nos. 1141-50, dated the 22nd August, 1898, which provided for five such reserved appointments, been not fully carried out, but that the Resolution of 1899, above referred to, has been practically ignored?
 If the above facts be correct, will the Government be further pleased to state, when the remaining three appointments are likely to be thrown open to Assistant Surgeons?
 The Hon'ble Mr. Shirres replied:—
 "Sir,—In the Resolution of the Government of India, N. 1084-93, dated the 22nd June, 1899, it was laid down that five Civil Surgeoncies in Bengal should be reserved to Civil Assistant Surgeons. It was however at the same time stated that the complete arrangement could not be made at once, but that as occasion offered the districts would be placed in charge of Civil Assistant Surgeons until the maximum number was reached. The appointments which will ultimately be given to Civil Assistant Surgeons are at present held by Uncovenanted Medical Officers, and cannot be given until those officers retire from Government service. There are six Uncovenanted Medical Officers holding districts in Bengal, of whom one will attain the age of 55 years in October, 1910, one in September, 1913, one in February, 1915, two in 1917 and one in 1923. Some of the vacancies which occur must however be given to Military Assistant Surgeons for whom appointments must also, under the orders of the Government of India, be reserved. It is improbable therefore that the remaining three appointments will be thrown open to Assistant Surgeons for some years."

THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.
 Lahore, Mar. 29.

On the subject of the Punjab Pre-emption Bill, the Lieutenant-Governor said: The Bill now before us, is like the other measure which we have passed to-day into law, the product of prolonged discussions and most careful deliberations, and in its present form every endeavour has been made as far as was possible consistently with maintaining the main principle of the Bill, to meet the objections which were raised against several of the provisions of the original Pre-emption Bill, which was introduced in this Council three years ago but subsequently withdrawn, and also against some of the proposed amendments of that Bill by the Select Committee which considered it. The main principle of this Bill is that it is intended to be a complement of the Land Alienation Act, and whereas the chief object of the Alienation Act is to prevent agricultural land passing permanently out of the old established agricultural classes of this province, that of the Pre-emption Bill is to afford facilities for preserving the possession of such land, where a member of an agricultural tribe desires to sell within the family or tribe to which the vendor belongs, and when a member of a non-agricultural tribe sells land which he happens to have acquired to provide a means of its ordinarily reverting to the possession of some members of an agricultural tribe. The opportunity has at the same time been taken to simplify and make more precise the present law of Pre-emption in regard to urban immovable property, but in the main the Bill we are considering is a highly important measure of agrarian legislation, which is intended to supplement the aims and objects of the Land Alienation Act, and I trust that it will tend to enhance the striking success which as far as present indications show is attending the working of that Act. I think we may with good reason congratulate ourselves on having added to our Provincial Statute Book during our present legislative session two such important and valuable enactments as the Canals Bill and the Pre-emption Bill.

The Bill was passed and the Council adjourned "sine die."

How to See the Bottom of a River.—Procure a tube made of tin, and funnel-shaped, about 3 feet long and 9 inches in diameter at the broad end. It should be wide enough at the top to take in the observer's eyes, and the inside should be painted black. At the bottom, or wide end, a clear, thick piece of glass must be inserted, with a little lead in the form of a ring to weight the tube. When the instrument is immersed in clear water it is astonishing how many fathoms down the observer can see.

THE MONGHYR ELECTION CASE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Monghyr, Mar. 28.

Yesterday at 12-30 p.m. the election case of Babu Gopal Chandra Som vs. Moulvi Mohammad Ismail was called. On If it was sensational before, it became a hundred fold more so on account of the Munsif's extraordinary action on that occasion. Since the commencement of the hearing, the Munsif had set his face against the plaintiff, and smooth working was out of the question. In every matter, be it the putting of a question to a witness, or the vouching of a pertinent answer by him, Gopal Babu has had to file petitions. There have thus come to be about 20 or 30 petitions on the record by this time. The plaintiff's petition that has already been published in some newspapers must have given the public an idea of the tough work Gopal Babu has had to do in inducing the Munsif to obey the law in the hearing of the case.

Yesterday the plaintiff and his pleaders on entering the court room were struck with wonder at finding Moulvi Mohammad Ismail, the defendant engaged in studying his own statement which he had ready in writing. The circumstance was curious to a degree. The plaintiff had not closed his case. On the contrary, in answer to a question put to him by the defendant in open court that he meant to examine at least 30 witnesses, it should be borne in mind that only 8 witnesses had been examined on behalf of the plaintiff including himself. Many more witnesses, therefore, remained to be examined on his behalf. It was very surprising under the circumstances to see the defendant so well prepared yesterday to proceed with his own examination.

However, the plaintiff was shut out from adducing further evidence even though his witness duly sworn, was in the witness-box, and a form of recording deposition was partially filled in by the court. The ground was startling. The order was passed, because forthwith, the plaintiff was late by two "minutes" in filing the hazira! The Bar and the public have become shocked at the action of the Munsif. This is perhaps the first time that a judicial officer claiming to have put in several years' service has deliberately declined to record the deposition of a witness duly sworn standing in the witness-box, because of a slight delay in the filing of a hazira. And the order the Munsif passed, which is published elsewhere is a marvel of logic and fairness. Gopal Babu in the last resort put in a petition, a copy of which is given below for adjournment to enable him to move the District Judge for a transfer of the case to some other court.

After strong objection by defendant the court allowed fourteen days' time to the plaintiff to move the District Judge for a transfer. The result is awaited with interest by the public here.

The defendant's examination-in-chief was partially gone into. He chose to give his evidence in Urdu which was very funny for a pleader, who is a graduate of the University.

The following are the grounds of the day at 12-30 p.m. Madras time.

(2) That the petitioner's witness Ganga Somar was thereupon called to the witness-box and he was standing there for the purpose of being examined.

(3) That at 12-32 p.m., Madras time, the petitioner was called upon by the Court on the verbal objection of the defendant to file a hazira.

(4) That thereupon the petitioner undertook to file the hazira immediately and asked the Court in the meantime to go on with the examination of the witness standing in the box.

(5) That at 12-34 p.m., Madras time, the Court again asked the petitioner to put in the hazira and the petitioner assured the Court that it was being written out by his clerk in the sherista.

(6) That at 12-36 p.m., Madras time, the hazira was filed and the fact was brought to the notice of the court then and there by the petitioner's pleader Babu Broja Gopal Mukherjee but the court by order written in order-sheet stopped the petitioner from adducing further evidence and orally called upon the defendant to proceed with his evidence.

(7) That petitioner thereupon informed the court that he was going to file the petition for adjournment on the ground that he would move the District Judge for a transfer of the suit on various grounds which would be disclosed in his petition for transfer and requested the court to put off the examination of the defendants for a few minutes in order to enable him (the petitioner) to draw off the petition and file it in court.

(8) That this prayer was also verbally made by the petitioner's pleader Babu Braja Gopal Mukerji, but the court would not listen to it.

(9) That there are urgent reasons to induce the petitioner to believe that he would not get substantial justice in this court.

(10) That unless the hearing of the suit is put off for at least a fortnight it will be impossible for the petitioner to move the District Judge in the matter.

(11) That in these circumstances it is humbly prayed that the hearing of the suit be put off for a fortnight to enable him to file a petition for the transfer of the suit to the District Judge and for this act of kindness the petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray.

(The 27th March 1905.)
 Deposition of Muhammad Ismail, deft.
 I am defendant in this suit. I have been practising as a pleader since June 1897, in Monghyr. Muniam my brother, has been practising as a Muktear for 23 or 24 years. My brother Mohammad Nain, a Nazir of the Civil Court, has been here for one year, and formerly he had been an apprentice. My father was a pleader at Monghyr for 34 years and had a good practice. I studied up to the Entrance standard in the Monghyr Zilla School. The people of Bellanbazar, Lalopokar and Ghositolā knew me from boyhood and the Port people know me after I began to practise as a pleader and they are pleased with me. Kanti Babu is dead. I stood as a candidate for one vacancy caused by the death of Kanti Babu. I had gone to almost all the voters of ward No. A. I began to canvass for votes six weeks before the bye-election. My two brothers, Sayeduddin, pleader, Md. Sheriff, Muktear, Md. Zamir, my Munsif; Nobu Bux, Muktear; Muniala; Imad Khan and some other men canvassed for me. All persons who voted for me were qualified voters. Some persons whose name were not in the list of voters but were otherwise qualified to vote put in petitions to get their names registered as voters in the Municipality. These petitioners numbering about 28 or 29 belonged to Ward No. A. They were not induced by coercion, undue influence or corrupt practices. No person who voted for me falsely personated any dead voters. Neither I nor any person on my behalf induced or forced any of the plaintiffs voters to vote for me. All persons who voted for me were legally qualified voters. No officer or employee of the Municipality helped to secure votes or gave any kind of help. Roy K. P. Sing gave me no help. Haazirah Ali-husnain and Bhagwat did not canvass for me nor did they induce any voter to vote for me. Ali-husnain and Haazirah did not vote for me. Bhagwat was not at the Polling Station on the day of bye-election. The servants of Roy K. P. Sing and of Haazirah did not induce or force any voter to vote for me. They were not present at the Polling Station. No person named Moulvi was voted for me. It is not true that my voters were brought under guard to the Polling Station, Amrial, the first Muktear of Monghyr. It is not true that I was set up by Sivanandan Babu or he gave me an sort of help.

Marvel of the Human Voice.—To prove that a man's voice does not sound the same to himself as to others, Dr. L. Laloy caused several persons to speak into a phonograph, and after a few days reproduced the sentences. Each person recognised the voices of his friends, but not his own. Professor Extra explains that passage through solids augments the intensity of sound and modifies its quality, and the sound of one's own voice is given a different timbre by reaching the ear through the air and the bones of the face instead of through the air alone.

Wild Birds in Love.—In no respect are birds so charming and entertaining, says the "County Gentleman," as in their love affairs for no creature are so full of tender sentiment, and none display the said sentiment so gracefully, whether the display be a musical or spectacular one. Their affections are also often deep and lasting, though it is not always the species most credited with constancy which really display it the most. One of the most remarkable phenomena about bird-love is the arising of curious attachments between distinct, if allied, species, when man brings them together.

Geese, which overflow with tender feeling, are peculiarly liable to form unlooked-for attachments.

"No Doctors to Treatment"
 "In my distant village home, and the consequence is, that the baneful effects of Malaria, have reduced my health to the present state. I am shattered, weak, pale, emaciated and uncared for in my own home."
 —Complaints of above nature come to us every now and then and we would advise the complainants to use our PANCHATIKTA BATIKA, the infallible specific for Malarial and other periodical fevers which will do away with the necessity of calling a doctor and will cure him thoroughly at a nominal charge.

Price per box ... Rs. 1.
 Packing and postage ... Rs. 4.
 Kaviraj N. N. SEN.
 Govt. Medical Diploma-Holder.
 18-1 Lower Chitpur Road.

STOMACH AND LIVER DISORDERS

such as: CONSTIPATION, LANGOUR, PAINS IN THE CHEST & SHOULDERS, BILIOUSNESS, HEADACHES, NERVOUS DEPRESSION, PALPITATION, SLEEPLESSNESS, FLATULENCY, ACIDITY, LOSS OF APPETITE, AND ANEMIA.

ARE RADICALLY CURED BY

Mother Seigel's Syrup, which contains food-digesting ferments and gentle tonics for the stomach, liver and kidneys, and has cured more dyspeptics than any other medicine in the world. "For years I suffered from a disordered liver," wrote Mr. C. K. Venter, Klerksdorp, Transvaal, on Oct. 15th, 1904. "My liver was really sluggish and I had severe pains in the small of my back from the shoulders right across the chest. After using three bottles of Mother Seigel's Syrup and some Mother Seigel's Pills I was quite cured and can now recommend them with every confidence."

MOTHER SEIGEL'S SYRUP.

TAKE IT DAILY AFTER MEALS.



THE POLICE COMMISSION REPORT.

THE MAHARAJA OF DARBHANGA'S NOTE OF DISSENT.

The Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions.

I have not considered myself justified in withholding my signature to the Report which embodies the views of the majority of my colleagues. I entirely concur, with a few exceptions, in the views arrived at by them, and I trust that the results of this Commission will be of great advantage to the people and to the Police Administration.

- (a) restrictions of unnecessary interference in ordinary police work or investigations on the part of the District Magistrates; (b) responsibility of the District Magistrate to Government for the way in which he exercises his discretion in the matters of interference and supervision of the work of the police as well as that of the subordinate Magistrates;

When I say that the man who tries the case and controls the subordinate magistracy should not be in close touch with the police and should not be the officer who has been directing the preliminary enquiries on behalf of the prosecution, I am not enunciating a counsel of perfection. So long ago as 1838 Sir Fredrick Halliday observed with old-fashioned directness of speech: "The union of Magistrate with Collector of Revenue has been stigmatised as incompatible; but the junction of thief-catcher with Judge is surely more anomalous in theory and more mischievous in practice."

2. Having regard to the actual working to the present system, it is hard to see how approval can be accorded to an arrangement under which the District Officer is at one and the same time the head of the police and the head of the magistracy. It is the duty of the District Officer, as matters now stand, to watch the investigation of the more important cases, to instruct investigating officers as they come in, and finally to decide whether a case should or should not be sent up for trial.

6. A second scheme which is designed to relieve the District Officer of the headship of the police, is supported by the high authority of Sir Henry Prance, who has in his evidence before the Commission declared himself to be "in favour of creating a separate Police Department quite independent of the control of the Magistrate save in respect of the prevention of a breach of the peace." As matters now stand, however, there seems to be a general consensus of opinion that the present class of District Superintendents are incapable, as a rule, of working the police successfully without the control and help of the District Officer; and it will be necessary, before any such scheme can be adopted with success, to revise the examination regulations so as to ensure the recruitment of men who have some recognised test of high educational proficiency which I should not myself place much below the level of the Examination for the Civil Service of India and the Colonies.

3. The most important as well as the simplest of these schemes has been embodied in a memorial recently submitted to the Secretary of State for India by a number of influential gentlemen of great judicial experience, and forwarded by him to His Excellency the Viceroy for consideration. The scheme proposed in this memorial may be described in a few words. Under the existing arrangement, the subordinate of the District Officer perform both revenue and judicial work. By a redistribution of work it is suggested that some of them should be employed exclusively on revenue and executive work, and others exclusively on judicial work, and that these last should be the subordinates of the District and Sessions Judge and not of the District Officer.

4. Under this scheme the District Superintendent will continue, as at present, to act under the direction and control of the District Officer, and between them they will be, as at present, responsible for the peace of the district and for the detection and investigation of crime. It is undoubtedly a fact that the enormous amount of police and revenue and miscellaneous business for which they are responsible renders it next to impossible for

them to find sufficient time for the proper discharge of their criminal work, original and appellate. These observations apply with equal if not with greater force to Sub-Divisional Officers in Bengal, who try all first class cases within their sub-divisions, are at the same time overwhelmed with miscellaneous business, and are expected in addition to spend a considerable portion of each year in camp. Nor do the disadvantages of the present system end here. I have already referred to the demoralization of the subordinate magistracy which has been brought about by the present system; but there is also the effect upon the Magistrate himself to be considered. As Lord Hobhouse and his fellow memorialists have pointed out, very justly and temperately, in the memorial to which I have referred, an executive officer does not adequately discharge his duties unless his ears are open to all reports and information which he can in any degree employ for the benefit of his district. He cannot be expected to divert his mind of all that he has learned in his executive capacity when he is called upon to transform himself into a judicial functionary and try prisoners whose antecedents he has learnt from other sources. In England it is universally recognized that neither judge nor jury can impartially hear or adjudicate upon a case unless they can bring an absolutely unbiased mind to bear upon the facts. The system which prevails in India renders this well-nigh an impossibility in the ordinary mofussil criminal case; and fear I cannot assent to the proposition that it is just this possession of previous knowledge by the Magistrate which enables him to come to a satisfactory decision. It appears to me to be based on a misconception of the magisterial function. A Magistrate and an appellate Judge stand on an altogether different footing. The end in view in an original criminal trial is the determination of the culprit's guilt or innocence upon the evidence adduced and placed upon the record. The duty of the Appellate Court, on the other hand, is to enquire whether the lower tribunal has rightly decided the issue on the law and the facts as fully presented by the parties; and the fact that the Appellate Judge has the decision of the lower Court before him before he approaches his consideration of the matter, is a very different circumstance from the trial of an offender by an officer who has been directed an police enquiry from the beginning or is subordinate to that officer.

5. When I say that the man who tries the case and controls the subordinate magistracy should not be in close touch with the police and should not be the officer who has been directing the preliminary enquiries on behalf of the prosecution, I am not enunciating a counsel of perfection. So long ago as 1838 Sir Fredrick Halliday observed with old-fashioned directness of speech: "The union of Magistrate with Collector of Revenue has been stigmatised as incompatible; but the junction of thief-catcher with Judge is surely more anomalous in theory and more mischievous in practice."

6. A second scheme which is designed to relieve the District Officer of the headship of the police, is supported by the high authority of Sir Henry Prance, who has in his evidence before the Commission declared himself to be "in favour of creating a separate Police Department quite independent of the control of the Magistrate save in respect of the prevention of a breach of the peace." As matters now stand, however, there seems to be a general consensus of opinion that the present class of District Superintendents are incapable, as a rule, of working the police successfully without the control and help of the District Officer; and it will be necessary, before any such scheme can be adopted with success, to revise the examination regulations so as to ensure the recruitment of men who have some recognised test of high educational proficiency which I should not myself place much below the level of the Examination for the Civil Service of India and the Colonies.

7. If the Commissioner's proposals are carried out, the District Superintendent of Police will be a more powerful and independent man in the future. The Divisional Commissioner will have no power of supervision over his actions. In his administrative work he will be semi-independent of the District Magistrate. He will have a larger and more influential subordinate agency under him. If, in addition, he has the support of the District Magistrate, his power will be well-nigh irresistible, and individuals will be helpless to protect themselves whenever they have the District Superintendent of Police against them; while the Subordinate Magistrate will be, if anything, more reluctant to act against the wishes of the police.

8. It may be said that the withdrawal of magisterial supervision from the work of the Deputy Magistrates may make that work more inefficient. In reply to this it may be pointed out that the Sessions Judge

will inspect their work, while the District Superintendent of Police (who will be a more independent and able man than at present) as well as the District Officer will keep a watchful eye upon them and will bring to light any defect in the manner in which they may discharge their duties.

9. I would repeat my conviction that the time has come for a change in the present system. Reform in either of the forms sketched is perfectly feasible. I apprehend that no practical difficulty need be felt in putting the scheme into operation in the more settled provinces of India.

The great merit of the proposed reform is that it is likely to bring the District Officer more in touch with the people. So long as he is the chief Magistrate and also the chief Police Officer, the people will look upon him with a justifiable suspicion as the policeman, the prosecutor, and the judge. But relieved of his magisterial functions, he will stand forth as the administrator, the friend, the representative of the people, fostering their village unions, superintending roads, water-supply and sanitation, and accepting the co-operation of the people themselves in the management of their concerns. The entire body of well-informed public opinion in this country looks forward to this reform, and demands that all judicial work, civil and criminal, should be left to the Judge, and that all executive and revenue work be left with the District Officer. And I think it will be a grateful concession to the wishes of the people, and a real reform in general administration as well as in judicial and police work, if the scheme proposed in the memorial of Lord Hobhouse and colleagues can be adopted. I honestly believe it will make British Administration more popular in India.

RECRUITMENT OF SUPERIOR OFFICERS OF THE POLICE.

10. The second point on which I would make a few observations refers to the recruitment to the superior ranks of the police force. I congratulate my colleagues on the liberality of their views and the advance they have made in this matter. I recognize that each Local Government should decide the matter according to the circumstances of the province; but I must regard it mainly from the Bengal point of view, not, for example, from so different a province as the Punjab or the North-West Frontier Province. I consider it my duty to mention that there is an extremely strong feeling among Indians that recruitment should be made by means of open competition both in England and in India, without distinction of race in either case. Provision should be made for the promotion to the ranks of Assistant and District Superintendent of a small number of deserving Inspectors; but there should be a certain limit to these appointments, which should be defined and carefully adhered to; and having these few appointments, the higher police service should be recruited entirely by open competition.

11. The proposed distinction between the appointment of European Assistant Superintendents by examination held in England and of Indian Deputy Superintendents by selection or competition in India is not likely to commend itself to the people of India. All our past experience shows that when the same kind of work is required, the same method of admission answers best. We require Englishmen as well as Indians in the higher ranks of the police in the interests of good administration; and we require from both classes of men the same qualifications, intelligence and capacity for work, knowledge and sympathy with the people, self-reliance and resourcefulness, sober judgment and promptitude. That being so, a uniform method in admission is best calculated to secure these objects; a distinction made will needlessly degrade one class of officers in their own estimation and in the estimation of the people. Sympathising entirely with the object of my colleagues to secure a class of the Indian people, and at the same time qualified eventually to act in independent charge of districts, I submit that this object can be best secured by a uniformity in the method of recruitment and by the effacement of all distinctions between class and class. To create a separate grade for Indians would not adequately secure the two-fold object we have in view, viz., to bring police administration more in touch with the people, and to secure a class of self-relying and capable Indian officers. Deputy Superintendents of Police marked off by their nomenclature and by their method of appointment from the other officers of the higher police service, will fail to bring their full influence to bear on police administration, and will also, I am afraid be slow to acquire those virtues of self-sacrifice and promptitude so essential in an officer holding charge of a district. I concur, however, in the views of my colleagues that the salaries of statutory natives of India should be two-thirds of the salaries of officers imported from England. But I do not approve of any differences whatever in designation or class. I hope that the difference of salary will make the proposal more acceptable to Local Governments.

12. The object of the Indian Government has ever been to educate and elevate the people of India and to make them fit for positions of trust and responsibility. The proposals of my colleagues are in consonance with this object, and are intended to give the people of India a larger share in police administration. I have therefore thought it my duty to point out at the outset the risk of failure which we incur, unless we try this new experiment in a spirit of full trust and confidence in the people, which alone can elevate them. At the same time, a gladly recognize that the proposed scheme, as put forward by my colleagues is a great improvement on the existing state of things. A few senior Inspectors occasionally made Assistant Superintendents, almost at the close of their service, cannot do not, influence the police administration of the country to any marked extent nor are the selections made always happy. The appointment of qualified and educated young men as Deputy Superintendents at the commencement of their service would undoubtedly benefit the police administration to a larger extent. But if this scheme is adopted, and my recommendation for making all appointments to the higher police service by one uniform method be for the present not sanctioned, I can only hope that the number of Deputy Superintendents appointed each year should not, for the present, be less than one-third the number of Assistant Superintendents selected in England; the number to be gradually increased to one-half if the experiment proves successful. We all honestly desire to combine European discipline and methods of work with the Indian's intimate knowledge of the habits and manners of his

own people; and this object can be secured only by the selection of an adequate number both of Europeans and Indians in the higher police service. There is great room for improving the administration and making it more successful in this manner; and I humbly conceive it would be wise statesmanship to thus bring it more in touch with the Indian people.

THE BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1905-1906.

PART I.—GENERAL REVIEW.

(1) Accounts for 1903-1904.

In the revised estimates of last year which were laid before the Council on the 26th of last March the closing balance of last year, and therefore also the opening balance of the current year, was placed at Rs. 1,37,99,000. The accounts of last year are now available and show that the actual closing balance came to Rs. 1,42,52,918, or Rs. 1,42,53,000 in round numbers which is Rs. 4,54,000 more than the revised estimate. The improvement was due partly to large adjustments after the close of the year on account of jail manufactures and survey and settlement charges, and partly to the receipts under "Excise," "Provincial rates," "Miscellaneous" and "Irrigation Major Works" having proved better than was anticipated. The actual increase in receipts was Rs. 6,67,000, but against this must be set an increase of expenditure amounting to Rs. 2,13,000, so that the net improvement was, as already stated, Rs. 4,54,000.

(2) Revised Estimate for 1904-1905. For the reasons explained above the opening balance of the current year has been placed in the revised estimate at Rs. 1,42,53,000. The excess of Rs. 4,54,000 over the original budget estimate of the year is not available for expenditure during the current year, because although the Local Government may transfer amounts from one head to another it may not increase the grand total of expenditure shown in the budget estimates. This excess therefore goes to swell the closing balance of the current year and the opening balance of next year.

3. The receipts for the current year were estimated in the budget at Rs. 5,04,43,000. The revenues have, however, proved much better than our estimate and the revised figure is now placed at Rs. 5,17,09,000. The difference Rs. 12,66,000 is partly due to special grants of Rs. 2,00,000 for University Education and of Rs. 75,000 for the improvement of the Port of Chittagong which have been made by the Government of India and against which corresponding amounts have been added on the expenditure side and is partly the net result of improvements under some heads and of decreases under others. The improvements aggregated Rs. 12,70,000 and were chiefly under the following heads: Jails (Rs. 1,50,000); Pilotage Receipts (Rs. 90,000); Stamps (Rs. 3,00,000) chiefly from court-fee stamps; Excise (Rs. 87,000) mainly due to better settlements; Provincial Rates (Rs. 1,95,000) due to revision of assessments and better collection; Irrigation Major Works (Rs. 1,23,000); Irrigation Minor Works (Rs. 1,59,000); and Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department (Rs. 1,37,000). On the other hand the decreases amounted to Rs. 2,79,000 and were principally under Adjustments between Imperial and Provincial (Rs. 1,54,000) owing mainly to the transfer of the Stamps and Stationery Office to Imperial; under Assessed Taxes (Rs. 37,000); and under Interest (Rs. 53,000) owing to smaller loans having been taken by the local bodies than were provided for in the budget.

4. On the expenditure side the revised estimate show a net decrease of Rs. 22,100. There have been savings amounting to Rs. 22,55,000 which have, however, for the most part, been transferred to other heads and expended; although in some cases the money provided was carried forward so that the works might be completed next year. The savings referred to were largely due to the failure to obtain sanction before the close of the year to schemes for the improvement of the salaries of the ministerial officers, for an increase in the number of Deputy Collectors, and the reorganisation of the Subordinate Executive Service, and for educational reforms. There have also been reductions in consequence of the transfer of the Stamps and Stationery Office with effect from the 1st July 1904; also under Government Presses and stationery supplied from Central stores; and under Irrigation Major Works; and under Contributions to Local. The large decrease shown under Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers is nominal, and is due to the transfer of the lump provision for Police and other buildings to the Public Works Department in order that the buildings might be constructed.

5. On the other hand there have been increases under General Administration, Police and Miscellaneous. The increase under the first head is due (1) to the pay and leave allowances of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces from 1st March to 17th June 1904 having been drawn in Calcutta, (2) to additional grants for the renewal and maintenance of furniture in Belvedere and The Shrubbery and (3) to the deputa-tion of Mr. Savage on special duty in connection with Police chankidari work. The greater part of the additional expenditure under Police is on account of petty construction and repairs and furniture of Police buildings, and under Miscellaneous the enhancement is chiefly owing to grants to the District Charitable Society, and to other public institutions such as the Young Women's Christian Association and the Calcutta Orphanage for Hindus. The increase under Irrigation Minor Works and Navigation is due to additional grants for (a) irrigation of sugarcane by pumping at Otter; (b) the clearing of silt from the khas tahsil khals in the Contal subdivision of the district of Midnapore; (c) the reconstruction of the Alai-pore khal; (d) Embankment repairs; (e) the construction of a steam launch for the South-Western Circle; and (f) the contribution of Rs. 1,25,000 in aid of the cost of the Magrahat Drainage Scheme in the 24-Par-ganas. The increase under Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department (Rs. 9,69,000) has been met principally by transfers from Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers and from Education.

6. On the other hand there have been increases under General Administration, Police and Miscellaneous. The increase under the first head is due (1) to the pay and leave allowances of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces from 1st March to 17th June 1904 having been drawn in Calcutta, (2) to additional grants for the renewal and maintenance of furniture in Belvedere and The Shrubbery and (3) to the deputa-tion of Mr. Savage on special duty in connection with Police chankidari work. The greater part of the additional expenditure under Police is on account of petty construction and repairs and furniture of Police buildings, and under Miscellaneous the enhancement is chiefly owing to grants to the District Charitable Society, and to other public institutions such as the Young Women's Christian Association and the Calcutta Orphanage for Hindus. The increase under Irrigation Minor Works and Navigation is due to additional grants for (a) irrigation of sugarcane by pumping at Otter; (b) the clearing of silt from the khas tahsil khals in the Contal subdivision of the district of Midnapore; (c) the reconstruction of the Alai-pore khal; (d) Embankment repairs; (e) the construction of a steam launch for the South-Western Circle; and (f) the contribution of Rs. 1,25,000 in aid of the cost of the Magrahat Drainage Scheme in the 24-Par-ganas. The increase under Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department (Rs. 9,69,000) has been met principally by transfers from Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers and from Education.

7. The closing balance of the current year was estimated in March last at Rs. 1,05,45,000. To this must now be added Rs. 4,54,000 the excess of the opening balance over the estimate; Rs. 12,66,000 by which the receipts of the current year have improved; and Rs. 2,21,000 the net decrease of expenditure. In the revised estimate, therefore, the closing balance of the current year is placed at Rs. 1,24,86,000.

(3) BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 1905-1906.

8. The opening balance of 1905-1906 corresponds with the closing balance of the current year and is therefore placed at Rs. 1,24,86,000.

9. The budget estimate for next year as passed provides for receipts aggregating Rs. 5,64,33,000. The amount assigned to the Local Government in the financial settlement was Rs. 4,98,87,000 and owing to ordinary expansion it is estimated that the revenues made over will yield next year Rs. 5,23,37,000. To this must be added the special assignment of Rs. 34,50,000 sanctioned by the Government of India, viz., for Police reorganization (12 lakhs), Primary Education (10 lakhs), and Grants to District Boards (12 lakhs). The addition of these grants brings the total of the recurring or permanent revenue up to Rs. 5,57,87,000. There are also non-recurring receipts consisting of a special grant of Rs. 4,31,000 by the Government of India for the improvement of the Port of Chittagong a contribution of two lakhs from the Hospital Port Dues Fund to the Presidency General Hospital and Rs. 15,000, the sale-proceeds of the Pilot-vessel "Sarsuti." The addition of these sums brings the total receipts of the years up to the amount already stated, namely, Rs. 5,64,33,000.

10. It is proposed to spend the whole of these receipts and also to reduce the opening balance from Rs. 1,24,86,000 to Rs. 82,49,000 or by Rs. 42,37,000. The ordinary Provincial minimum closing balance is twenty lakhs, but in addition to this amount the Government of Bengal has agreed to keep the special grant of 50 lakhs for the improvement of Calcutta untouched, which brings the amount to be carried forward up to seventy lakhs. There was also a lump grant of fifty lakhs made to the Local Government in connection with the Provincial settlement the expenditure of which was to be spread over several years. Seventeen lakhs of it have been spent during the current year and it is proposed to spend nearly 20 lakhs next year and to carry forward Rs. 12,49,000. The total to be carried forward as closing balance at the end of next year will therefore be Rs. 70,00,000 plus Rs. 12,49,000 or Rs. 82,49,000.

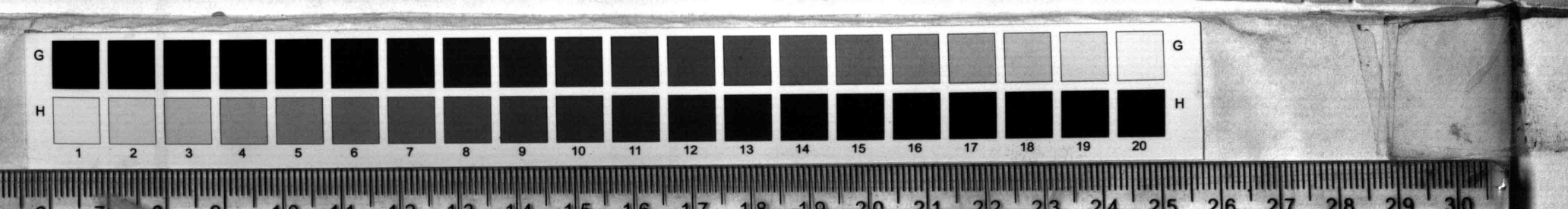
11. The total estimated expenditure of next year is therefore Rs. 5,64,33,000 plus Rs. 42,37,000, or Rs. 6,06,70,000 and the estimated closing balance is Rs. 82,49,000.

12. The total expenditure of next year, which amounts as already explained to Rs. 6,06,70,000 is made up of recurring or permanent expenditure amounting to Rs. 5,52,85,000 and of non-recurring expenditure amounting in round numbers to Rs. 53,85,000. Details of these amounts are given in the next two paragraphs.

13. The scale of permanent expenditure allowed to the Local Government in the financial settlement was Rs. 4,98,87,000. In the budget now passed this amount has been increased by Rs. 53,85,000, of which a statement is given below. It may be explained that the normal increase of departmental expenditure in the last seven years has been Rs. 5,30,000 and that the ordinary assignment to the Education Department has been increased by four lakhs, the details of which are shown separately in the statement:—

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes items like Normal growth of expenditure under Superannuation, Police, General Administration, etc., and Total 53,85,000.

14. The sum of Rs. 53,85,000 devoted to non-recurring expenditure is made up of the following items which are in addition to the



provision for contributions from Provincial to Local, etc., contained in the scale of expenditure fixed in the financial settlement:—

Table listing various items and their costs, such as Sunderbans reclamation (Rs. 1,50,000), Steam-launch for a Collector (Rs. 49,000), etc., totaling Rs. 53,84,635.

Bharat Vaisajyanilaya

Supervising Physician! Kaviraj Keshab Lal Roy. All sorts of Sastric Medicines, Ghritas, Oils etc., are always in stock.

MANAGER, BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA, CALCUTTA.

Jogeswar Ghrita.

The Best Nervine and Masculine Tonic. It is a powerful remedy for nervous and mental debility and loss of retentive faculty, caused by excessive drinking, sedentary habits, and by too much study or over-exercise of the brain.

25 YEARS' STANDING. DR. BISWAS'S ACIDITY PILL.

That well-known and infallible remedy cures ACIDITY, RADICALLY AND MAGICALLY all kinds of DYSPEPSIA AND INDIGESTION. Its effect is prompt and permanent.

DR. H. BISWAS. Amrita Bazar Medical Hall.

DR. BISWASS MAGIC PILLS.

Ye youngmen, do you want to make your lives more enjoyable? Ye old men, do you want to get back the vigour and charms of youth?

USEFUL BOOKS.

- MODERN LETTER-WRITER (SEVENTH EDITION), Containing 635 letters. Usual for every man in every position of life for daily use.

SANTAN RAKSHAK.

It is the most useful Liniment for females in the event of pregnancy. It relieves the sympathetic vomiting and nausea (morning sickness) in its early stage, prevents miscarriage and at the same time ensures safe and easy delivery, etc.

DR. MAJOR'S Vitaline

DISCOVERED BY JAMES MAJOR M. A., M. D.

Rev. Principal, Gujarat College, says: "I have used your Vitaline, I am very glad to say, that it has given me new life."



Lt. Col. Military Pay-office Calcutta, says: "It is doing me wonderfully good."

Captain J. Birch, (Retd.) Allahabad, says: "Thanks for the Vitaline bottle sent; it would be as well for you to send me another bottle."

Prince Mahomed Bukhtiyar Shah C. I. E., late Sheriff of Calcutta, says: "Your Vitaline is highly spoken of by several of my friends and acquaintances who have had occasion to use it."

Mr Joseph C. Sequeira O/o C. P. de Cunha, M. D. of the J. J. Hospital, Bombay, says: "I am a medical student of the Grant Medical College of Bombay and by the advice of a Professor, I intend to try your elixir. Please send a dozen bottles per V. P. P."

Lt. Col. G. C. Jones, Commanding the Bhopal Battalion, Indore, says: "Your 'Elixir of Life' has cured me of a lingering and protracted disease."

F. R. Sanford, Bhuj, says: "I may mention that I have done me a great good."

H. Manaraja Gour Chandra Deo, Feudatory, Chief of Bairakhol, C. P. says: "Your 'Vitaline' has been of great benefit to one of my friends. You should certainly be congratulated on the success of your medicine. Send one gross bottles for hospital purposes."

Henry John Eunson M. A., C. I. E., Manager, Vizagapatam Mining Co., says: "Having taken one course of your Vitaline I found that the benefit derived was in every way most satisfactory."

The Word "Incurable" HAS BEEN BANISHED FROM THE MEDICAL VOCABULARY SINCE THE DISCOVERY OF Healing Balm

For it cures Gonorrhoea, Gleet and kindred Genito-Urinary diseases that so long defied the medical skill. Puts an instantaneous stop to discharges however painful and obnoxious.

Restores, without fail, the vital power, buoyancy and the brings life to the living dead. MITIGATES THE PENALTIES OF SIN AND BRINGS HOPE TO THE HOPELESS.

What the Doctors say:— One of the Leading Medical Journals the "Indian Medical Review" says:—"We have no hesitation in saying in cases of Gonorrhoea that R. Laugin and Co's Healing Balm is a safe and reliable therapeutic agent and one on which medical men and the general public may, without any doubt, depend."

PRICE 2 OZ. PHIAL RS. 2-8 EACH 1 OZ. PHIAL RS. 1-12 EACH

EBONY OR The Indian Hairdye. The most durable hairdye ever discovered, sure to give a tinge to all grey-haired men.

MESSRS. R. LAUGIN & CO., CHEMISTS, 143, BOWLING GREEN STREET, CALCUTTA.



The Simplex Typewriters

Mark a new era in these writing machines. They do practically the same work as the most expensive machines, yet the price is within the reach of all.

THE MAHAT ASRAM

BOARDING AND LODGING, 9, Cornwallis St., Calcutta. RESPECTABLE Gentlemen and Zemindars visiting Calcutta will find it very comfortable.

RARE OPPORTUNITY.

Why be weak or weak-minded, pay nothing. You have simply to write to the under-mentioned address and you will get by return post an excellent book in English.

WE DON'T REQUEST YOU TO PURCHASE

We only solicit examination of our universally praised ornaments, before purchasing Chemical-Gold Ornaments from any other shop.

Central Homoeopathic Pharmacy.

HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINES—EACH DRAM 5 AND 6 PICE. Cholera and Family box with 12, 24, 30, 48, 60, and 100 pills of medicines, a guide and a drop container Rs. 2, 3, 3-10, 5-3, 6-4, and 11-8 respectively.

WE HAVE ALWAYS IN STOCK A LARGE COLLECTION OF HOMOEOPATHIC BOOKS AND GENUINE HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINES AT MODERATE PRICES.

KING & CO. Homoeopathic Chemists & Booksellers, 38, Harrison Road, Calcutta.

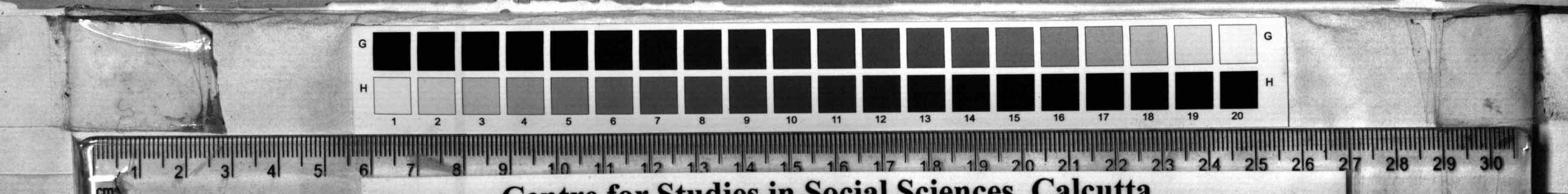
Smriti Sanjiban.

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.

SMRITI SANJIBAN GHRITA on the contrary supply the Nerves and Brain with the particular elements which are worn away by severe mental effort, and the loss of which leaves the Nervous System weakened and impoverished.

SMRITI SANJIBAN GHRITA is a Guaranteed Cure for Giddiness, Headache, Brain-fog, Loss of Memory, Weakness of Sight and Hearing, Nervous Debility, Hypochondriasis, Mental and Physical Lassitude, Despondency, Reluctance for Work, Exhaustion and all complaints of the Nervous System.

Price Rs. 3 per phial. To be had of MANAGER, BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA, Shambhazur, Calcutta.



THE VICEEROY'S SPEECH.

I should like to congratulate my Hon'ble Colleague Mr. Baker upon the reception accorded to his first Budget. He has assumed charge of his important office in a year which is the culminating point up to that of the process of financial recovery the past been proceeding uninterruptedly for six years and whose origin may be traced back still further to the foresight and prudence of Sir D. Barbour and Lord Lytton six years earlier. I do not mean to say that a point has been reached from which we shall now decline. There is no such thing as a free lunch. The slightest ground for anticipating any such consequence. By the closer budgeting that has been employed and expanding up the estimates of revenue margins ditto for next year, the heavy and in that have been left and the steps for ensuring calls that we have adopted for administrative reform and that my Hon'ble friend will always be an unlucky change of wind does not drive us into the financial doldrums.

Of course the most satisfactory feature of the Budget has been the time to provide the means for a great reconstruction in the budget outlay and for a that is the dream of the people. which all cherish the fortunate member saying in the Budget Debate a good luck for one. It would perhaps be too much to expect of a man of my rank to give two, but that if I were not taxation in his hand he would bequeath the so fortunate my successor. That opportunity to myself; and I suppose has turned it to my credit. I must pose that I may forecast, at least upon myself, if not of these remarks I must good fortune to assume the smallest credit not to be taken that have been obtained for the past six years. The year after Government may, by the manner head of the country and its foreign affairs in which large and its considerable influence upon the But apart from the general sense of office present in or absent from his of administration, he cannot exercise much effect. Whether the price of a chest goes up or down, whether the returns are more or less, whether the Revenue expands or recedes, whether the Land Revenue is stationary or shrinks, depends in the main upon circumstances outside of his control. I always think of a very absurd thing to give credit to any individual for what is really the of a public meeting who wished to do so by denying him all credit for the of his Finance Minister. I should be the first to vote for the motion.

But after all, surpluses are surpluses, and the case is not the same when it comes to disposing of them. I cannot therefore go so far as to agree with the critic who wrote the other day—'Unfortunately for our country its revenues have somehow or other been leaving surpluses year after year since the beginning of H. S. Excellence's rule.' I wonder whether this critic would have preferred a succession of annual deficits. One can imagine what he would have said of the Viceroy in such a case. It is in the disposal of surpluses that, in my opinion, the responsibility of the head of the Government does most definitely come to it. It is one of the finest of his functions, in consultation with the Finance Minister and his Colleagues to consider the fair and equal distribution of the bounty which good fortune may have placed in their hands. I have found no more pleasing duty than this during the past six years; and in acting as we have done, it is no vain boast to say that we have proceeded throughout upon definite principles and on what seemed to us to be logical lines. My view has always been that as the revenue of this country comes in the main from the people of the country it is to the people that the disposable surplus, if there be one, should return. And who are the people of whom I do speak? They are the patient humble millions, toiling at the well and the plough, knowing little of budgets, but very painfully aware of the narrow margin between sufficiency and inadequacy. It is to them that my heart goes out. They are the real backbone of our economic prosperity. They give us nearly 20 millions sterling per annum in Land Revenue alone, or about one-fourth of our entire receipts.

And alongside of them are the artisan, the petty trader, the small shopkeeper, the minor official, the professional man of humble means, numerically much smaller than the cultivating classes, but representing different and very important sections of the population—all relatively poor, and all entitled to some return when the State has the wherewithal to give. Hon'ble Members can scarcely realise how anxiously year by year we have considered the claims of all these classes and persons, and have endeavoured to apportion the relief equitably between them. A sufficient illustration may perhaps be found in the present Budget. What is the tax that touches all classes down to the very humblest? It is the Salt tax—and therefore we have brought it down to the lowest figure that it has reached since the Mutiny, certain that we have long passed the point at which middlemen can absorb the reduction, and that it must now filter down to the poorest strata of society. We thereby sacrifice nearly 1½ millions sterling per annum in addition to the million sterling per annum that we surrendered when we first reduced the tax two years ago. A gift of 2½ millions a year is one that, even with a population of this enormous size, is not to be despised. Then if we go on to ask what are the administrative needs that most affect the lower orders of the people in India, will not the reply at once be forthcoming—a purer, better paid, and more efficient police, superior opportunities for lifting themselves in the world by education, both in the rural and urban districts, the application of modern science and discovery to the one great staple industry by which the vast majority of them live, namely agriculture, and provision for all those local needs in the shape of communications, sanitation, hygiene, etc., which mean the difference between comfort and destitution, health and disease, contentment and suffering, to millions of our fellow-citizens? And if for these purposes we have surrendered on the present occasion more than another million sterling per annum, will any one either grudge the existence of the surplus to start with, or the manner in which we have disposed of it? I daresay that there are other forms of relief which others would

have preferred. In previous years we have benefited some of the classes who have now been left out. Who knows but that Mr. Baker may have a good turn to do to others some day later on? Speaking generally, however, my impression, surveying the entire field of Indian taxation as I draw near to the end of my time, is that though there may be other taxes which we should like to lighten, and which certain classes of the community would perhaps like to see lightened still more, there is no tax that can be imposed in India which can fairly be called burdensome or oppressive, either because it takes out of a class more than they can reasonably pay, or because it cripples a trade or an industry. I think that there are very few even among the most advanced countries in the world of which such a statement could be made with equal truth.

Perhaps, however, as I have alluded to the present year as the culminating point in an era of financial progress, and as I have been discussing the means of remitting to the people the surplus product of their own industry, I may take the opportunity of pointing out to the Council what is the full measure of financial relief that the Government of India has been fortunate enough to afford to the taxpayer, since the period of surpluses began with the first Budget that I heard expounded at this table in 1899. The bounty of one year is apt to be swept out of sight by that of another and totals are hardly realised until they are put before us in the naked reality of figures. It would divide the benefactions which have been made since 1899 under the following heads; and since 1899 I only include in them those measures of relief which have been given outside of the ordinary expenditure of Government, and out of the surpluses which we have obtained.

In remission of taxation we shall have given in the seven years, including the financial year for which we are now providing, a total sum of 7½ crores, or over 5 millions sterling. In special remissions of Land Revenue, and of interest and capital loans, in both cases in connection with famine, we shall have given over 3 crores, or 2 millions sterling. For increased expenditure upon Education, quite apart from the ordinary Imperial and Provincial grants, we shall have given over 2 crores, or £1,400,000. In grants for expenditure on purposes of local administrative amelioration, such as roads, bridges, water-supply, hospitals and dispensaries, sanitation, etc., we shall have given over 4½ crores or 3 millions sterling. Minor grants for special purposes, such as the 50 lakhs which are still waiting to be spent on the scheme for improving the congested parts of this great city—a scheme which in broad outlines has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State—amount to nearly 1½ crores, or £800,000. The total sum, part of it non-recurring, but the greater part of it to be continued year by year, that has been given back in my time to the people of India in the form of relief of taxation and other benefactions, amounts to over 19½ crores, or 13 millions sterling. I present these figures to Hon'ble Members as indications of the finance of what we sometimes hear described—though the remark does not appear to find an echo within this Chamber—as a reactionary regime. I am willing to let the figures speak for themselves. But there is a famous passage in a speech that was delivered in the House of Commons in 1858, that might be quoted also—'Where was there a bad Government whose finances were in good order? Where was there a really good Government whose finances were in bad order? Is there a better test in the long run of the condition of a people and the merits of a Government than the state of its finances?' That speech was delivered with direct reference to the Government of India, and the speaker was John Bright.

In my speeches in these Budget debates I have been in the habit from year to year of indulging in what in the phraseology of trade is called stock-taking, and of taking the public into the confidence of Government as to the administrative responsibilities which we had assumed or hoped to carry out. In my earlier years these remarks had necessarily to be couched in the future tense, and many were the criticisms that were then passed upon abortive enquiries and over-ambitious programmes. We do not hear so much of these now. Next year, if I am spared till then, will be my last Budget debate, and it will then perhaps fall to me to review the entire field of work and to show where we have achieved our purpose, and where we have failed. I remember writing to the Prime Minister who appointed me that seven years would be required for the task unless it proved too much for the labourer's strength. I have sometimes wondered whether the onlookers ever weigh the later consideration. We all look at the progress of the cart, and observe with shrill cries whether it is sticking in the ruts or getting on. But few spare a thought for the horse until perhaps it staggers and drops between the shafts, and then—why then—another animal is brought to take its place.

The first twelve reforms which I foreshadowed in 1899, are, I am glad to say, now accomplished. The next twelve have been carried also; and in the remaining year I hope we may carry to completion the third dozen also. When I speak of accomplishment and completion I do not of course mean to suggest that there is, or can be, any finality in administrative work. It goes on like the seasons; and from each oak as it is planted fresh acorns fall. But there after all, is the tree, a living and sprouting stem, a unit in the forest to be reckoned up, and perhaps also to gain in value as the time goes on. For instance, an institution like the North-West Frontier Province, which has admirably answered its purpose and has so far falsified all the predictions of its enemies, is a realised fact which no one is in the least degree likely to change, and which might give food for reflection to some who denounce the shifting of provincial boundaries as though it were a crime and an evil, instead of being, as it is capable of being if wisely and opportunely carried out, a very considerable blessing.

I have no more to say about the accomplished reforms on the present occasion, and even in what I have said I hope that no trace of false exultation has crept in. Reforms in India may sometimes require an external impulse to start them. But they are the work of hundreds of agencies, some important and others obscure; and well do I know that nothing could be achieved, were it not for the cooperation of Colleagues, to work with whom has been a six years' delight, for the wise counsel and cheerful industry of hundreds of faithful fellow-workers in all parts of the country, as well also, and I gladly make the admission—as for the sometimes embarrassing, but often stimulating, influence of public opinion.

To-day I propose to confine my attention to such items of our programme as have been pushed several stages further towards completion during the past twelve months, and which, I hope, will be finally and firmly grounded before the year is over.

Hon'ble Members will recollect that in the year 1899-1900 we had the last great Indian famine. That visitation must have left an indelible impression upon everyone who was brought into close contact with it, whether in relation to its effect upon the physical condition and sufferings of the people, or to the economic position of the country as a whole. I have often stated my conviction that it will not be the last Indian famine. We may compete and struggle with Nature, we may prepare for her worst assaults, and we may reduce her violence when delivered. Some day perhaps, when our railway system has overspread the entire Indian continent, when water storage and irrigation are even further developed, when we have raised the general level of social comfort and prosperity, and when advancing civilisation has diffused the lessons of thrift in domestic expenditure and greater self-reliance and self-control, we shall obtain the mastery. But that will not be yet. In the meantime the duty of Government has been to profit to the full by the lessons of the latest calamity, and to take such precautionary steps over the whole field of possible action as to prepare ourselves to combat the next. It was for this purpose that we appointed the Famine Commission under that most expert of administrators, Sir Antony MacDonnell, in 1901. Nearly four years have elapsed since then and the general public has perhaps almost forgotten the fact. But the intervening period has not been spent in idleness. There is no branch of the subject, of famine relief, famine administration and still more famine prevention, which has not been diligently ransacked and explored, and there is no portion of the recommendations submitted to us by the able Chairman and his lieutenants which has not been discussed with Local Governments and been already made, or if not is about to be made, the subject of definite orders. Instructions were first issued explaining the principles of famine relief as deduced from the experiences of the latest famine and the findings of the Commission. Then came a revision of the existing Famine Codes in each Province—for the conditions and the practice vary to a considerable extent. This has been a work of great labour. It is now all but complete. But the value of these revised and coordinated Codes will only be seen when the next struggle comes. Then they will be found to provide the armament with which each Local Government in India will fight the battle.

The next stage was when the Irrigation Commission investigated the existing programmes of relief works throughout India and submitted recommendations for their improvement and maintenance. These also are in course of being carried out, and special establishments have been sanctioned for the purpose.

Then there was a group of separate recommendations made by the Famine Commission which they included under the head Protective in the final Part of their Report. These were in some respects the most important of all, for they related to broad executive or legislative action on the part of the Supreme Government. I must say a few words about some of these. One of them, the relief of agricultural indebtedness in the Bombay Presidency, still remains to be dealt with. A second, namely, the degree and nature of Government aid by means of loans to agriculturists, has also been treated by the Irrigation Commission, and is about to form the subject of a communication to the Local Governments in which suggestions are made for rendering the present system more simple, liberal, and elastic. A third, namely, Agricultural Development, has been made the subject of a separate speech by one of my Hon'ble Colleagues, Sir Denzil Ibbetson, this afternoon. It would be superfluous for me to follow in his footsteps. Good fortune has presented us simultaneously with two long neglected branches of our duties in the last few years. Firstly, we have had the funds, which our predecessors have not; and Hon'ble Members have noted with particular approval the special grant of 20 lakhs which we have given for the purpose in the present Budget, and which is only the precursor, as we hope, of larger sums to follow. Then we have had for the last five years a Finance Minister in Sir E. Law who took the warmest interest in agricultural development, and I believe derived more sincere pleasure from a successful agricultural experiment than he did from the yield of any impost. And finally we have had in the Hon'ble Member for the Revenue and Agricultural Department a perfect master of his subject, who to profound knowledge of the cultivating classes has added both a warm appreciation of their needs and a statesmanlike grasp of large ideas. The stone which I am to lay as the foundation of a new era in the history of our country, not only of a fabric worthy of a nation, but also of a policy of agricultural development henceforward to be pursued systematically, in good years and bad, years alike, by the Government of India: so that a time may one day arrive when a people will say that India is looking after her greatest treasure, her living industry as well, let us say, as she is now looking after her greatest monuments, her ancient ruins.

There are two other objects which were recommended by the Famine Commission. The first of these was the institution of Co-operative Agricultural Societies, sometimes less correctly styled Agricultural Banks. Several Hon'ble Members now at this table will remember our legislation of the last year, by which we provided for the foundation of such societies. There was no remark more frequently made in the course of the discussion or fore obvious in this direction than that any steps in this direction must be slow and experimental, and that quick returns or striking results could not be expected. In many parts a co-operative institution has to be built upon it. There is also a great deal of elementary preaching, or what an English statesman once called spadework, to be done before any substantial results can be expected. But we have not been idle during the year. Specially selected officers have been appointed as Registrars of Co-operative Societies in the six main provinces, and they are now engaged in spreading a knowledge of the principles among the cultivating classes. The various concessions made by the Government of India in order to lend encouragement—concessions in respect of income-tax, stamp duty, registration fees, and Government loans, have all been notified and are in operation. Three provinces have framed their Rules under the Act, in four provinces societies

have already begun to be registered, Madras and the Punjab having taken the lead. In addition to these is a much larger number of societies started, but not yet actually on the register. Here the United Provinces, which initiated the experiment in Sir A. MacDonnell's time, and which now possess 150 societies, are to the fore. Even in such distant provinces as Assam and Burma, we hear of great interest being displayed and of applications being received. The statistical result is too immature to admit of quotation. But I have said enough to show that Government, having planted their seed, do not mean to let it perish from want of nurture. None of us can say whether it will develop into a healthy plant. But every chance shall be given to it.

The next matter to which I referred is one in which I have taken the keenest interest during my time in India, since it touches the marrowbone of the agricultural class, which I was speaking a little while back. I mean elasticity in Land Revenue collection, and greater liberality in suspension and remission of the fixed demand in times of distress, whether local or widespread. The Famine Commission dealt with this, and we also laid it down among the principles to be adopted as accepted canons of Government in our Land Revenue Resolution of January 1902. But something more was required than the mere statement of an orthodox principle; and we have since been engaged, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Local Governments, in elaborating its operation—with results that will shortly be published. Already a fluctuating assessment, i.e., a demand that is capable of being varied from year to year, is accepted in practice by most Local Governments and is applied to precarious tracts. What I am now referring to is elasticity in collection, i.e., an allowance for exceptionally bad seasons by the suspension or remission of payments due. This is an act of compassion on the part of the State, but it is compassion in a form little distinguishable from justice; for it relates to cases and seasons in which the cultivator cannot pay his fixed demand, because the crops which he has reaped suffice for his own sustenance, and where, if he is called upon to pay it, he can only do so by plunging deeper into debt. In such a case rigidity of collection is not only a hardship but an injustice. It is to avoid such consequences, and at the same time to escape the opposite extreme of laxity in collection and the consequent demoralisation of the people, that we are about to lay down the principles underlying this method of relief.

Next I turn to Irrigation. It is five years since I last alluded at any length to this subject in a Budget Debate. I then discussed the possibilities of irrigational expansion that seemed to lie before us in India, and speaking upon the authority of my expert advisers, I indicated the limits, physical rather than financial, that appeared to exist to such expansion, and answered the popular misapprehension that because India is a land of great rivers and heavy rains, it is therefore possible to capture all that surplus water, and to utilise it either for the extension of cultivation or for the prevention of famine. After that came the Famine of 1900; and as a sequel to the Famine it seemed to me that this matter, so vital to the future of India, should be re-examined by the very highest authorities whom we could find, visiting every part of the country, examining into local conditions and needs, approaching the matter from the point of view of protection against famine rather than of remunerative investment of State funds, and presenting us with an authoritative pronouncement upon the capabilities for further irrigation of the whole of British India, and of the extent of the obligation both in State irrigation and in the encouragement of private enterprise which Government might legitimately assume. That was the genesis of the Commission presided over by Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff which was appointed in the autumn of 1901, and which, after an investigation that extended over two cold winters, finally reported in April 1903.

I wonder how many of the Hon'ble Members whom I am now addressing, and still more how many of the outside public, have read their Report. To me the first Part of it, which relates to general considerations, is infinitely more interesting than a novel, for it deals not with the hypothetical problems of human character, but with the positive agencies that affect the growth or decline of human life; and it bases conclusions dramatic in their sweep upon premises of scientific precision. By slow but sure degrees ever since, we have been assimilating and taking action upon that Report; and our final views and orders upon it will shortly see the light.

As this is the last occasion upon which I shall ever speak at any length upon this subject in India, let me summarise the situation as it now stands. There are two classes of Irrigation in this country. State Irrigation, i.e., works constructed or maintained by the State, and Private Irrigation conducted by communities or individuals, largely by means of wells. I am here only concerned with the former. I need not before an Indian audience expatiate upon the distinction, so familiar in our Reports and Budget Statements, between Major and Minor works, Productive and Protective works. Major works are either Productive, in which case we find the money for them out of surplus revenue or from loans, or Protective, in which case we provide for them from the annual Famine Grant of 1½ crores: the distinction between Productive and Protective being that the former are expected to prove remunerative, though they have not always been so; while the latter are not expected to be remunerative at all. In other words, Productive works are, or may be, protective also; but protective works are not expected to be productive. Minor works are those which we undertake entirely out of the revenue of the year. Now let me say what our outlay upon all these works up till the present hour has been, and what the property thus created represents. The Government of India have spent in all 46½ crores or 31 millions sterling upon State Irrigation works in all the above classes. With it they have dug nearly 50,000 miles of canals and distributaries, they have irrigated an area of 21½ million acres, out of a total irrigated area in British India of about 47 million acres, and they derive from it a net revenue of £2,700,000 per annum or a percentage of net revenue on capital outlay of approximately 7 per cent. If we capitalise the net revenue at 25 years' purchase, we obtain a total of 67½ millions sterling or considerably more than double the capital outlay. These figures are an indication of what has already been done. Next, what are we going to do or what are we capable of doing? In my first year in India I went to see the Chenab

Canal in the Punjab, which had been finished a few years earlier. At that time it irrigated 1,000,000 acres, it now irrigates 2,000,000; at that time it had cost 1½ millions sterling; there have now been spent upon it 2 millions; at that time it supported a population of 200,000 persons, the population is now over 1,000,000, and this huge aggregate is diffused over an expanse, now waving with corn and grain, that but a few years ago was a forsaken waste. Since then we have completed the Jhelum canal, which already irrigates 300,000 acres, and will irrigate 2 million. Everywhere these lands, once waste and desolate, are being given out to colonisation; and the Punjab Province, if it lost the doubtful prestige of the Frontier with its disturbing problems and its warring tribes, has gained instead the solid asset of a contented and peaceful peasantry that will yearly swell its resources and enhance its importance. Then you have heard of the fresh obligations which we have since undertaken in the same quarter; 5½ millions sterling have just been sanctioned for the group of canals known as the Upper Chenab, the Upper Jhelum and the Lower Bari Doab. Before another decade has elapsed 2,000,000 more acres will have been added to the irrigated area, with a proportionate increase in the population, and with an estimated return of 10 per cent. on the capital outlay. So much for the near future. Now let me look a little further ahead, and come to the recommendations of the Irrigation Commission. They have advised an additional expenditure of 44 crores or nearly 30 millions sterling, spread out over 20 years, or an annual average expenditure of 1½ million sterling. We accept that estimate; we regard it as reasonable; and we hope to be able to provide the funds. This will increase the area under irrigation in British India by 6½ million acres as compared with the 4 million which I mentioned five years ago, the difference being explained by the fact that as we draw towards the close of this gigantic programme we shall no longer be able to talk glibly of remunerative programmes or of lucrative interest on capital outlay, but shall find ourselves dealing with protective works, pure and simple, where no return or but little return is to be expected, and where we shall have to measure the financial burden imposed on the State against the degree of protection against scarcity and famine obtained for the people. I do not think that we need shrink from that more exacting test; for we shall have approached, if the metaphor may be permitted, the rocky passes in which our forces will then be engaged across smiling plains and verdant pastures in which they will have derived strength and sustenance for the harder and less remunerative toil that will lie before them. I wish that we could proceed even faster. But that is out of the question. Canals are not like railways where companies are ready to find the money and to undertake the work, where an embankment can anywhere be thrown up by unskilled labour, and where the iron or steel plant that may be required can be ordered by telegram from Europe or the United States. In irrigation you have in the first place to find the funds from the borrowings of the State, which are not capable of unlimited expansion. You have to spend much time in preliminary investigations and surveys. You then have to obtain your labour for the particular work. It is estimated that to spend the amount which I have named a host of 280,000 workmen and coolies will be required for 250 days in each of the 20 years in addition to those required for the maintenance of the existing works and of the new ones as they come into operation. And finally you have to engage and train your skilled establishment which is a matter of careful recruitment, spread over a series of years. These are the considerations that must always differentiate irrigation work from railway work in India, and that militate against the same rate of speed in the former. And then when we have done all this where shall we stand? We shall have done much, we shall have done what no other nation or country has done before. But the surplus water from the snows of the Himalayas and from the opened doors of heaven will still spill its unused and unusable abundance into the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The calculations show that of the total average rainfall of India, as much as 85 per cent., and a much larger proportion of the surface flow, amounting to 87 per cent., is carried away by rivers to the sea. The programme that I have sketched will at the most utilise only 2½ per cent. of this surface flow, and the remainder will still continue its aimless and unarrested descent to the ocean. Why is this? The answer is very simple, and to anyone who has any knowledge of the meteorological or geographical features of this continent very clear. Rain does not always fall in India in the greatest volume where it is most needed. That Cherrapunji could easily spare Rajasthan obtain. Neither does rain fall all through the year in India. It descends in great abundance, within narrowly defined periods of time, and then it is often very difficult, and sometimes impossible, to store it. Providence does not tell us when a year of famine is impending, and we cannot go on holding up the water for a drought that may never come. It would be had even if it were not a physical impossibility. Sometimes where water is most plentiful there is no use for it, because of the sterile or forbidding or unsuitable nature of the soil. Sometimes it flows down in blind superfluity through a country already intersected with canals. Sometimes it mendsers in riotous plenty through alluvial plains where storage is impossible. Sometimes again the cost of storage is so tremendous as to be absolutely prohibitive. These things as to be absolutely prohibitive. These are some, though by no means all, of the reasons which place an inexpugnable barrier to the realisation of academic dreams. Facts of this sort we may deprecate, but cannot ignore; and the time will never come when we can harness all that wealth of mispent and futile power, and convert it to the use of man. What we can do, the Commission have told us; what we mean to do I have endeavoured imperfectly to sketch out in these remarks. Restricted as is the programme, when measured against the prodigious resources of nature, it is yet the maximum programme open to human agency and to finite powers, and it is one that may well appeal either to the enthusiasm of the individual, or to the organised ability of the State. We are about to embark upon it with the consciousness that we are not merely converting the gifts of Providence to the service of man, but that we are labouring to reduce human suffering and in times of calamity to rescue and sustain millions of human lives.

There are a few other subjects to which I must allude. The presence of the Hon'ble Mr. Hewitt at this table and the speech

which he has delivered, indicate that we have in the past year obtained that which has for a long time been the cherished aspiration of the mercantile community, viz., a separate Department and Minister of Commerce and Industry. Six years ago I should have said that this was impossible; two years ago I did not regard it as likely. But the facts of commercial and industrial expansion cannot be gainsaid; and as soon as the case began to be made out it was convincing in its logic and pertinence. The days are gone by when Government can dissociate itself from the encouragement of commercial enterprise. There used to be a sort of idea that business was an esoteric thing, to be conducted by a narrow clique, who were alone possessed of the oracles of wisdom, and with whom Government were hardly supposed to be on speaking terms. That was an absurd theory at any time. It is additionally absurd in a country like India where the Government is responsible for so many forms of commercial and industrial activity, where it builds and works railroads, where it controls the sale of opium and salt, where it maintains gigantic factories, where it is engaged in undertaking the manufacture of its own cartridges and rifles and guns, and where it is the largest employer of labour in the country. And most absurd of all is it at a time when the whole air is alive with movement, rivalry, and competition; and when we desire to push our products, our manufactures, and our industries upon the attention of the world. I believe India to be merely at the beginning of its commercial expansion, and if I could revisit this Council Chamber 50 years hence, I believe I should find the Commercial Member of that day delivering an oration that would be reported throughout the East. There is only one word of appeal in which I would ask leave to indulge. I entreat my Indian friends not to regard the creation of a Department of Commerce as an agency for the promotion of British Commerce alone. They could not make a greater mistake. Indian commerce, industry, and enterprise are as vital to this country as British—nay, I think more so. They have a future as bright before them. When we have to deal with great pioneers of Indian industry, such as the Tata family, they will tell you that they receive the warmest encouragement at our hands, and for my own part I should feel far happier if for every present Indian merchant-king there were a thousand, and for every lakh of Indian rupees invested in mercantile undertakings, a crore. Our new Department and its Hon'ble Member know no distinction of race: they are concerned only with the development of the country.

It is a part of the same policy that has induced us in the past year to create the new Railway Board which is now entering upon its duties. The idea is no new one. We make no pretence to be original. It has been advocated for years, by all those who wanted greater elasticity and less officialism in our system, and from the day that I surrendered temporary charge of the Public Works Department in 1899 having become conversant for a while with its working, I meant to get the reform sooner or later. It has taken six years to carry it out. Not that the old Public Works Department stands therefore condemned. That would be a most unjust and unfair assumption. It produced a series of brilliant and famous Engineers. It overspread India with a network of railways. It eventually converted annual deficits into an assured surplus that has reached this year the magnificent figure of 2½ millions sterling, and it has handed over to the Railway Board a splendid property which will rest with the latter to develop on commercial principles in the future. I have sometimes seen the present administration accused of centralising tendencies. I have not time to argue that contention this afternoon. But if it be true, it is at least remarkable that it has been associated with the two greatest measures of decentralisation that have been achieved during the last fifty years, viz., the Permanent Financial Settlements with the Provincial Governments, and the institution of the Railway Board.

There is entered in the Budget the sum of 50 lakhs for Police Reform. That is only an instalment and a beginning. We accept with slight modifications the full recommendations of the Commission, and we intend to carry out their programme. The author of the Report is seated at my right hand, and I should like to take this opportunity of publicly thanking him and his colleagues for their labours. No more fearless or useful report has ever been placed before the Government of India. I would gladly have taken action upon it sooner. But a long time has been required to consult the Local Governments and to satisfy the Secretary of State. And now what is it that we have in view? I think that my feelings are those of every Member of the Government. We want a police force which is free from the temptation to corruption and iniquity, and which must, therefore, be reasonably well paid, which must be intelligent and orderly and efficient, and which will make its motto protection instead of oppression. I confess that my heart breaks within me when I see long diatribes upon how many natives are to get employment under the new system and how many Europeans. For my own part I have never paused to count them up. The Police Force in India must be an overwhelmingly native force; and I would make it representative of the best elements in native character and native life. Equally must it have a European supervising element, and let this also be of the best. But do not let us proceed to reckon one against the other and contend as to who loses and who gains. The sole object of all of us ought to be the good of the country and the protection of the people. It is three years since in one of these Debates I announced the appointment of the Police Commission, and since Sir John Woodburn, who sat in that chair, said that it would be the most important and far-reaching of any that I had appointed in my time. I am glad that I appointed it and am proud of its work; and when the reforms came into full operation, I am hopeful that they will be felt under every roof in this country.

At this stage I may perhaps interpolate a few remarks in reply to the concluding portions of the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale's speech. He seems to think that in my speech of last year, and in the Resolution that followed it, were laid down new principles as regards the admission of Natives of India to the public service. He referred to the Act of 1857 and the Queen's Proclamation of 1858. I am familiar with both those documents, and I also remember—which those who quote them sometimes forget—that the late Queen's words contained a qualification, not indeed modifying their generosity, but limiting their application by the necessary tests, firstly of practical expediency, and secondly of personal fitness.

These were the words: "It is our will, that so far as may be, our subjects of whatever race or creed be freely and impartially admitted to offices in our service, the duties of which they may be qualified by their education, ability and integrity duly to discharge." There is not one sentence in that memorable paragraph from which any Government of India or any Governor-General has ever either desired or attempted to recede. But the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale's historical references stopped short at 1858. He altogether forgot to mention the findings of the Public Service Commission of 1887, which deliberately laid down that the service in India should in future be divided into two branches, firstly, an Imperial Service called the Civil Service, to be recruited by open competition in England only, and, secondly, a provincial service recruited in India, and consisting almost entirely of natives of this country. Our pronouncement of last year was a mere reaffirmation of the findings of that Commission. Even the phrase "corps d'elite" which the Hon'ble Member seems to think originated with me is taken from paragraph 73 of their Report. Let me further ask him more particularly to peruse paragraphs 74 and 91 of that document. He will find that nothing was said last year, either by the Government of India or by myself, which has not been laid down with even greater authority by our predecessors; and for the inference as to a change of policy which Mr. Gokhale has drawn in his speech to-day, there is I can assure him, no foundation.

I am myself particularly immune from the suspicions to which the Hon'ble Member refers. I frequently see attributed to me personally the appointment of this or that European or Eurasian to some post or other in some part of India. The responsibility of the Head of the Government of India is great, and I have never minimised it. But it is beyond human power, that he should know every detail of the administration of 300,000,000 of people, and beyond reason that every subordinate act of the administration should be attributed to him alone. And really when I read of all the things that are explained by my personal intervention, while I appreciate the compliment, I am compelled to say that in quite 19 cases out of 20, I have never even heard of them at all. If the Hon'ble Member were to go into the Departments of the Government of India he would find that I am there known as a strong partisan not of European but of Native appointments, wherever these can be made with sufficient regard to the test of personal fitness for the post. But, after all, is it not rather a vain exercise to dispute as to the exact number of places that are or are not given to this or to that class in an administration? The Hon'ble Member will never find any reluctance on the part of Government to recognize and to forward the legitimate aspirations of his countrymen. But he must not be surprised if these generous tendencies are sometimes chilled, when almost every step that we take and every appointment that is made is liable to criticism that presumes the existence of a racial bias where none exists. He has cited the Despatch of the Court of Directors with which the Act of 1833 was sent out to India. Let me quote to him another paragraph from that Despatch. If I were to utter it as my own I am afraid that I should be accused of illiberal sentiments. But with the distinguished imprimatur of the authors of the Act of 1833, it may carry some weight with the Hon'ble Member:

"We must guard against the supposition that it is chiefly by holding out means and opportunities of official distinction that we expect our Government to benefit the millions subjected to their authority. We have repeatedly expressed to you a very different sentiment. Facilities of official advancement can little affect the bulk of the people under any Government, and perhaps least under a good Government. It is not by holding out incentives to official ambition, but by repressing crime, by securing and guarding property, by creating confidence, by ensuring to industry the fruit of its labour, by protecting men in the undisturbed enjoyment of their rights, and in the unfettered exercise of their faculties, that Governments best minister to the public wealth and happiness. In effect, the free access to office is chiefly valuable where it is a part of general freedom."

With these words, which seem to me entirely wise, I will pass from the subject. There is one duty that falls upon the Government of India to which I think that I have rarely if ever alluded in this Council, and that is the guardianship of Indian interests where they are liable to be impugned by external policy or influence. We resisted to the best of our ability the heavy charge of more than 3 million sterling that was imposed upon Indian revenues by the increase of pay in the British Army—a measure about which we were not consulted and with which we did not agree. We protested more successfully against the placing upon Indian revenues of the charge for the entertainment of the Indian guests at the Coronation in London. We were also successful in resisting the suggestion that India should pay £400,000 per annum for a call upon a portion of the British Garrison in South Africa. We have now finally established the principle (disputed till a few years ago) that when we lend troops from India to fight campaigns for the Imperial Government in different parts of Asia and Africa, every rupee of the charge from embarkation to return shall be defrayed by the Imperial Government.

During the past few years we have been waging a similar battle in defence of the Indian emigrant in South Africa. For many years a system has prevailed under which unskilled Indian labourers have been encouraged to emigrate to the Colony of Natal for employment chiefly in agriculture, though a few of them are engaged in coal mines. The number proceeding yearly on five-year contracts is from 5,000 to 6,000, and there are now some 30,000 indentured Indians in the Colony. Their wages are good, and those of them who returned to India in 1903 brought back savings to the amount of over five lakhs of rupees, while Indians of all classes settled in Natal remit to their friends in India some thirteen lakhs of rupees annually. The indentured Indian is well treated, and so far as this class is concerned, the system of emigration to Natal is advantageous to India as well as to the Colony. But there is now in Natal a considerable population of British Indians, estimated at about 50,000, who are not working under indenture and are therefore known as "free Indians." Some of them are men who have worked out their time, but have decided to settle in the country, or the descendants of such men; others are persons who have voluntarily proceeded to the Colony with the object of making a living there. Unfortunately the colonists entertain a rooted objec-

tion to this class of settlers, and have taken strong measures to discourage any increase in their numbers. Some of these measures have seemed to the Government of India to be unduly severe and inconsistent with the reasonable claims of the people of India as subjects of the British Empire; and we have lost no opportunity of urging that the restrictions imposed on free Indians should be relaxed. More especially two years ago, when the Government of Natal sent delegates to us to discuss an arrangement under which Indian labourers should be compelled to return to India on the expiry of the term for which they were engaged, we required as an essential condition that they should make certain concessions in favour of the free Indians who were then settled, or who might desire to settle, in the Colony. We stipulated for the eventual abolition of a tax of £3 a head which had been imposed on such persons for leave to reside; for the amendment of an Act placing traders, of however old a standing, under the power of local Corporations who had absolute authority to refuse licenses to trade; for the removal of Indians from another Act, under which they were classed with barbarous races; and for the provision of a summary remedy for free Indians who might be wrongfully arrested on the ground that they were coolies under indenture or prohibited immigrants. In reply we were given to understand that there was no prospect of obtaining the consent of the local legislature to these conditions, and the negotiations were therefore dropped. The only concession that has been obtained as regards free Indians in Natal is the exemption of those who have been resident in the Colony for three consecutive years from the restrictions imposed on "prohibited immigrants" under the Immigration Restriction Act. That Act still requires immigrants (except those under indenture) to be able to write in some European language, and our endeavours to get ability to write in an Indian language accepted as a sufficient test of literacy have been unsuccessful. We have informed the Natal Government that we reserve to ourselves the fullest liberty to take at any time such measures in regard to emigration to that Colony as we may think necessary in order to secure proper treatment for our Indian settlers, and we have recently again declined to take any step towards facilitating the emigration of labourers under indenture until the Natal authorities substantially modify their attitude.

In no other South African Colony is there in force any system of immigration of Indian labour under indenture, and the number of British Indians at present resident in the Colonies other than Natal is comparatively small. Those Colonies have however evinced a similar spirit of opposition to the immigration of free Indians, and we have had a considerable amount of correspondence on the subject, especially as regards the Transvaal. Soon after that country came under British administration we addressed the Secretary of State for India, and urged that the opportunity should be taken to remove the restrictions and disabilities imposed by the Boer Government on British Indian subjects. In the course of the correspondence that ensued we were asked to agree to a scheme for the employment of 10,000 Indian labourers on the construction of Government railways in the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies; and recognising that the need for Indian labour thus displayed might prove a powerful lever in our hands in securing better treatment for Indians generally in South Africa, we expressed our readiness to consider the proposal if it was likely to lead to substantial concessions in favour of Indians not under indenture. We said that the least that we could accept would be, (1) that Indian languages should be included in the literary test applied to new immigrants; (2) that residence in locations should be compulsory only upon those Indians in whose case the restriction is desirable for sanitary reasons; (3) that Indian traders who had established themselves under the former Government should be granted licenses permitting them to retain their present places of business; (4) that all Indians of superior class, including all respectable traders and shopkeepers, should be exempted from the Pass Law and the Curfew system and from the other restrictions imposed on the non-white population.

The Transvaal authorities declined to concede these demands in full, and we have therefore refused to establish a system of emigration of indentured labourers to that Colony. The outcome of the negotiations so far will be found in the despatch sent on 25th July 1904 by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor of the Transvaal, which was presented to Parliament in August last. In it the British Government supported all our main demands except the claim that future immigrants should not be required to be able to write in a European language. We have not yet heard what action has been taken on these instructions by the Transvaal Government.

I do not say that this is a pleasurable record. The problem is one for which it is exceedingly difficult to find a solution. Colonists possessing, or likely before long to possess, rights of Self-Government cannot be dictated to in such matters, and the feeling that exists against them is undoubtedly very strong. It has seemed to us to be our duty to do nothing to inflame that feeling, but to lose no opportunity of pleading the cause of those whose natural protectors we are, and to make no concession whatever until we obtain a full quid pro quo in return. I am confident that in this attitude we shall have the support of the entire Indian community.

I may name one more respect in which the Government of India have, I think, faithfully championed the interests of the general community. I allude to their attitude on the Fiscal Question. I observe that the Hon'ble Mr. Cable, speaking to-day on behalf of the commercial community, has most strongly endorsed the correctness of this position that we took up in our Despatch of 22nd October 1903. A little while ago it was stated with some authority in England that that Despatch had been drawn up by us in a hurry, and that we were believed to have modified our views. There is no foundation for any such statement. We composed that Despatch with full deliberation. It represented our matured opinions. We have not departed from them in any particular; and if the Government of India were invited to enter a Conference, those I am confident would be the instructions with which our delegates from this end would proceed. Our claim is not merely that India should have a voice in the settlement of the question—that none will dispute—but that in any Imperial scheme there should not be imposed upon us a system detrimental to our interests or repugnant to our strongly entertained and unanimous views.

Before I conclude I may perhaps be expected to say a word about the military estimates of the year. We have had the familiar attacks upon them in this Debate. One Hon'ble Member spoke of the expenditure as inordinate and alarming. It is inordinate in the sense that it is beyond the ordinary. For now that we have ample means, we are utilising some of them, which in ordinary years we might not have been able to do, not merely to relieve the burden of the people, but to secure them from the possible future horrors of war. There is nothing to alarm in the increase. The situation would be much more alarming if, with a rival Power building railways towards the Afghan frontier, we were to sit still and do nothing. It was not by so regarding military expenditure and equipment that our allies in the Far East have won those great victories that have extorted the admiration of the world. They saw the danger impending, and they set themselves steadily to prepare for it with what results we all know. The lesson of the Russo-Japanese War is surely the most supreme vindication of preparation for war as contrasted with unreflecting confidence that modern times have ever seen. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has presented us with a scheme, which is the ripe product not only of his own great experience, but of years of discussion and anticipation in India itself, and whose sole object is so to organize our forces in peace, as to place the largest possible body of men, with the least dislocation, in the field in time of war. Until universal peace reigns, which will not be in our day, the best custodian of his own house will still be the strong man armed; and the Government of India, assured that they have the means, and reposing confidence in the ability of their military advisers, have accepted the scheme submitted to them, not without careful scrutiny of its features and details, but in the conviction that the heavy charge entailed will be repaid in the increased security that will be enjoyed by the country.

As regards the view which has been expressed in this debate that the expenditure should be provided for by loan, I join my Financial Colleague in dissenting from that opinion. Reference has been made to English practice. No one would have denounced such a proposal, under existing conditions, more strongly than Mr. Gladstone. I do not say that a military loan is everywhere unjustifiable. Were we on the brink of war, or were it the case that large military expenditure could only be met by incurring a deficit, or by imposing additional taxation which it was considered essential to avoid, then there might be a good case for a military loan.

But with a full exchequer, and with a simultaneous reduction of taxation, I feel sure that every financier of repute would pronounce such a proposal to be without excuse. Moreover, it should be remembered that in England the National Debt is being steadily diminished by processes which are not adopted here; and that a military loan is there obliged to run the gauntlet of Parliament. The Government of India is sometimes taunted with its irresponsibility. Might it not be a serious thing if you encouraged that Government to shift on to future generations a burden which it was capable of bearing in its own time? Might you not aggravate the very irresponsibility which is sometimes deplored?

I have now concluded my picture of some, at any rate, of the activities upon which we are or have lately been engaged. I ask myself, is this in truth an unsympathetic and reactionary regime? Is it likely that the individual who has allowed himself no rest or respite in his labours, be they successful or mistaken, for the Indian people, would endeavour to injure them or thrust them back? Is there a single class in the community who has been so injured? I will go further and say, is there a single individual? If there had been, should we not have heard of him to-day? Would a man who has devoted his whole life to preaching the lessons of the East, its history and traditions, who has often been rallied by his own countrymen for his enthusiasm for the religions and monuments and literature of the East, and who has, while in India, given such abundant proofs of his reverence for its faiths and feelings that are not his own—turn round and assail what he had hitherto revered? These questions I must leave others to answer. As for reaction I console myself with the wise saying of Macaulay, "Ever since childhood I have been seeing nothing but progress, and hearing of nothing but reaction and decay."

For my own part, as the last year of my work in India opens, I look back upon the past not with any self-complacency—because while much has been done, much also remains undone—but with gratitude that the opportunity has been vouchsafed to my colleagues and myself of giving so definite an impulse to all that makes up the growth and prosperity of a people, and the safety of an Empire, and with the sanguine conviction that none can sow as diligently and wholeheartedly as we have endeavoured to sow, without a harvest springing up—indeed the green shoots are already high above the ground—that will ten thousand times repay the exertion and obliterate ever scar.

Smriti Sanjiban.

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.

SMRITI SANJIBAN GHRIYA on the contrary supply the Nerves and Brain with the particular elements which are worn away by severe mental effort, and the loss of which leaves the Nervous System weakened and impoverished. SMRITI SANJIBAN GHRIYA replenish the reserve of nerve-power as fast as it is drawn upon.

SMRITI SANJIBAN GHRIYA is a Guaranteed Cure for Giddiness, Headache, Brain-fag, Loss of Memory, Weakness of Sight and Hearing, Nervous Debility, Hypochondriasis, Mental and Physical Lassitude, Despondency, Reluctance for Work, Exhaustion and all complaints of the Nervous System.

Price Rs. 3 per phial. To be had of MANAGER, BHARAT BHAIANILAYA, 100, 101, 102, Colaba, Bombay.

THE MYMENSINGH PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS.

The following are the draft resolutions proposed to be placed before the forthcoming Provincial Conference to be held at Mymensingh for its consideration:

I. That this Conference views with grave alarm and anxiety the Jute Bill which has been submitted to Government by one class of the Mercantile community of Calcutta and which in the opinion of this Conference is calculated to seriously injure this important industry of Bengal and specially of the Mymensingh District. This Conference earnestly prays that the said Bill be altogether abandoned.

II. That this Conference agrees with the views expressed in Government Resolution Education No. 658 in thinking that the courses of instruction followed in primary Schools are too long, too advanced and too diversified for the agricultural classes; but at the same time this Conference feels that it is not able to give adequate expression to the feeling of appreciation which the proposals to divide the Bengali language into "Northern, Eastern, Central and Western Bengali at least" has evoked throughout the country amongst all classes of the people. This Conference, while deprecating the use of Sanskritised language in text books intended for rural schools, firmly believes that different Districts at in different parts of the same District, by a written in simple Bengali are understood by all classes. This Conference thinks that all classes of spoken dialects in text-books will be treated with utter disapproval by the very classes who speak those dialects, and will therefore completely defeat the object which the Government has in view.

III. That this Conference, in expressing its gratitude to Government, for the contribution from the Provincial fund, to remove the great scarcity of drinking water, desires to place on record its deep regret for the non-fulfilment of the assurance, given by His Grace the Duke of Argyll, as Secretary of State for India, gave at the time of the visit of the Road Cess, for removing scarcity of drinking water. This Conference submits that funds annually allotted by District Board, together with the recent contribution made by Government are too inadequate to supply vast areas in the interior with good drinking water.

IV. That having regard to the present constitution of Village Choukidari and their gradual amalgamation with the regular police force, this Conference prays that the Choukidary tax which is a source of great oppression and hardship to rural people be abolished.

V. That this Conference begs to call attention of Government to the mortality and suffering in rural villages on account of cholera and fever and cholera. The Conference prays that steps be taken to adopt measures as the Government thinks proper to remove them.

VI. That this Conference begs also call attention to the destruction of crops and of human lives by wild animals in hill and jungle tracts of Bengal on account of the rigour of the Arms Act as well as of the increasing difficulties to obtain licenses under it.

VII. That this Conference fully appreciates the work which is being done by the Scientific and Industrial Association of Calcutta and resolves to co-operate with it and advance its object, and desires to express its gratitude to the promoters of the Association, and to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal who has lent encouragement to the Association by his presence at its meeting.

VIII. That this Conference is of opinion that any scheme in any form whatsoever of dividing the Bengali-speaking people and thereby retarding its gradual development, should be abandoned for ever, and prays that if any new scheme, as hinted in the newspapers, has been framed, it should be published with all papers relating thereto and that no final orders passed until the public have had an opportunity of discussing it.

IX (a) That this Conference is of opinion that the new principle introduced in the Bengal Local Self-Government Amendment Bill empowering His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to issue a fresh tax by a notification in the "Calcutta Gazette" is against all sound principles of taxation.

(b) That the proposed fresh tax on land will greatly increase the burden of the people who are already overtaxed and who will be the least benefited by it.

(c) That the imposition of a fresh tax on land will be regarded as a violation of the Permanent Settlement.

(d) That in the opinion of this Conference the Sadar Local Boards are doing very useful work and the members thereof take great interest in the transaction of the business of the Boards inasmuch as the Sadar Local Boards are generally presided over by non-official Chairmen.

(e) That the said Boards may not be abolished.

(f) That the Union Committees, if placed directly under the District Boards, will lose all its importance and usefulness as an agency of Self-Government inasmuch as the said Committees will be entirely led and influenced by the Official Chairmen.

X. That this Conference deplores the increasing distress of the middle classes in the Maffasil which in the opinion of this Conference is mainly due to

(a) the gradual exclusion from Several Departments of Government Service,

(b) the great increase of expenditure in marriages and other ceremonial and also to the increased expenditure in all matters of daily life as well as to the increase of litigation,

(c) Malarial fever and other diseases.

XI. That this Conference, agreeing with previous Conferences, re-affirms their Resolutions on the following subjects.

(a) The separation of judicial and executive functions.

(b) The expansion of Local Self-Government by allowing selected District Boards to elect their own Chairmen.

(c) The necessity of preserving and developing indigenous arts and industries.

(d) The disastrous consequences resulting from the gradual exclusion of the Indians from appointment in the Telegraph, Police, Survey, Railway, Opium, Customs, Public Works Departments.

(e) The non-observance of the Queen's Proclamation.

Printed and published by T. K. Dey at the "Patrika" Press No. 9, Abanota Chatterjee's Bazaar, and issued by the "Patrika" Press 23, Colaba.

