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NO. 31

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Ranaghat
21 May 1904.

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(Sd.) Dina Nath Mukherjee,

Dy. Magistrate, Rajshahi.

Rajshahi, the 28th Oct. 1903.

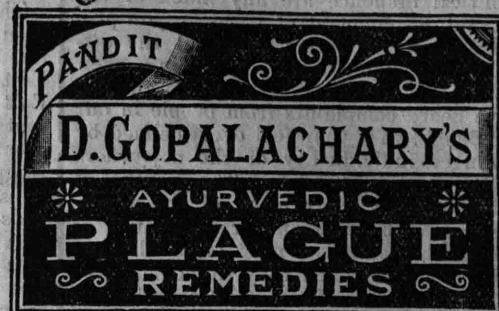
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DEAR SIR,—The ornaments which you have supplied to me on order on the occasion of my daughter's marriage have all been of approved design and of neat workmanship. I cannot but too highly recommend the promptitude with which my order was complied with. Thanking you for the same and wishing you success, I remain (Sd.) Kedar Nath Sanyal, Ex. Asst. Commr. Habiganj, Sylhet. Dated 3rd January 1890.
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ASOKARISHTA cures Dysmenorrhoea, Amenorrhoea, Menorrhagia, Leucorrhoea, Hysteria, Anemia, Neuralgia, Insomnia, Endometritis, Sterility, Nervous Irritability, Pelvic tumour, Displacement of the Uterus, Colic pain, General Debility and many other painful diseases peculiar to the weaker sex. It is a safe remedy for use after delivery and prevents the patient from catching puerperal fever and other maladies of the kind. Price per phial with a box of pills Rs. 1-8. Packing and postage As. 7.

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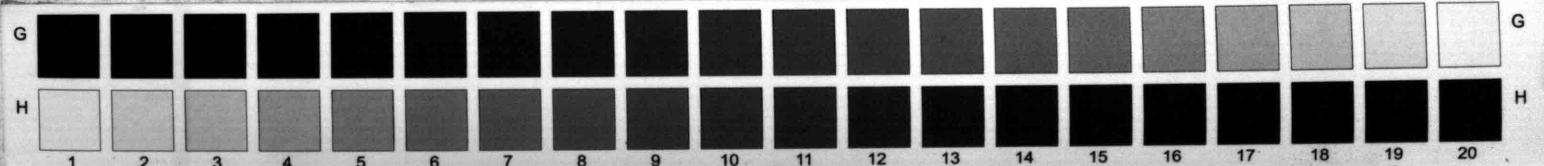
It is a novel and charming preparation composed of the finest Genuine Musk, Otto of Roses, and some other new and valuable Aromatics and Spices for imparting a rich and delicious taste to the Betel. A few grains of this Powder taken with the betel will wonderfully improve its taste and flavour. Betel user will find it a necessity and a luxury indeed.

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MYMENSINGH CONFERENCE.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bhupendra Nath Bose in addressing the Conference spoke as follows:—

Fellow-Delegates and Gentlemen: I use no language of mere convention when I thank you for the great honour you have done me in electing me as the President of this Conference. I have served my novitiate in the service of our country for many years, and I know how to value the reward that you have bestowed on me to-day. A prize which carries with it the approbation and appreciation of one's own countrymen is much more to be coveted than any official decorations which not infrequently serve to illuminate what had better remain in the dark. I appreciate the honour all the more, because it comes from my brethren of East Bengal who, all through India, are known and esteemed for the keenness of their intellect, their energy, patriotism and perseverance. Gentlemen, I shall not, however, detain you over matters that are merely personal. The questions that are agitating us, and to discuss some of which we are met in this Conference, cannot await the exchange of personal amenities. The air is overcast with the ominous shadow of an impending calamity and chills the freedom of life. This is the second time that East Bengal has extended her hospitality to the whole Bengali people to meet on her ancient soil: will this be the last?—that is the supreme question of the hour, the question of all questions.

PARTITION OF BENGAL.

The anxiety and the suspense through which all Bengal and specially the Eastern districts have been passing for the fast two years is probably unexampled in the history of our national life. Only on another occasion within living memory were our people so deeply moved as now. If human sufferings could impart their hue to the instruments by which they are inflicted, the indigo of Bengal would have yielded a red and not a blue dye. Our rulers in those days felt for the people and were not content with professing a sympathy which is as subtle and elusive as the smile of the sea. And the people knew in those days how to make themselves heard. Nearly 50 years of settled rule have since passed over us and the manhood of the race has almost disappeared. But, gentlemen, if a too civilized administration has stilled in us the motions of life, you who live in the outskirts, so to say, of that administration have still some life left in you. The opposition that you have offered to the scheme of the partition of Bengal is worthy of the noblest traditions of East Bengal. It maintains your high character for energy and perseverance and it half redeems the character of the Bengali race. I need not enter into the details of that scheme which must be familiar to you all. Nor is it necessary to recapitulate the arguments that have been addressed against it from various quarters; the zemindar and the ryot, the classes and the masses, the East and the West of Bengal, have all joined in condemning it. Gentlemen, I believe the adult male population of Dacca and Mymensingh would be about 16 millions. Nearly 700 protest meetings, of which newspapers took any notice, were held at some of which 10 to 40 thousand men attended. In villages and hamlets many humble people must have assembled of which we know nothing; but putting them aside for the moment, if we take the average attendance at each of these meetings at 1000, and this is a very moderate estimate, we find that, in any event, half the population affected had met to protest against the scheme of partition. All classes, who, according to Lord Curzon, constitute Indian public opinion, have joined in the movement of opposition. The Hindu and the Mussulman, the official and the non-official, the agriculturalist and the industrialist and, I may add, the English and the Indians, were all united in their protest. For once, the leading magnates amongst the landed classes who, with a zeal the reward of which is not always commensurate with its fervour shun political platforms as if they were so many scaffolds offering but a thin partition from a yawning pit,—they also, notwithstanding the bait of prospective prestige, threw in their lot with

the people and took their right place in the controversy. The masses, not caring how the great world moves, except it be for the changing seasons which may make or mar them but realizing how this change would affect their interests, joined the movement in their thousands. The busy professional man, not caring for official favour or official frown, the humble daily labourer too small for either, all joined hands in supplication and in protest.

You have not only protested but have suggested alternative schemes. We have conformed to all the limitations which Lord Curzon would impose upon public opinion in order to accept it as a stimulus and a check and we have suggested that an Executive Council would meet the necessities of the case. And, gentlemen, what are these necessities? Have Dacca and Mymensingh suffered because of their great distance from the centre of the Government? Well, if educational activity, material prosperity, public enterprise, social and political influence are any index of the growth and development of a people, you probably stand in the forefront of all the districts of Bengal, not excepting even the metropolitan district of the 24 Parganas. We have heard complaints from the people in our part of Bengal that they feel overwhelmed by the stronger individuality of the sojourners from the eastern districts. The youths of East Bengal carry away many of the prizes, the merchants, bankers and traders much of the wealth the zemindars most of the distinctions and honours which they think ought to go to the people of West and Central Bengal. This does not disclose a state of decay, or moribund existence, and if so much has been achieved by the sacrifice of a small quantum of personal rule, the sacrifice is worth making. Governments are for the people, at least in all civilized societies, and the people do not seem any the worse off because the Government has not been brought more closely home to them.

The present Secretary of the Government of India is nothing if not historical; he draws our attention to a despatch of Sir Stafford Northcote of the year 1868, when that eminent statesman, after the experiences of the Orissa famine and when parts of Orissa were nearly a month's journey from Calcutta, suggested the transfer of the outlying districts of Bengal to other provincial Governments. This was nearly 4 decades ago. Since that time, even the Government of India has moved. Railways had hardly then come into existence but have now brought together the most distant parts of the province, and places which could not be reached in less than 15 days employing the swiftest methods of locomotion then available, can now be reached in as many hours. It takes now less time to reach the furthest corner of Assam than it took to reach a place within the early hundred miles of Calcutta in the early days. Distance is merely a question of time and the Lieutenant-Governors of to-day cannot complain that any part of Bengal is not easily accessible or is difficult to get at.

Talking of personal rule, we do not think that shifting the seat of government would mean any closer touch with the masses. The classes do not count for much with our rulers and as to the masses,—even they cannot be brought within the sphere of the personal rule of the governor; if that expression means a system of administration in which the ruler would be personally cognizant of the wants and necessities, hopes and fears, of the

people. The Bengal ryot is happily free from the harassing assessments imposed by the Government upon the peasantry in the other provinces of India and is not, therefore, brought in contact with the provincial rulers. He knows his Chowkidar and Constable and he knows that if somehow or other he incurs the displeasure of these mighty officials he will be hauled up in a court where, to his surprise, he would find that the policeman whom he had dared to offend was after all the real arbiter of his destiny. He comes to know that the great Magistrate Sahib is the head of that body, a limb of which may hap he had trodden upon and he cries "Haribole" or "Bismulla" and holds his peace. When we bring a gentleman whose career has been spent in the Panjab or Oude to rule in Burma or Bengal, how can we expect him to come into personal contact with the masses, whose language and habits of thought, whose virtues and whose vices, are wholly unknown to him? It is to the officers on the spot that he must look to for help and light and they are there already.

The scheme originally put forward has not even the advantage of looking nice on paper for it cuts off protuberances in the North East in order to add others at the South East, and while it rightly adds the smaller units of the Oriya-speaking people to the greater mass, it makes over part of Chota Nagpur to the Central Provinces, with which it is imperfectly connected; and whereas it adds Ganjam and Sambalpur to Orissa on the plea of a common language it sets aside that plea when it divides Bengal Proper into two. The defects and drawbacks of the original scheme have been so thoroughly exposed that the originators have themselves dropped it and a greater scheme has been shadowed forth. This scheme which, however, has nowhere been authoritatively put forward but only suggested and the details of which are unknown to the public, does not cut off a limb, though a vital and important one, but cuts the whole Bengal people into two, and seeks to place two administrations on similar footing over them. The East will have its Lieutenant-Governor and his Secretaries and Council, its Board of Revenue, its summer and winter headquarters, as the West; the East may have a Chief Court with, I believe, a Civilian Chief Justice who, if he is subservient to the powers that be, might as well be a Lieutenant-Governor. It has also been suggested in some quarters that the Calcutta High Court, with its large number of Judges, may be cut up like the province over which it spreads its protecting arms and transplanted in two halves over the two divisions. Is not the present High Court with its 15 Judges and a Chief Justice nominated from England and an independent Bar a nuisance which ought to be abated, a menace to the growing power of the executive which ought to be checked? And what if all the additional burdens on a people already groaning under one of the heaviest systems of taxation? There will be a new planetary system with its own sun and shining orbs complete to illuminate the official sky with a new group of satellites alternating between light and shade and moving round in silent adoration. And, gentlemen, are the people of the country to have no voice in such revolutionary territorial and administrative changes? We have now developed a common literature which has smoothed down dialectic differences, we are guided by common interests which are serving to demolish the barriers of provincial jealousy, we follow common ideals under common leaders, and we belong to a common race and are crystallizing into a united nation round a common central Government. Different governments will set up different ideals, different standards, different laws, different services, different aims and will drive a line of cleavage through a homogeneous mass which will widen with time. We are trying to swim past the muddy and troubled shores of castes and creeds, past the currents of race into the purer stream of a national life, and is bold swimmer to be thrown back because he seems likely to succeed?

Gentlemen, we cannot afford to part with East Bengal; it has always played a prominent part in the common history of the Bengalee people. Bhagadatta, who fought at Kurukshetra, was a ruler of East Bengal. Your country of Banga over-shadowed Rarh, Barendra and Samatata and gave its name to the whole Bengali race and the country inhabited by it. Lord Curzon's mentor ought to have known, when he gave lessons to his august pupil on Indian ethnology, that the "Bengal" may have his provinciality, but is nevertheless a masterful individual and his name and personality dominate the whole Bengali nation.

Gentlemen, we do not know yet how we stand with regard to this question. The Government unfortunately has not taken us into its confidence. That the question is still fermenting in the minds of our rulers is apparent from the reference made by the Viceroy in the Imperial Council recently to the North-Western Frontier Province which has not long ago been separated from the Punjab administration. The splitting up of the province was resented in some quarters, said Lord Curzon, but now that it is an accomplished fact, the Viceroy hears no more complaints. I have not much personal knowledge of the frontier tribes. In point of education, intelligence and culture, I do not know how they stand with regard to the people of East Bengal. We do not profess to be familiar with the system of Government under which they lived and to which they were accustomed before their part of the country was constituted into a separate administration. Punjab itself was under a Chief Commissioner not very long ago, and we have reasons to believe that the frontier tribes had not developed a literature and language and had not adopted themselves to the settled mode of Government to the same extent as the rest of the Punjab. But whatever may be the value of the analogy, it points out the danger which still looms ahead of us.

You men of East Bengal have shown in the past great powers of organization and action. Do not for a moment now relax your efforts, for the forces that threatened to divide us are still at work, secretly but no less actively. Like other destructive forces they may be gathering strength in some mysterious forge hidden under official tomes and may some day burst forth to our consternation and work havoc and ruin among us.

Abala Surhid.

or the FRIEND OF THE FEMALE.

It is a well-tried specific for Dysmenorrhoea, Menorrhagia, and all other Painful Complaints and Irregularities of the Female, both Young and of Middle Age.

Price Rs. 3 per phial.

MANAGER, BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA, SHAMBAZAR, CALCUTTA.

PRIMARY AND FREE EDUCATION FOR THE MASSES.

Gentlemen, provincial Conferences have this advantage over the meetings of the Congress that they can deal in greater detail with local questions. In the foreground, I have naturally and necessarily placed the question which affects our life and interest as a nation but other questions of great importance also await our attention the principal amongst them being the education of the masses. An uneducated mass is a source of danger and weakness to the State. Education is the paramount duty of the State specially the education of the poor. The Government of Bengal cannot be said to have done its duty in this direction so long. It has let matters drift to the great detriment of the people. A few figures will explain what I mean. Not to speak of other countries, but taking the other provinces of the Empire, Bombay spends on primary education Rs. 107 per 1000 of population, Berar Rs. 75, Assam Rs. 33 and we spend only Rs. 11 per 1000; and of this Rs. 11, the provincial revenues contribute 7.8 per cent, local funds 67.3 per cent, the rest being met by fees and other sources of revenue. I shall not trouble you with details but I may say, by way of illustration, taking the latest figures available viz. those for the year 1903-04, that of the total of Rs. 7,18,618, spent on upper primary education, only Rs. 44,622 was contributed by provincial and Rs. 2,24,211 from local funds, and the rest of the expenditure with a small contribution from municipal funds was met from fees. Of the total sum of 30 lakhs (speaking in round numbers) spent on lower primary education for boys and girls, the provincial revenues contributed Rs. 143,000, the local boards 74,800 or the Municipalities 53,000 and Rs. 16,36,000 were derived from fees, that is to say more than half the cost of elementary education in Bengal is borne by the agriculturalists and artisans for whose children this education is primarily intended. I might say nearly 2/3 for these people contribute equally with the landed classes toward the district funds from which such a heavy contribution is levied.

In most civilized countries, elementary education is compulsory and free: why should it be so heavily handicapped in one of the poorest countries in the world and with a backward and illiterate population? Our government can certainly achieve what the native states of Baroda and Mysore are trying to. Even under the present state of things, nearly every boy in 3 from amongst the classes who attend primary schools is sent to school. If the burdens were lightened, there is no doubt that a great impetus could be given to the spread of education amongst the masses. As in other countries so in ours, elementary education ought to be free and it is not difficult to make it compulsory. The masses have remained submerged for centuries. There has been no buoyant force to lift them up. To the eternal credit of England be it said that she has not followed in India the traditions of the past. Knowledge is no longer the monopoly of the few but the heritage of all,—not an exclusive goddess who will receive worship from privileged hands but a beneficent deity who will accept any votary who has got the devotion and the spirit. And therein, to my mind, lies the meaning of the inscrutable dispensation of Providence by which the East has been brought under the West. But though our Government has removed the barriers and given the impetus, it has not followed up its policy with whole-heartedness. We are glad that the Government is now awakening to its responsibilities and that grants on primary education are being enhanced. We are thankful to the Imperial Government for the grant of 10 lakhs of Rupees made for primary education in Bengal. We welcome the efforts of Government to devise some means for the wider diffusion of knowledge amongst the masses, and to render elementary education more attractive to those for whom it is intended. We trust, however, in this connection, that the Government is by this time convinced that it is neither necessary nor desirable to write text books in English and then translate them into the dialects of Bengal that they may be read and understood by the Bengali agriculturalist and the Bengali artisan.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

But if the Government has a duty with regard to primary education, it has also a duty in regard to higher education. The total direct expenditure on higher education was Rs. 5,87,000 in 1903-1904. The indirect expenditure on scholarship amounted to 1,35,000, and taking buildings, direction, inspection it would amount to about Rs. 4,50,000. On a liberal computation we may take the total expenditure, direct and indirect, at Rs. 12,00,000. This is a very small expenditure on higher education for a population of 74 millions

CHYAVANA PRAS

Far Surpasses

COD LIVER OIL.

Its action is unrivalled

In nourishing and strengthening the system and eradicating diseases of LUNGS, HEART, THROAT and other ORGANS.

It is a sovereign remedy for Cough, Bronchitis, Asthma, Consumption, Phthisis, Susceptibility of Cold and other complaints of Lungs and Throat.

It radically cures Nervous Debility, Prostration, Brains and similar complaints due to any cause or causes.

It purifies the blood, gives tone to the WEAK CONSTITUTION, corrects the LIVER, creates GOOD APPETITE, and makes a New AND HAPPY MAN.

J. T. Peters Esqr., S. T. Corps, Umballa.

Writes:—"Kindly send me by return post one phial, containing medicine for a month, of CHYAVANA PRAS, as I feel much better by taking one bottle."

Babu Gourie Sunker Roy of the Outback Printing Co. Ltd., Outback, writes:—"I am very glad to say that the bottle of CHYAVANA PRAS, which I got from you a month ago, has done me much good. It has checked the COLD and TENDENCY TO FEVER which troubled me, and the SHAKING OF HAND owing to NERVOUS DEBILITY is somewhat less. Please send me another bottle to last for a month."

WINTER IS THE BEST SEASON FOR USING IT.

Medicine for one month's use — Rs. 3.

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Postage, packing and V. P. charges extra.

MANAGER, BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA,

129-1-2, Cornwallis St. Shambazar, Calcutta.

and very small expenditure indeed for a State with an available income of nearly 7 crores of Rupees.

It is an expenditure or rather parsimony wholly unjustifiable any way you look at it. What is the basis of the purity of the services, judicial and executive, on which the Government takes such a just pride but higher education? What gives the backbone to the professional classes, who, because they are such fearless critics of Government, may not be over much liked, and are often maligned, but who act sometimes as a stimulus to Government and discharge the function of His Majesty's Opposition in England, without the opportunities which the Opposition enjoy. But for them, Jove would not be found nodding and the speeches of our rulers would fall flat like stale soda water and not effervesce like sparkling champagne which charms and also inebriates. The duty of Government is clear: if it wants to elevate and purify its services, the only panacea is education, the only stimulus is a just and equitable treatment.

Public attention may be diverted by elaborate commissions, public voice may be choked by bulky resolutions, royal pledges of grace and mercy and justice may be distorted by brilliant sophistry which serve to obscure what it professes to explain, but the cardinal question remains: & the people are to be elevated they must be educated.

Gentlemen, the Universities have been re-constituted and it is claimed for them that they will give an impetus to higher education which was lacking under the old system. Let us hope it will. Let us hope the new system will work with sympathy and that it will conduce to the elevation of our people; but we fear. On a recent occasion while validating the illegality of the Universities, His Excellency, referring to the University of Calcutta, was pleased to observe that the prophecies of those who opposed the Universities Bill and had predicted that the Senate would be Europeanized had not been fulfilled and that there was an actual excess of 3 Indian members over the European. Gentlemen, there is a saying amongst us that what is pastime to the gods is sin to the mortals: in our mythology superior persons were classed as gods. It may be permissible to His Excellency to start and demolish an argument which was never advanced. To us, men of the East, it is not so permissible. Our contention was not that the Senate would have a majority of Englishmen, but that it would have always an overwhelming official majority, classing therein the English members, official, semi-official and non-official and the official Indian members.

In the list of nominated members, apart from the 6 "ex-officio" fellows, out of 71 members, 53 are Englishmen and Indian officials and quasi-officials. How a Senate so constituted pays regard to Indian interests was shown by the recent elections of members, by the faculties, who out of a total number of 8, elected 7 officials, and who constituted a syndicate in which there would have been no Indian but for the faculty of law. I will go into further details. The Senate, through its faculties, had to elect 10 members, of whom 8 was given to the faculties of arts, science, medicine and engineering. These faculties elected 7 officials, pure and simple. The faculty of law alone elected 2 non-officials. Then followed an incident which probably the Government itself had not anticipated. The faculties of this Senate in which His Excellency was pleased to observe that there was a majority of 3 Indians proceeded to appoint a Syndicate. Would you believe that, excepting from the faculty of law, no Indian was elected? We have got a syndicate of 10 members, of whom 3 are Europeans and 2 Indians, both elected by the faculty of law; but for the faculty of law, the whole Syndicate would have consisted of Europeans only and the direction of the Education of Bengal, with a native population of 73 millions and a half, would have remained in the hands of a body composed wholly of Europeans. Such a thing would be impossible and intolerable in any other country but India.

Gentlemen, I need not disclose to what lengths the syndicate so constituted had gone in appointing the various committees of the Senate, how carefully all independent men were excluded: but in this connection I may be permitted to thank, on behalf of the entire educated community of Bengal, the Rector of our University, Sir Andrew Fraser, who with a truly statesman-like instinct used his personal influence to infuse some element of independent Indian opinion into the composition of these committees: but for him, the non-official Indian element would have been nowhere. Gentlemen, this is not the only service Sir Andrew Fraser has rendered us in matters educational, for his heart is in the work of education. Let us hope that in the remaining years of His Honor's administration the reproach which has so justly attached to Government for its neglect of this most important branch of administration will be removed. But while not minimizing the responsibility of the Government, may I be permitted to observe that, in matters of education, specially in the higher branches, where the people have not done our duty: where are the foundations, where the scholarships, where the prizes, where the facilities which public spirit in other countries has given to education? Until that spirit is created amongst us, until our rich men come to realize that the best way to perpetuate their names is to connect them with some great works of public utility, until our educated community feel that they, who owe so much to the education they have received, have a debt to repay to the country which has given them the education, real progress cannot be hoped for, at all.

(See page 7.)

Mrityunjaya Rasa.

THE UNRIVALLED BLOOD PURIFIER & TONIC.

It is a sovereign remedy for the radical cure of all kinds of syphilis, mercurial and other poisonous sores which have their origin in the impurities of blood. As a tonic and alternative it is also highly beneficial to ladies in their weak state after confinement. From the very commencement of its use, the poison will be gradually eliminated from the system, and cheerfulness and vigorous energy will take the place of despondency and lassitude. It may be freely taken at all seasons by young and old of both sexes alike without any apprehensions of bad effect.

Price per phial Rs. 2.

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All sorts of Sastric Medicines, GHRIITAS, OILS etc., are always in stock.

People, stricken down by diseases, will be good enough to write to us, with full description of their ailments, and prescriptions from competent Kabirajes of this firm will be sent to them free.

Letters should enclose a half-anna postage stamp Apply for our Catalogue.

The Editor of the Amrita Bazar Patrika writes:—

"I can confidently recommend the BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA to the public as the medicines are prepared by expert with great care."

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

"I am glad to be able to say that the medicines prepared by Kabiraj KESHAB LAL ROY, Superintendent Physician of the BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA, are genuine."

Babu Amar Nath Basu, Zamindar, Bagbazar, writes:—

"I can very strongly certify as to the genuineness of the medicines prepared at the BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA, and to the extraordinary care with which KABIRAJ KESHAB LAL ROY execute his treatment upon me."

Babu Madhu Sudhan De, Retired Jailer, writes:—

"I placed some of the members of my family under the treatment of KABIRAJ KESHAB LAL ROY."

"In some of the cases he has shown exceptional skill and discretion in curing them. There is no doubt that the medicines prepared at the BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA are genuine, otherwise they could not act so miraculously."

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

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

MANAGER, BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA, CALCUTTA.

30 YEARS' TRIAL HAS CONVINCED MANY EMINENT PHYSICIANS & THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE THAT SUDHA CHURNA

IS THE BEST REMEDY FOR Acidity, Indigestion, Dyspepsia and Colic.

— EITHER ACUTE OR CHRONIC —

ATTEND WITH Flatulence, Headache, Loss of Sleep, Biliousness, Rumbling in the Abdomen, Pinching or Gripping Pain in the Bowels, Acid Eructations, Burning Sensations in the Heart or Stomach, Nausea or Vomiting after Meals, Costiveness, Diarrhoea, Distaste for Food, Loss of Appetite, Giddiness, Lassitude, etc.

One dose will give immediate relief, and, if continued for some time, will radically cure the disease.

Rao Bahadur B. G. Sathe, Poona writes:—"My wife suffered from Dyspepsia for a long time, but your SUDHA CHURNA has done her good."

K. G. Kelkar Esqr., B. A., Principal, Poona Training College, writes:—"I was suffering from Acidity and Colic. Rao Bahadur B. G. Sathe recommended me to your SUDHA CHURNA and got a bottle of it for me from you. I am using it and am glad to say I have got rid of my complaints."

Raghunath Singh Esqr., Post Master, Hoshangabad, writes:—"Kindly send two bottles of SUDHA CHURNA, as I have derived much benefit by its use on Constipation, as also my friend to whom I gave two Churns."

Babu Umash Chandra Kotal, Sub-Registrar, Maisadad, writes:—"I am glad to inform you that SUDHA CHURNA has given much relief to the patient who was suffering from Acidity for the last few months."

Babu Srikrishna Mahanti, Outback writes:—"SUDHA CHURNA is no doubt very efficacious in its effects and clears bowels regularly. Since I have been taking it, I have had no attack of Indigestion and it has done me immense good."

Babu Lakshmi Narayan Ray, Mursidabad, writes:—"I have been giving the medicine to my wife three daily, for the last 3 days, and it has done her good."

Babu Krishna Prosad Mahtre, Zemindar and Hon. Magistrate, Malanah, Sonapoor, writes:—"I am glad to say that I have derived much benefit within a couple of days of its (SUDHA CHURNA's) use and have every reason to believe that by continuing the medicine for some time I shall be completely cured of the Indigestion from which I have been suffering. I used many other medicines, both Allopathic and Kabiraj, but none of them has given any benefit."

Babu Karunanidhan Mukherjee, Hon. Magistrate, Burdwan, writes:—"The phial of SUDHA CHURNA which you sent about a week ago, has given much relief to my wife who has been suffering from dyspepsia since last 3 years. Please send 3 large phials without least delay."

Dr. G. B. Chimaswamy, 1st grade, Hospital Assistant, Koppa, Kadur Dist, says:—"Kindly send an early date one large phial of SUDHA CHURNA. The one you sent has done much good to the patient."

Dr. Srikrishna Chinnaji G., Medical Officer, Shriwardhan, Janjira State, writes:—"Your SUDHA CHURNA, I am glad to say, has proved wonderfully efficacious in a very troublesome case of Flatulent Colic. Kindly send one large phial at your earliest convenience."

PRICE.—A large phial Rs. 1-5,

And 14. Postage and packing

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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, APRIL 27, 1905.

CONFERENCE PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH
AND COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION.

The address of the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu as President of the Mymensingh Conference is no doubt an admirable one, but it is not as quite up to the mark as the speech delivered by him in the local Legislative Council. That was a masterpiece, and a better one has perhaps not been heard in the Council Chamber. Yet, in this presidential address, we see the hand of an able man in several places. The great defect of the speech is that it barely touches such subjects in which the vast millions in the mufassil are directly and immediately interested and deals mainly with most of the questions already discussed threadbare in the Congress and the Legislative Councils. As for instance, the Choukidari Tax, the water difficulty, the misappropriation of the Road Cess Fund, the prevalence of police rule, the emasculation of the people, the disappearance of the lower and higher classes are matters of far greater importance to the masses than such questions as the Universities, the employment of the educated men in public services etc.

These Conferences will not attract the general body of people in the interior, and thus become really useful organisations, so long the promoters do not confine their attention to only provincial questions. Then, it was expected, that Babu Bhupendra Nath was just the person to furnish the much needed practical scheme for the purpose of imparting political and other kinds of education to the masses, so that they might in due course be able to act intelligently with the educated classes. But public expectation in this respect has been disappointed. The fact is, Babu Bhupendra Nath was so overwhelmed with his own business and the time at his disposal was so short, that he could not prepare the address exactly after his heart.

We do not quite understand what Babu Bhupendra Nath means when he says, "But, gentlemen, our Lieutenant-Governor, after all, is helpless," in the matter of the abolition of the competitive system? If that be the intention of the speaker, then he tries to prove indirectly that His Honour is prepared to sacrifice his principle for the sake of his office. Anyhow by seeking to prove the innocence of His Honour, he would lead some people to believe that his intention was to defend the Lieutenant-Governor. Babu Bhupendra Nath should not have made such an attempt, considering that, both in his so-called confidential letter and Resolution on the subject, Sir Andrew declared in unequivocal language that he was an ardent opponent of the competitive system. He, however, gave a good hit to Sir Andrew by reminding him that, as he himself was a product of competition, he was the last person to oppose a system to which he owes so much.

In reference to this matter Babu Bhupendra Nath makes the following suggestion:—"There have been on an average 18 appointments a year: half of these may be easily thrown open to competition, pure and simple taking care that properly qualified men are allowed to compete. 6 instead of 9 may be reserved for nomination out of candidates who must have appeared in the examination and have attained to a definite standard and the remaining three recruited from the ranks of the inferior grades of the subordinate executive service."

It seems that Babu Bhupendra Nath forgot that the scheme of Sir Stuart Bayley, which has been abolished by Sir Andrew Fraser, contains even better provisions than those suggested by him. He would have acted better if, instead of submitting his own views, he had placed those of Sir Stuart before his audience. Sir Stuart laid it down that one-half of the annual appointments were to be thrown open to competition; one-fourth to be filled by candidates who would have to pass the competitive examination but must obtain one-third marks; and the remaining one-fourth to be disposed of on the principle of nomination.

But, to quote from Sir Stuart's Resolution, "while reserving this discretion, he desires to exercise it on as small a scale as is possible, and to prepare the way for a further adoption of competition by allotting one-half of the available appointments in either (higher and lower) branches of the service, in accordance with the results of the examination." The scheme of Sir Stuart Bayley shortly stands thus: Assuming that eighteen vacancies in the grade of Deputy Magistrates are to be filled every year, fourteen will be given on the results of the examination, namely, ten to the first ten candidates on the list in order of merit, four to candidates having adequate claims to appointment by nomination, provided these latter obtained not less than one-third of the mark. And the four remaining vacancies are only to be filled up by pure nomination. That is to say, of the eighteen appointments ten are to be given to passed candidates according to order of merit; four to those who obtain one-third marks; and only four to the nominees of the Government. In short, Sir Stuart Bayley was deliberately of opinion that, "in any scheme that is to be final, the principle of competition must occupy a prominent, perhaps the most prominent place."

What, we think, Babu Bhupendra Nath should have done was to impress upon his hearers that a more experienced Lieutenant-Governor than Sir Andrew had introduced a system which the latter has knocked on the head, without rhyme or reason. As a matter of fact no Lieutenant-Governor gave such anxious thought to the subject of the recruitment of the Subordinate Executive Service as Sir Stuart did in 1889. And his scheme, so liberal and statesmanlike, after a successful trial of nearly 15 years, was violently withdrawn by one of his successors who was a perfect stranger to Bengal! Babu Bhupendra Nath should have, with his usual eloquence, appealed to his countrymen to agitate and agitate till the Bayley system was restored to them.

INDIA AND THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

We forgot to mention that the remarkable article on "The Self-Government of the Philippines," reproduced in these columns on Saturday last, was quoted from an Anglo-Indian paper, the "Indian Daily News." The article is remarkable because it contains sentiments which are not usually entertained by Anglo-Indian publicists. Thus, for instance, the writer says, "We shall be probably astonished to find that most of our ideas about the Government of India are proceeding on the wrong basis altogether." Now, though this fact is patent, it is never admitted. What is the not result of nearly 200 years of British rule in India? It is poverty, plague, cholera, malaria, famine, the disappearance of the higher classes, and the gradual emasculation of the people. This is because the country is ruled, not by English people who nourish enlightened principles, but a class of officials, who naturally place their own interests above those of the Indians.

The situation is this. The Police rule is demoralizing the people; but why should the executive officers, who gain by this arrangement, agree to do away with it? The doom that threatens this unfortunate country, can yet be averted by two ways amongst others: One is to put the Empire under the control of men like the writer in the "Indian Daily News," whose article is referred to in the above. And the other is for the people to come forward and demand self-government under British guidance, with one united voice. That demand has never been made in a way so as to command respect. If a few millions of Indians could earnestly pray for it, it would not be possible for English people, constituted as they are, to ignore such a prayer. That is the work before the Indians,—that is the work which Conferences and Congresses must accomplish.

We also thank the "Indian Daily News" for bringing the fact prominently to the notice of the public that, in the early Victorian regime, the English nation promised not only to confer the boon of self-government upon the Indians, but also give them the status that the people of Canada and Australia now enjoy. Need we point out that the present generation of English rulers have clean forgotten the promises that their predecessors made so solemnly to the inhabitants of India and that they treat the latter not as fellow-subjects but as conquered people? It was expected that, after having enjoyed the benefits of British rule for a reasonable time, the people of India would be so trained in the art of self-government as to be able to take a large share in the administration of their own country; but, though England has been dry-nursing her great dependency more than one hundred and fifty years, the rulers have ever been dimming the same cry into the ears of the educated classes that they are not yet fit for this or that boon. The rulers, however, do not see that they only discredit their own administration by declaring that they have not been able to teach a nation like the Indians, who are not less intelligent or civilized than themselves, how to govern themselves even in petty Municipal affairs, though they have kept them under their control for more than a century and a half.

Mr. Elihu Root, late Secretary of War, United States Government, thus recently wrote about the future of the people of the Philippine Islands:—

"None can foretell the future, but there seems no reasonable cause to doubt that under the policy already effectively inaugurated, the institutions already implanted and the processes begun in the Philippine Islands, if these be not repressed and interrupted, the Philippine people will follow in the footsteps of the people of Cuba; that more slowly indeed because they are not as advanced; yet as surely, they will grow in capacity for self-government, and receiving power as they grow in capacity, will come to bear substantially such relations to the people of the United States as do now the people of Cuba, differing in details as conditions and needs differ, but the same in principle and the same in beneficial results."

There are Filipinos who demand immediate independence. There are others again who want to learn self-government by practice under American supervision, and then incorporate themselves with the American Republic. The majority, however, think that the policy set forth in Mr. Root's words are, in the beginning, best for them. As a matter of fact, the Filipinos are far less advanced than the Indians in every respect, and they cannot altogether do away with American supremacy. The United States Government have however promised to treat them like the people of Cuba,—whose relations with that Government are the same as those of Canada and Australia are with that of the British—as soon as they give evidence of their capacity to administer their own affairs.

Mr. W. A. Taft, who was lately the Civil Governor of the Philippine Islands, and is now Secretary to the United States Government, goes further than Mr. Root. He says:—

"Should the Philippine people, when fit for self-government, demand independence, I am strongly in favour of giving it to them and I have no doubt that the American people of the next generation will be of the same opinion. I think it much more likely, however, that after the Filipino people shall have been associated with the American people for a generation or more, and shall have tasted the prosperity they will find behind the national tariff wall, they will prefer a relation to America like that of Canada and Australia to England to one of absolute independence."

While making over his office as Civil Governor of the Islands to his Vice, Mr. Luke C. Wright, Mr. Taft left affairs in the hands of a Cabinet and a Supreme Court. The latter is composed of these men:—

Chief Justice—C. Arellano
Associate Justice—Florentino Torres
Do. Do. Joseph Cooper
Do. Do. Charles Willard
Do. Do. Victorino Mapa
Do. Do. John McJannough
Do. Do. E. Johnson

Of these seven, four are Americans and three Filipinos, and the Chief Justice himself is a Filipino! The Chief Justice is 57 years old and a native of the Province of Batana. The examination system providing a method of entrance into the civil service has greatly stimulated the Filipino to avail himself of the educational advantages offered in the public schools. The policy of the Government is to appoint Filipinos to all positions which they are capable of filling.

It must be borne in mind that the Americans have only just begun the work of the Government, and they have to create materials in the country. And yet what do

we find? Of the seven Judges in the Supreme Court three are Filipinos, one of them being the Chief Justice! The English are here for nearly two hundred years. The people are as educated and civilized as the average Englishman is. Yet, in the Supreme Court of Calcutta, out of fourteen Judges only three are Indians, and only one of them was allowed to officiate as Chief Justice for a few months only!

It is also a remarkable fact that more Filipinos than Americans have been registered as eligible for appointments in the Philippines. We all know what is the case here. The educated classes have long been ostracised completely from the higher grades in every department in the State; they are now being expelled even from the petty appointments to make room for "Poor Whites" and "Eurasians." They have been driven even from estates owned by private Indian landlords! The policy of the American Government, as we said, is to appoint as many Filipinos as possible; the policy of the British Government in India is to oust as many Indians as they can.

In short, no country in the world presents the unique spectacle that India does under British rule, namely, the people, though highly qualified, have not the privilege of holding lucrative and responsible appointments in their own country—no, not even many unimportant posts in subordinate services. Lord Curzon talked of the "unexampled liberality" of the British Government in the matter of employing educated Indians in the public services of their mother land. Let us have at least what the Americans have given to the Filipinos, though the latter are only few years under their rule and far from loyal, and then talk of the so-called "unexampled liberality" and so forth.

The idea of subordinating District Judges to Divisional Commissioners must be given up or the administration of Bengal is bound to fall into pieces. The Commissioners have about as much knowledge of law as a layman; so have the so-called heads of departments. If the administration of the country is to be carried on by Conference composed of these heads, the reign of law must disappear—a catastrophe which everybody interested in the well-being of the Empire must regard with the gravest concern. The idea of consulting responsible officers for the purposes of efficient administration is not bad; but the officers must not be merely executive officers. There should be selected Judges to represent the judicial, and some members of Council, at least one of whom should be non-official, to represent the legislative, question; and to correct purely official views, there should be at least one representative leader of the non-official community, unconnected with any office, whether executive, judicial or legislative, to represent the views of the general public. Conducted on these lines, the Conferences may be of great value to the administration. But the present is purely the Russian method, fraught with terrible possibilities of mischief, likely to end with hypertrophy of the executive and atrophy of the judicial;—it means cessation of the reign of law, the break-up of all constitution. Let a list of administrative problems to be dealt with at the Conferences be drawn, say 2 months before the Bengal Government leaves for Darjeeling; let them be printed and circulated beforehand to the would-be Councilors as indicated above; and let the Conference be held the first thing after Government has fairly settled down at Darjeeling. Confidential State matters which can not be disclosed without harming the Empire may be excluded from the purview of the Conference. Let the press agitate on these lines and secure a recognised consultative body for the improvement of the administration, and for the establishment of confidence and mutual sympathy between the rulers and the ruled. For the present, there should be a persistent agitation for the withdrawal of the circular for the Deputyizing of Judges. For, be it remembered, if the provisions of the circular are carried out, the District Judges will be in the same relation with the Divisional Commissioners as the Deputy Magistrates are with the District Magistrates.

A NUMBER of Hindus living in Khagra (Berhampore) intended to sing "Harinam" (name of God) with soft music in the streets of Gorabazar and Vaklipara up to 11 o'clock every night throughout the month of Baisak, as Hindus do in many places. They accordingly submitted a petition to Mr. Hallifax, the District Magistrate, to grant them a pass to that effect. They went into some detail to explain to the European Magistrate the character of the assembly that is to collect and the harmless nature of their proceedings as the following extract from the petition will show:—

"We have accordingly formed a peaceful assembly of respectable men with general public among ourselves who have been singing 'Harinam' in the streets of Gorabazar and Vaklipara in this season for the last few years. We have no arms or weapons of any kind nor interfere in any way with the public business or traffic."

Here is the arbitrary order of the Magistrate:—

"I decline to allow noises after 10 p. m. as a rule. This petition asks permission to make noises for a month on end, every night up to 11 p. m. which permission can not be given."

So the Hindus of Berhampore must not utter the name of God loudly because that is the will of the District Magistrate! Where are we drifting to? Are we not living under British rule, one of the chief merits of which is absolute religious toleration? Then mark the contempt which Mr. Hallifax has for Hindoism. The Hindu wanted permission to sing "Harinam," which Mr. Hallifax construes to mean "to make noises!" Is it not so? Mr. Hallifax's proclivities for Christian Missionaries are now well-known. He is of course at perfect liberty to feel a contempt for any religion other than his own;—but then, he must keep it concealed in his breast. And, surely he has no right to take advantage of his official position to hurt the religious susceptibilities of Hindus, as he has done. Nor is it the first time that the Hindus prayed for a pass to sing "Harinam" in public streets. Indeed, we are told the Hindus indulged in this practice without any interruption from any of the predecessors of Mr. Hallifax. Mr. Hallifax talks of "great noises." But the real fact is that his house is at a distance of half a mile from Gorabazar. One can thus imagine the wantonness of this purposeless outrage offered to the Hindus. Will the

Lieutenant-Governor be pleased to enquire into the matter?

Now that even the Punjab has held its protest meeting against the policy of Lord Curzon, no one will have the hardihood to say that all these demonstrations were the work of the so-called "professional agitators." Granting, however, that the latter brought them out, does it not prove that they are the real leaders in the country? One of the important aspects of the movement was that those who presided over these protest meetings were all of them men of mature years in leading positions, who have rarely, if ever, taken prominent part in political agitation. Another equally important feature was that they were attended by the representatives of all classes of people and all shades of opinion without any dissentient voice coming from any quarter. Of the three Anglo-Indian papers in Calcutta, each of them, directly or indirectly, recognised the necessity of the protest. As regards other Anglo-Indian papers they kept quiet, which means that, though willing to condemn these proceedings they found nothing to object to them. The Indians have thus established the point which led them to move in the matter. The fact is remarkable indeed, that not only was an organised movement set on foot all over the country for passing votes of censure upon the head of the Government—an event unique and unprecedented in the annals of British rule in India—but it had the open or tacit support of friends and foes alike. It was, however, in Bengal alone that some high officials sought to throw obstacles in the way of the Calcutta demonstration. It was an open secret here who these officials were; but no Bengal paper chose to mention them in its columns. The "Morning Leader" however, has something to say on the subject. Our sympathetic London contemporary says:—

"Accordingly, after consultation with the recognised leaders in Madras and Bombay, the movement was inaugurated by a great meeting held—as the cable has already announced—in the Calcutta Town Hall, on Friday, March 10. As soon as the announcement was made the utmost pressure was brought to bear upon the organisers of the meeting, with a view to persuade them to abandon the scheme. A section of the Anglo-Indian Press attempted to stifle it by ridicule. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal used his personal influence. The official chairman of the Calcutta Corporation was instructed to do likewise, and, incredibly though it may seem, was permitted to offer a bribe in the shape of a modification of the existing Municipal Act."

Now we do not know if the allegations are true or not. If the Lieutenant-Governor and the official Chairman have been misrepresented, they will, we hope, send a contradiction; for, it is not at all desirable that high officials should meddle with popular movements in this way. Reports of official interference in another shape were also brought to our notice at the time. One was that the police officers, who were deputed to watch over the proceedings of the meeting, submitted a report to the effect that it was attended mostly by school-boys, clerks and members of the bar. Copies of this report were sent to some of the daily papers apparently with a view to prejudice them against the movement. Be it said to the credit of the Anglo-Indian papers, none of them was influenced by such police reports. Again, some police detectives entered into some Government offices and offered to point out the clerks who attended the meeting if they could be made to stand in a row. Some heads of departments actually acceded to this preposterous request of the police, and possibly the names of some poor clerks were in this way put in the black book and their future prospects marred, because, they simply entered the Town Hall, not to take any part in the proceedings of the meeting, but simply to see what was going on. So the beautiful arrangement that prevails in this country is that, if an official attends a political meeting he is to be condemned, but he does a commendable act if he tries to stifle a movement the object of which is to criticise the measures of public officers!

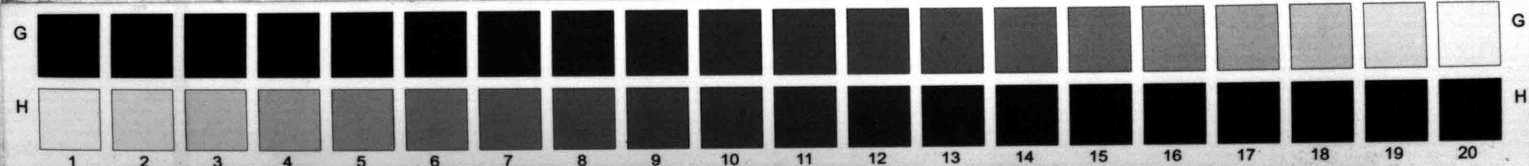
In the last Budget Debate in the Madras Legislative Council His Excellency the Governor struck a significant note when he said from his Presidential Chair, "We are asking the Government of India to sanction an investigation into the immensely important and interesting question of the conservation and development of the inland and marine fisheries of this Presidency. There are perhaps few people who realize what an immense potential source of wealth is left practically untouched in India in our seas and rivers, but we are fortunate in having in our midst one whose expert knowledge of this important question is of a very rare order. I refer to Sir Frederick Nicholson who is willing without fee or reward, and I hope would be allowed to resume his valuable services to this Presidency by undertaking the investigation which we had in mind." Lord Amphilphill deserves the thanks of the country for having made up his mind to have a sifting investigation made into the question of fisheries in India under his personal supervision and we have not the slightest doubt that his efforts for the development of this industry will be enthusiastically supported by our countrymen to promote whose commercial and industrial interest the Governor of Madras is so sincerely anxious. Lord Amphilphill has genuine sympathy for the industrial development of the country, a part of which has been placed under his beneficent charge *de grãtia*. There are of course, people who would shrug their shoulders as to the future of the fishing industry in India, but when we are reminded of the fact that the pearl fisheries off the coast of Ceylon and of Tinnevely are thriving industries to-day, we have cause to be encouraged by the idea that fisheries off the coast of Madras have possibilities beyond what we are able to measure at present. The fisheries at the mouth of the Hooghly have an assured future and already fishing steamers have been proposed for them. Our generation may live to see the introduction of steam trawlers in the Indian seas and Grimsby and Billingsgate are only a question of firm determination on the part of those of our countrymen who have the means to invest. Much of our present industrial awakening we owe to the resources of the late Mr. Tata, whose potential energies should not be lost on our countrymen but should find ready and willing adherents. Fish-curing and tinned fish are industries which may be developed in India with profit to ourselves. In America there are people called "fish kings" who have hoarded millions by following this industry.

ELSEWHERE is published a letter from the Indian Committee of the Humanitarian League in England—an institution which is supported by some of the truest and most tried friends of India. The very constitution of the Committee is a guarantee of its brilliant future. The Committee has figured one of the plague-spots in British rule in India by taking up such a subject as criminal law and prison system in our country. If criminal laws here are draconian in their nature, their administration sometimes is ferocious, more suited to savages than to the people of a civilized country. The result is the emasculation of the people. Indeed, the inhumanity and injustice often inflicted upon criminals in this country—we mean "native" criminals—are unspeakable. This in the face of the fact, which has been proved and verified over and over again, that India is the least criminal of civilized countries of the world. This fact gains much greater weight and importance when we take into account the present state of education in India—where not more than 4 or 5 per cent of the population are literate whereas in European countries such as England, France and Germany it is only 4 or 5 per cent of the people who can neither read nor write, and this minority is fast disappearing. That our Prison system leaves much to be desired no one can deny. The late Indian Relief Society, no doubt, did much in this direction with the help of the Howard Association; but abuses such as exist in the Prisons in India would not be tolerated for a day in England. Corporal punishment is revolting to all ethics of civilized humanity—may human nature itself, and corporal punishment is what our Penal Code sanctions in a brazen-faced manner. Inhuman vivisection passes for scientific research and the barbarous cruelty of Blood sports pass for amusement and innocent pleasure. We would draw the attention of the reader to the letter of the League who, we are sure, will offer as cordial sympathy to the organization as we ourselves do.

If we are to credit the "Advocate of Assam" of Gauhati, Mr. Rogers of the Assam service has been distinguishing himself lately. He thinks it is a "Jangli" country where he has cast in his lot and where the people are "Jangli" beyond measure. Mr. Rogers fell foul with the lawyers practising in his court resulting in a strike on their part not to appear before him again, till he has apologised for or withdrawn his remarks. This happened sometime ago and the strike still continues. Mr. Rogers would not climb down. The Deputy Commissioner was moved for the transfer of certain cases from Mr. Rogers' file to some other when the fact of the existing strike came out. The Deputy Commissioner generally intervened but failed to put matters straight for both parties were unwilling to the great inconvenience of litigants who are harassed and perplexed beyond conception. The Chief Commissioner of Assam might intervene and put a stop to these unseemly scenes.

Another revolutionary measure is going to be thrust upon the people by the Government of Bengal in the usual way, that is to say, without consulting those who are vitally interested in it. The rate-payers of Calcutta are groaning under the evils of the present constitution of the Municipality, and what they want is to return to the old order of things, that is to say, to demolish what is known as the Mackenzie Act and restore the Corporation to its previous position so that representatives Commissioners may manage its affairs. What Sir Andrew Fraser is, however, going to do is to introduce "Borough Councils" of London in Calcutta, though what they are and how they are likely to work here no one has yet any definite conception of. Judging however from the preliminary steps taken by the Government of Bengal, these institutions apparently bode no good to us. This is not our opinion but of such papers as the "Englishman" and the "Indian Daily News." Indeed the warning conveyed in the very able and lucid article of the latter is worth the consideration of every thoughtful ratepayer. The article of the "Englishman" which is also an admirable one, begins with the statement that, "not a single elected Commissioner of the Calcutta Municipality has been appointed to a seat on the Committee which is to draw up a scheme for the decentralization of Calcutta." As a matter of fact, though there are such able and experienced elected Commissioners in the Municipality as Messrs Apar, Cotton, Braunfeld, they are nowhere on the Committee. One significant fact must strike every body, which is that Sir Andrew Fraser has put the same three Bengalee gentlemen on the Borough Councils Committee who are also serving as members of his Ranchi College Committee. The "Indian Daily News" remarks that "the most disquieting feature about the situation to our mind is the attitude that is being taken up by certain influential members of the Indian community. Some ingenious person appears to have put the notion into their heads that these proposals of Mr. Greer's are really intended as a method of enabling the Government to climb down with more or less grace from the tree upon which the Mackenzie Act has perched them." The information of our contemporary is absolutely correct. Some influential members of the Indian community actually shouted and danced with joy at the prospect of the great boon that Mr. Greer had promised to them. When asked to explain the reasons of their jubilation and the beauties of the scheme, they frankly admitted that they had no conception whatever of what Mr. Greer was going to do for them. The "Indian Daily News," however, suspects that "the results of the scheme are likely to be the provision of four appointments for Joint Magistrates, who will carry the rate-payers after the fashion of Cromwell's Major-Generals, the restriction of whatever rights of self-government may remain, and the tightening of the bonds of centralization which will not chafe any delays because they are tied by Chairman of Borough Councils, instead of by Mr. Greer himself." There is then the question of funds. But of that hereafter.

ELSEWHERE is published a petition submitted by the Rate-Payers' Association, Bhadrabar, in regard to the Maniknagar Ghat Road, to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council. Although a local question it is of great importance, considering that the Association in their petition has challenged the accuracy of certain statements made by the Government in the Bengal Legislative Council, and answered them by the unquestionable testimony of



MYMENSING CONFERENCE.

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SPEECHES IN BENGAL.

(From our Special Reporter.)

Mymensingh, April 23. The Conference opened yesterday at 12 o'clock n-on. The big pandal, tastefully decorated with foliage, festoons, streamers etc., were filled up to its utmost capacity long—long before the appointed hour. There were over 2,000 delegates present of which some 1,800 belonged to the district, the majority being cultivators. There were such a rush of visitors that the large number of extra seats within the pandal and the two Shamianas outside could not contain them, and they had to squeeze themselves in the open space around the pandal. At a rough estimate some 10,000 people were present mostly representing the masses of the district. Notwithstanding the enormity of the rush, the assembly was marked by its dignified and orderly demeanour throughout. A large number of Zemindars of the district were on the day.

A little after 2 p.m. Kumar Upendra Kishore Chowdhury, Chairman, Reception Committee, rose and expressed thankfulness to the delegates on behalf of the Committee. He spoke in Bengali touching with moderation all the topics of the day, and urged the necessity of continuing the agitation in the district all the year round.

Then at the proposal of Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee, the Honourable Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose was formally elected President. Letters and telegrams of sympathy from those unavoidably absent were read.

The President then delivered his inaugural address, which is published elsewhere. The Rev. M. A. Neville then, in response to a call from the chair, proposed the following resolution:—

That this Conference while agreeing with the views expressed, in the Government resolution on education, No. 658, to the effect that the courses of instruction now followed in Primary Schools are too long, too advanced and too diversified for the agricultural classes and emphatically protests against the proposal to divide the Bengalee language into different dialects. This Conference does not advocate the use of scholarly language in the text-books intended for the rural schools and recognises the fact that the spoken language is differentiated by provincialism in different districts and in the different parts of the district, but the Conference must affirm the books written in correct but simple Bengalee are understood in every district by all who are able to read them and that further more the division of the language into dialects reduced to the level of uneducated in the various districts would prove a great obstacle to its further development and would be viewed with disapproval by the people concerned and this Conference further protests against the recommendation of the Committee referred to in the resolution mentioned above that the text-book for Bengalee children should in the first instance be prepared in English and then translated into Bengalee as undesirable and unnecessary.

The speaker said that he had visited different Shires in England and found similar difficulty of understanding and being understood by the rural population there. Such is the divergence of English provincial dialects and yet the written language is the same everywhere and in England it was never contemplated that the people should be taught in their provincial dialects in rural schools. The speaker continued that by the division of language not only its progress would be arrested, but would bring about its ultimate ruin.

The resolution was duly seconded and supported by Babus Bipin Chandra Paul Ram Narayan Aughasthi, Upendra Nath Sen, and others. The resolution was then put to vote and carried with acclamation. At about 5 in the afternoon the meeting separated to meet again at 11 this morning.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Mymensingh, April 24.

200 more delegates arrived yesterday. The proceedings commenced at noon when the president said that he had received a telegram from Raja Kamaleswar Prasad Singh of Purnea requesting to include the question of the Hindi language in the previous day's resolution about the division of the Bengali language. The request was acceded to. The president asked to put to meeting the resolution regarding the partition of Bengal without speeches and the following resolution was carried unanimously in solemn silence, the whole Conference standing:—

That this Conference is strongly of opinion that any scheme in any form whatsoever of dividing the territories under the Government of Bengal and thereby retarding the progress and development of the Bengali people should be definitely abandoned. This Conference further prays that the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal be raised to the status of a presidency government with an Executive Council.

The resolution was proposed by Rai Yatin Nath Chaudhury of Taki, seconded by Babu Anath Bandhu Guha of Mymensingh and supported by Babus Jogendra Chandra Mukherjee of Purnea, Jashoda Kumar Ghose of Noakhali, Akhil Chandra Dutta of Tipperah, Hem Chandra Das Chaudhury of Chittagong, Nagendra Nath Sen of Khulna, Mathura Nath Maitra of Faridpur, Hari Prasad Chatterjee of Nadia, Rojani Nath Bose of Dacca, Upendra Chandra Ghose of Barisal, Maulvi Abdul Bahaman of Haibatnagar, Hardayal Nag of Chandpore, and the Dewan Sahib of Etna.

Babu Radha Raman Kar of Calcutta proposed:—

That this conference is of opinion that the proposed Jute Bill is unsound in principle and will be abolished and it strongly condemns this proposal as calculated to protect the interest of a small section of the people connected with the jute industry while causing great hardship and oppression to the general body of cultivators and dealers in loose jute and thereby seriously interfering with the free development of the jute trade. As a bala the mover gave the history how the Jute Bill owed its existence owing to the representation of the Balers Association. Though in the beginning the mover was for legislation but now he came to realize that it was onerous in nature, and oppressing in operation.

Babu Isachandra Chakrabarty (Mymensingh) seconded the resolution and said to adulteration, the rayats are not responsible. He heard it said that a trader would refuse paying the weighman if not

clever enough to make 103 maunds of every 100 maunds of jute purchased.

The resolution was supported by Babu Jatindra Mohan Chaudhuri (Bajitpore) and 3 delegates (cultivators) Sheikh Nazir-uddin, Azim and Yokubali. Their rustic speeches made great impression upon the vast audience. The simplicity with which they refuted the accusations of mixing water and sand surprised the whole audience. Their speeches were a magnificent success. None ever expected such simplicity of eloquence. Yokubali Khan (Tangail) said when jute shrubs were steeped into water and allowed to rot, plots of grass are spread over it. This process produces three varieties in each jute bundles. Owing to repeated rainfall and winds and muddiness of yards, admixture of sand and water is unavoidable. The cultivators, he said, did not gain anything by adulteration as there was great difference of price between dry and moistened jute. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Then the following resolutions were passed:—That this Conference while thanking the Government for its annual contributions of twelve-half lakhs of rupees for the improvement of the financial condition of the District Boards and for the admission made by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, that the road cess had been diverted to purposes for which it was not intended, is of opinion that the Government should take steps to see that the money realized on account of this cess be not spent for any purpose other than those for which it was originally levied, namely (1) the construction and maintenance of village roads and local paths, (vide Sir George Campbell's proclamation of 1873) (2) the sinking and improving of wells, tanks and other works of irrigation affecting comparatively small areas of land, so that the benefits to be derived from the road cess may be, to quote the words of the late Duke of Argyll, "brought home to the cess payers door and made palpable, direct and immediate" (6) that regard being had to the fact that many districts of Bengal suffer from scarcity of water during the hot season involving severe sufferings upon the people and resulting in the spread of cholera and malaria this Conference urges upon the Government the absolute necessity of sustained and systematic efforts with a view to the removal of this want by the systematic preparation and execution of a scheme of water supply for rural areas, and this Conference, while appreciating the motive of Government, recommends that the government be pleased not to burden the public with one third of the costs of digging tanks and sinking wells, seeing that they already pay the road cess and in many instances are unable to bear such an additional burden (b) in view of the fact that the Road Cess and the Public Works Cess are collected by one and the same machinery the charge of maintaining the joint establishment for realising the road and the Public Works Cess should be borne equally by the Boards and the Government an dot in the proportion of two-thirds and one-third respectively as now.

It was proposed by Babu Syama Charan Ray (Mymensingh), seconded by Babu Sarat Chandra Gupta (Dacca) and supported by Enayatali (Bhawal), Mahasabhu (Dewanganje) Abdulali, Jahir, Alapsingh, Abdul Raman, (Haibatnagar). The four Mahomedan cultivators spoke feelingly about the scarcity of drinking water. They said that the whole rural population and the cattle immensely suffered during the four dry months. The two speeches visibly affected the audience. A few actually shed tears.

The fifth Resolution runs thus:—That this Conference desires to express its profound disappointment at the general drift of the report of the Police Commission and the resolution of the Government thereon and for the following among other grounds (1) that the pay and prospects of the Sub-Inspectors are inadequate and that the competitive test for the recruitment of Sub-Inspectors should not have been abolished but improved and rendered more effective, (2) that the pay and prospects of the Provincial Police Service are inadequate and its status is distinctly inferior to that of the Provincial, Judicial and Executive services and offers but a limited scope for the employment of educated men in the police service, (3) that the recruitment of the superior Police force in England by a competitive examination from which the Indians are to be excluded is contrary to the charter, the Act of 1833 and of the Queen's proclamation of 1858 and the invidious distinction of Raye opposed to the traditional policy of the British Government in the country and that this conference firmly believed that the police administration cannot be thoroughly reformed without separating the police from magistracy and placing the Subordinate Magistrates under the District Judges.

It was proposed by Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee (Calcutta), seconded by Babu Hari Prasad Chatterjee (Krishnagar) and supported by Babu Bejoy Krishna Basu (Calcutta).

The sixth Resolution runs thus:—That in view of the fact that the Chowkidari Tax in Bengal is a most oppressive one as every inhabitant of the village is liable to pay the rate except those who are too poor to pay half anna per month, and that it is very harassing in its nature and considering also that village chowkidars are now the servants of the state and not of the people this conference prays that the tax be remitted.

It was proposed by Babu Sarada Prasanna Sanjal (Krishnagar), seconded by Syed Nurulhossin (Jamalpur) Babu Pramatha Nath Roy (Pinjra) Babu Madhusudan Sarkar (Serajganje), Maulavi Abdul Menan Chaudhuri, (Dacca) and Sheikh Hossainali and Ahmadali (Mymensingh).

The seventh resolution runs thus:—That this Conference considers that in the interest of political sanitary industrial and economic education of the masses one or more properly qualified and paid agent be appointed to carry on the work throughout the year in these provinces subject to the direction and control of the Mymensingh Association.

It was proposed by Maulvi Hidayatbux, seconded by Babu Prasanna Kumar Basu (Tangail) who, as the president later on announced offered his services to carry on the work without any remuneration; and supported by Babu Basantkumar Majumdar (Noakhali).

The eighth resolution runs thus:—That this Conference begs to call the attention of the Government to the mortality and suffering in the rural villages on account of malarial fever and cholera and prays that

the Government will be pleased to take effective measures for their prevention."

It was proposed by Hon'ble Mr. J. Chaudhuri (Calcutta), seconded by Babu Kali Narain Ray (Dungai) and supported by Dewan Abdul Hakim Khan Chaudhuri (Jawar), Babu Naresh Chandra Sen (Tangail). The ninth resolution runs thus:—(a) That this Conference is of opinion that the principles introduced in the Bengal Local Self-Government Amendment Bill empowering His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to impose a fresh tax by a notification in the "Calcutta Gazette" is opposed to all sound principles of taxation, as it is the special function of the legislative council and not of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to impose taxes; (b) that the tax proposed to be levied on land for Railway purposes would involve a violation of the permanent settlement; (c) that the abolition of the Sudder Local Boards would be injurious to the interests of Local Self-government as it will deprive the people of the sadder of the right of electing their members to the Local Boards and also of sending elected representatives to the District Boards and further as the Chairmen of these Sudder (Boards as at present constituted are for the most part non-official gentlemen who by reason of their being dependant on the suffrages of the people take a special interest in these works and make these Boards self-governing bodies in the true sense of the term; (d) that the union committees if placed directly under the District Boards, will lose all its importance and usefulness as an agency of Self-Government in as much as the said committees will be entirely led and influenced by the official Chairmen. (e) That this Conference prays that in the proposed amendment of the Local Self-government Bill provision may be made for further expansion of Local Self-government by allowing selected District Boards to elect their own Chairmen.

It was proposed by Babu Ananda Chandra Roy (Dacca), seconded by Mulvi Mahammad Ismail (Kishoreganj) and supported by Babu Purna Chandra Maitra (Faridpur).

The tenth Resolution runs as follows:—That this Conference is of opinion that the economic regeneration of the country depends to a great extent on its industrial development and expresses its warm appreciation of and sympathy with all movements which encourage such development by directly aiding indigenous arts and industries and by the establishment of scholarship for the prosecution of industrial studies in such countries as Japan, America and Europe.

It was proposed by Babu Akshoy Kumar Majumdar (Mymensingh), seconded by Babu Jagendra Nath Guha (Dacca) and supported by Babu Amar Chandra Datta (Mymensingh) Akhil Chandra Dutta (Tipperah).

Babu Amar Chandra made an appeal on behalf of the Industrial Scientific Association asking contribution of four annas each, which appeal was warmly responded to. The following resolutions were proposed from the Chair and carried.

The eleventh Resolutions runs as follows:—That this Conference deprecates the excessive expenditure incurred in connection with marriages and other ceremonies in Bengal.

12th.—That this Conference agreeing with previous Conferences reaffirm their resolutions on the following subjects (a) the necessity of preserving and developing indigenous arts and industries (b) the disastrous consequences resulting from the exclusion of the Indians from the higher appointment in the Telegraph, Police, Survey, Railway, Opium, Customs, Public Works Departments.

Babu Nagendra Kisore Roy Chaudhury (Ramgopalpore), a premier zemindar proposed the following resolution.

13th.—That a copy of the resolutions passed in this Conference be forwarded to the Government of Bengal over the signature of the president.

Syed Alihossain (Basadurpore) seconded it and it was carried.

Babu Surendra Nath Sen invited the Conference at Barisal next year Babu Jagat Kisore Acharyya Chaudhuri, another premier zemindar proposed thanks to the chair which was passed amidst cheers and hurrahs.

The President closing the conference made a feeling speech in Bengali and said that Mymensingh imparted a new life to the organization which dragged its existence from 18 years in as much as all sections, Hindus, Mahomedans, Zemindars, Ryots, Traders, Industrial classes and members of learned professions joined hand in hand with the warmth of heart and patriotic purpose, previously unknown in Bengal. He appealed to the Mymensingh people to contribute their mite towards defraying the expenses of sending a deputation to England, when the Secretary of the Mymensingh Association announced readiness saying 500 rupees at once and more here after.

With three cheers to the King-Emperor the conference separated. The proceedings were almost in Bengali. Then the bard Durgasankar sang a political song which he did in the interior District travelling place to place exciting a patriotic feeling among the rural population.

Babu Bipin Chandra Pal then addressed the masses in Bengali, explaining their duty as an individual and a member of the community and introducing questions that vitally affected them.

While out at the Quetta Rifle Range, a Hazara Sepoy, of the 126th Baluchistan Regiment, shot dead the jamadar, and then fired at the havildar who escaped with a slight wound, and was about to fire at the subadar, when he was overpowered by the others present. He said he meant to act similarly by the European officer present. Captain Chitty, had he not been secured. The man had a fancied grievance with regard to his promotion.

The Singapore paper writes:—It is stated that an armed Sikh guard under a European police officer has been put in charge of the German collier "Hindoo," which has been coaling at Tanjong Pagar for some days past. The Hindoo passed through here in October last with a cargo of Cardiff coal and successfully ran the blockade of Port Arthur. She then went back to Japan, and thence brought a cargo of Muroran coals to Singapore consigned to Messrs. Paterson Simos and Co. It is understood that within the past few days she has taken 4,200 tons of coal on board from Tanjong Pagar, and she was to leave for Saigon, but her clearance papers were refused. The Captain, we understand, was officially informed that he could clear from Singapore on condition that he gave a guarantee to hand the coals over through the British Consul at Saigon. It is further stated that the Captain could not do this. The Hindoo is accordingly detained here for the time being under surveillance.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE UNREST IN RUSSIA.

London, April 21.

The Governors of the Province have been informed that the Congress of Members of the Zemstvos fixed to meet at St. Petersburg on 7th May has been prohibited and they are ordered to prevent the departure of the delegates.

London, April 22.

A Secret Congress of representatives of 120 liberal newspapers and reviews has been held at St. Petersburg and has sat for four days, it has formed a press organisation with political objects.

BAKERS ON STRIKE.

London, April 23.

A strike of 15,000 bakers has taken place at Moscow and the price of bread has been tripled; disturbances are feared.

THE PEASANT RISING.

London, April 24.

For the purpose of checking the peasant revolt the Tsar has issued a decree ordering the most severe punishment to all directly or indirectly concerned in the outbreaks and appointing district Commissioners to collect indemnities for landowners from the village communities implicated.

London, April 24.

A strike of 15,000 bakers has taken place at Moscow and the price of bread has been tripled; disturbances are feared.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, April 20.

The Japanese Minister in Paris has called the attention of M. Delcasse to the presence of the Russian ships in Kamranh Bay. It is maintained on behalf of France that precisely the same measures have been taken as when the Japanese cruisers lately visited Kamranh. Moreover it is affirmed that the Baltic Fleet has quitted territorial waters.

London, April 21.

Reuter at Hongkong says there is noticeable activity in the China Squadron. The cruiser Hague has been ordered to be in readiness for sea with full steam at two hours notice.

The Japanese resentment against France is growing and manifesting itself in public meetings which pass heated resolutions. A great popular demonstration is proposed.

It is stated in Paris that France has addressed communications to St. Petersburg and renewed orders to the authorities in Indo-China to insist on the Russians observing French neutrality.

The general consensus of opinion in London is that Rozhdestvenski has gained a great advantage in coaling and provisioning at Kamranh. Naval circles in St. Petersburg are becoming sanguine of success.

London, April 22.

Reuter wires from St. Petersburg that it is understood France confined herself to transmitting the Japanese protest to Russia, who replied that the precise whereabouts of Rozhdestvenski is not known, and it is therefore impossible to say whether there is ground for complaint but he will be communicated with as soon as possible. The Admiralty promptly despatched yesterday's message, which, however, will not be received for some days. The Admiralty states that the telegram announcing Rozhdestvenski's arrival at Kamranh took four days in transmission.

London, April 23.

A telegram published in the Paris "Temps" dated Saigon, 10-40, this morning, states that all the Baltic fleet left Kamranh at noon on Saturday. A violent cannonade was heard off the bay and it was supposed that an engagement had commenced with the Japanese scouts. Four Russian transports are at Saigon.

London, April 24.

The latest news from Saigon states that the Baltic Fleet is fifteen miles off the Annam coast, steering north.

London, April 24.

Three warships are reported at Corregido Islands, in the Philippines. They are supposed to be Japanese, under Admiral Nishino.

London, April 24.

It is stated at Saigon that Admiral Rozhdestvenski is ill with dysentery.

London, April 24.

A telegram from Saigon to-day says that the Baltic fleet at Kamranh consisted of 53 ships including transports and has sailed north. Fourteen transports, the cruiser "Svietland" and the hospital ship "Orel" continue near Kamranh outside the territorial limits. The French cruiser "Descartes" sailed on Saturday for Hatrang where twenty warships have been sighted.

It is the opinion at Saigon that Rozhdestvenski will endeavour to effect a junction with Admiral Niebogotoff's fleet.

GENERAL.

London, April 23.

A German Mission is preparing to start for Fez. The tribes along the road are arranging great festivities in its honour.

London, April 23.

Reuter wiring from Bangkok states that the telegram of 19th instant, stating that a hitch had arisen in the Franco-Siamese delimitation is unfounded.

London, April 23.

The Paris Temps says it would have been the worst of blunders to give the enemies of France in Morocco the satisfaction of the resignation of M. Delcasse. It is positively affirmed in Paris that his resignation has nothing to do with the neutrality complication.

London, April 23.

The Powers replying to the Cretan Chamber adhere to the decisions against a union with Greece. Replying to the Cretan appeal to support the union agitation the Greek Government declares that while a union is the aspiration of all Greeks in view of the attitude of the Powers further demonstration is useless. It therefore, emphatically refuses to encourage acts aiming at a change of regime. The objectionable portions of the Constitution can be amended by legal means.

London, April 24.

Firing is reported off Saigon. This probably indicates a conflict with the Japanese scouts.—"Englishman."

London, April 24.

Earthquake shocks have occurred throughout the Midlands and Northern Counties, but the damage is slight and no one has been injured.—"Englishman."

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

GENERAL.

London, April 24.

At Saigon the Governor has prohibited Russian steamers to embark a large quantity of coal consigned to them and only permitted them to embark a sufficiency for the voyage.

Reuter at Tokio says that the French reply to Japan promising the expulsion of the Baltic ships from Kamranh and affirming the determination to maintain the neutrality has been received with pleasure and relieved the tension of popular feeling.

London, April 24.

Somewhat violent earthquake shocks were experienced at Matlock, Doncaster, Scarborough and other places in the Midlands and the north early this morning.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

SIGHTED BY THE NUBIA.

Bombay, April 24.

An officer of the steamer 'Nubia' gives the following account of their encounter with the Baltic Fleet:—The "Nubia" sighted the Russians at a distance of about two miles just off Saigon on Tuesday, April 11th, and her officers counted 45 ships of all descriptions. The Russians were cleared for fighting, the awnings and all superfluous fittings above deck having been removed; but what astonished everybody was the extraordinary formation in which they were steaming. It would be more correct to say they were in no formation at all. A battle ship led the way and then came a line of four ships about two miles apart from each other, on the right of this line being a German ship converted into a cruiser, then a cruiser, then an armed ship of the Volunteer Fleet and fourthly another cruiser. Behind these came a whole mob of battleships, cruisers, torpedo boats, and coaling ships just sailing along anyhow without any attempt to keep even an irregular kind of order.

FURTHER OFFICIAL REPORTS.

Simla, April 24.

The following telegram, dated 22nd idem, received from the Commissioner of Julundur, is repeated for the information of the Govt. of India. The Company of Sappers and Miners in the Kangra Valley has completed the bridge over the Boker stream suitable for light wheeled traffic. A fourth double Coy of Pioneers has arrived in Shahpur and will join the Sappers and Miners in repairing the irrigation channels which take out the Bonre in the neighbourhood of Kangra parties of Chamar employed to assist villagers in getting rid of carcasses of dead animals. Lists of indigent persons acquiring provision are being prepared through zaildars etc and checked by Tashil officials in order to legitimize distribution of free food. The Civil Surgeon has wired to the hospital in the Punjab for one Assistant Surgeon and three hospital assistants and is sending one hospital assistant hand, one compounder to Kulu. The Assistant Surgeon at Kulu and the hospital assistant at Saraj are safe.

The following telegram dated the 22nd April from the Commissioner of Julundur, Shahpur, is repeated for the information of the Government of India. Assistant Surgeon Farmer with medical relief, sent from Simla, leaves Mandi to-day for Kulu. Mr. Millar has left Palampur for Mandi with the Raja. The Sappers and Miners have commenced work on irrigation channel heads of Boker stream.

Captain Deas reports from Kangra that women are being brought in now and he intends to form a female hospital. The daily number of cases attending the hospital, serious and otherwise, is also increasing. Precautions are being taken to preserve good water supply and to guard it from infection. At Palampur and its neighbourhood not many serious cases are brought in but the injured continue to be visited and treated in the villages by Dr. Datta and others. Owners of private property at Dharmala are urgently requested to communicate without delay with the local authorities there regarding the storage and custody of their property.

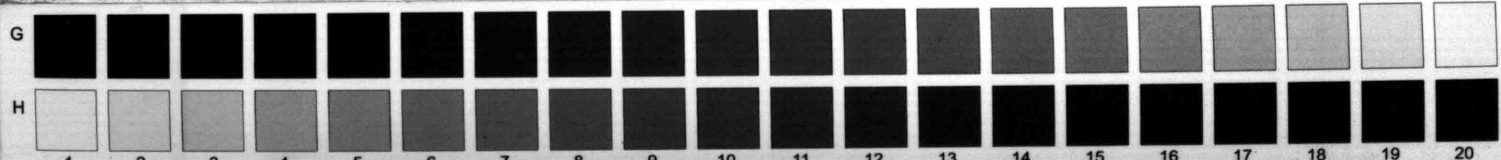
FEMALE EDUCATION IN THE PUNJAB.

Lahore, April 24.

An important Conference of nearly forty ladies and gentlemen, official and non-official, experienced in, or in any way interested in, the promotion of female education in the province has been summoned by the Punjab Government and will meet in Lahore on the 8th May to investigate this difficult problem in all its general and local aspects. The following questions will be specially submitted for discussion at the Conference:—How is inspection to be provided for in outlying districts? Should the school year be uniform throughout the province? What changes are required in the scheme of studies, How to secure suitable courses of reading for girls? Are casual students desirable in girls' schools? Should an Anglo-Vernacular curriculum be provided? How to develop home education classes? Should Indian Christian girls be encouraged to read for the European schools examinations? Should special courses of instruction and grant-in-aid rules be framed for the education of low-caste village Christians? How far should Roman-Urdu and Roman-Punjabi be recognised? What changes are required in the grant-in-aid rules? What changes are required in the rules for the award of scholarships and stipends? How are local associations, religious or charitable, to be encouraged to extend female education? How to secure more female teachers? How and where to establish Government schools for girls? What other steps should be taken to promote female education in the Punjab?

Mr. W. Bell, C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, will preside over the Conference which is without precedent in its magnitude and scope.

The Thakor Sahab of Gondal is stated to have prepared to offer five lakhs of rupees towards the Tata Institute provided it is located in his State.



CORRESPONDENCE.

INDIAN HUMANITARIAN COMMITTEE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—At the request of friends and fellow-workers, a special department of the Humanitarian League for dealing with Indian questions. It is felt that some organised effort is needed in India, as in England, to mitigate the vast amount of unnecessary pain inflicted through ignorance or callousness, and to prevent the importation of cruel European customs in defiance of Indian sentiment. It will be the chief object of the new Humanitarian Committee to influence opinion in this direction with regard to the following subjects.

1. Vivisection and Inoculation. The deliberate introduction of Vivisection into India by the establishment of Pasteur Institutes, where (as at the Kasauli Institute), under the plea of scientific research, and for the manufacture of serums and anti-toxins, the most inhuman barbarities are perpetrated on the lower animals, is not only atrocious in itself, but is an outrage on the feelings of the vast majority of our Indian fellow subjects, who rightly regard such practices with the utmost abhorrence.

2. Criminal Law and Prison System. There is great need that the administration of the Criminal Law and Prison System should be subjected in India, as it has been in England, to very stringent criticism, for there is no doubt that serious inhumanity and injustice are often inflicted, and it should be remembered that much of the crime of the country results from oppressive laws such as the Salt Tax. It is very desirable also that a watch should be kept on the too frequent recourse to corporal punishment for offences which, as experience has proved, could be more effectively dealt with by less brutal methods.

3. Blood Sports. Another subject on which the Committee proposes to take action is the practice of Blood Sports. However necessary it may be considered to destroy such animals as are directly dangerous to human life it is impossible to justify the wanton infliction of death and suffering on vast numbers of inoffensive creatures for mere "sport," especially when such amusements are indulged in by the few against the wish of the many, and for the most part imported by Europeans without the smallest regard for the feelings of the Indian population.

4. In addition to the above-mentioned questions, there are a number of others to which it seems important that public attention should be drawn—e.g. the destruction of birds for millinery (the sale of feathers being still permitted for use in India itself, though export is prohibited); the various cruelties of fashion and trade, such as the process of obtaining tortoiseshell; the horrors of animal sacrifices, in which, under the erroneous plea of ancient religious sanction, most shocking brutalities are condoned; and the ill-usage incidental to the transit of animals by railway and their slaughter for food.

Among those who have consented to join the Humanitarian Committee are the following:

Sir William Wedderburn, Bart, Sir Henry Cotton, K.C.S.I., Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, Lady Florence Dixie, Mrs. H. Bradlaugh Bonner, Mr. Edward Carpenter, Mr. Herbert Burrows (Chairman of Executive Committee), Colonel H. B. Hanna, Capt. Alfred Carpenter, R.N., D.S.O., Mr. Ernest Bell (Treasurer), Mr. Labeshankar Laxmidas, Dr. Louise Appel, Mr. William Tebb, Surgeon-General Thornton.

Those who are in sympathy with this project are requested to communicate with me.

J. CLAYTON,

Secretary,

Humanitarian League,

53, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

THE AGRA SEDUCTION CASE.

FURTHER PROCEEDINGS.

Agra, April 24.

The Cantonment Magistrate has decided to go on with D'Jeyes' case. Mr. G. Wiggins produced a letter written by Mrs. D'Jeyes to her relations announcing D'Jeyes' engagement to Miss D'Jeyes. She said her husband threatened her to write that letter, but in reality there was no engagement, because witness questioned D'Jeyes and he indignantly denied it.

Cross-examined by Mr. T. G. Willis, witness said her husband's real name was DeJesus but he married under the name of D'Jeyes. The reason he gave for changing the name was that he was ashamed of DeJesus. His father's name was Michael DeJesus, but he assumed the name of Michael McLean.

Questioned by the Court, witness said she knew her husband's father but did not know why he had changed his name. When in the service her husband drank horribly and beat her. He took dumb-bell exercise before beating her. Witness sold her furniture at Bombay to enable her to join her husband at Calcutta. On arrival in Calcutta he gave her hopes that he had Rs. 300 with him, but she never saw the money. D'Jeyes always paid them Rs. 60 per month for board and lodging. He lent D'Jeyes Rs. 50 when the latter's child was dying. Witness heard that D'Jeyes had written to her husband about her being in Agra. She was annoyed at this, and told him not to interfere in her affairs. There was no criminal intimacy between D'Jeyes and herself. Witness suffered from fainting fits which she attributed to her husband's ill-treatment. Her husband struck her violently in the presence of Mr. Kavanagh of the Police. The case is adjourned.

The Mysore Government have sanctioned an important scheme for the training and employment of certified Sanitary Inspectors for improving the sanitation of Municipal towns and rural parts.

Moulvi Abdul Salam, in his translation of the Riyaz-us-Salat, draws attention, in one of his numerous annotations, to the fact that the Begum of Ali Vardi Khan Mahabat Jung accompanied her husband on his elephant at the battles of Balasore and Burdwan. "She must," writes the Moulvi, "have been a lady not only of nerve, but of wisdom, to have been retained by his side as a companion by Ali Vardi at such critical junctures. We saw also that the iron-man Ali Vardi, in his usurpation of the Bangal Nizam, banded himself before Nafis Khan and sued for pardon from her. From such incidents the inference is not without warrant that Mussalman ladies in Bengal, even towards the middle of the eighteenth century, occupied a different position from what they occupy now, took an active part in the wider concerns of their husbands, and exercised a powerful and beneficent influence both in the domains of politics and society."

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

INCREASED SALARIES.

Simla, April 22.

The following Resolution appears in the "Gazette of India":—

By the orders contained in the Military Department Notification, No. 1047, dated 23rd October, 1903, the pay of officers of the Indian Medical Service in military employ was raised. In connection with this decision the Government of India have carefully examined, in communication with the Local Governments, the question of the adequacy of the rates of pay of the officers of that Service in civil employment. The Secretary of State's orders on their proposals have now been received and the Governor General in Council is pleased to notify the conclusion arrived at for the information of the Service. The scale of pay attached to the appointments, the emoluments of which are or will in future be determined by the military pay of officers holding them, has been revised in the manner shown in schedule A. The consolidated pay of the appointments shown in Schedule B has also been revised. Neither Schedule includes appointments in the Jail Department, regarding which orders will be issued hereafter. In view of the unavoidable delay that has occurred in dealing with this complicated question, the Secretary of State has agreed, as a special concession, that the revised rate of pay shall take effect from 1st April, 1904. In any case where the changes now sanctioned may result in reducing the emoluments of an appointment, they will not be introduced until it has been vacated by the present incumbent. It has further been decided, with the approval of the Secretary of State, that an allowance of Rs. 200 per mensem, granted under General Order, No. 370 of 1867, for the charge of certain minor professorships, shall, in case of future incumbents, be treated as a local allowance, and the allowances of officers hereafter appointed to officiate in such appointments will be regulated by the new scale. Schedule A gives particulars of pay now sanctioned for a large number of appointments. The series of figures following each name are the monthly total net salaries with allowances in rupees sanctioned, respectively for (1) Lieutenant-Colonels selected for increased pay; (2) Lieutenant-Colonels after twenty-five years' service; (3) a Lieutenant-Colonel; (4) a Major after three years' service; (5) a Major; (6) a Captain after ten years' service; (7) a Captain after seven years' service; (8) a Captain after five years' service; (9) a Captain; (10) a Lieutenant. Civil or Agency Surgeons of all Provinces, 1st class, and Presidency Surgeons, 2nd and 3rd districts, Bombay: Rs. 1,450, 1,300, 950, 850, 750, 700, 650, 600 and 550. Civil or Agency Surgeons, 2nd class: Rs. 1,350, 1,250, 1,200, 850, 750, 650, 600, 550, 500 and 450. Professorial appointments at the towns of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, and Lahore: Rs. 1,650, 1,550, 1,500, 1,150, 1,050, 950, 900, 850, 800, and 750. The Principal of the Grant Medical College and the Principal of the Lahore Medical College: Rs. 1,800, 1,700, 1,650, 1,300, and 1,200. Deputy Sanitary Commissioners, Madras, Bombay, Bengal, United Provinces, Punjab, and Burma: Rs. 1,500, 1,400, 1,350, 1,000, 900, 800, 750, 700, 650, and 600. Probationary Chemical Examiners: Captains, after ten years' service, Rs. 750, 700, 650, 600, and 550. Bacteriological appointments, Bombay, Bengal, United Provinces, Punjab, and Burma: Superintendent, King Institute, Madras, Rs. 1,600, 1,500, 1,150, 1,050, 900, 850, 800, 700, and 650. Superintendents, Central Lunatic Asylums, Madras, Bombay, Bengal, United Provinces, Punjab, and Burma: Rs. 1,550, 1,450, 1,400, 1,150, 1,050, 900, 850, 800, 700, and 650. Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General, Madras and Bombay: For Majors, Rs. 900, 800, 750, and 600. Surgeon, Goldsaddai Hospital and the Physician, St. George's Hospital, Bombay: Rs. 1,650, 1,550, 1,500, 1,150, and 1,050. Port Health Officer, Bombay: Rs. 1,950, 1,850, 1,800, 1,450, and 1,250. Port Surgeon, Aden: Rs. 1,600, 1,500, 1,450, 1,100, and 1,000. Resident Surgeon, Medical College, Calcutta and Port Health Officer, Calcutta: Rs. 1,650, 1,550, 1,500, 1,150, 1,050, 900, 850, 800, 750, and 700. Resident Medical Officer, General Hospital, Rangoon: Rs. 1,350, 1,250, 1,200, 1,100, 1,000, 900, 850, 800, 750, and 700. Secretary to the Director-General of the Indian Medical Service to the Government of India: Rs. 1,600, 1,500, 1,500, 1,150, 1,050, 900, 850, 800, 700, and 650. Statistical Officer to the Government of India, Sanitary and Medical Departments: Rs. 1,500, 1,400, 1,400, 1,250, 1,150, 1,050, 1,000, 950, 900, and 850.

Schedule B: Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal, Rs. 2,500; Punjab and Burma, Rs. 2,250. Sanitary Commissioners of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, United Provinces, and the Punjab: Rs. 1,500-90-1,800. First Resident Surgeon, General Hospital, Calcutta, Rs. 1,000; Second Resident Surgeon, General Hospital, Calcutta, Rs. 800.

We may state that the news of the most acute friction between Lord Kitchener and General Elles, has started a good deal of Club gossip at Simla, but no confirmation seems forthcoming. There are now several important questions regarding the administration and the direction of Army by the Military Department and the Army Headquarters upon which they may entertain strong views but the final decision in these, as well as in other matters, rests with the Viceroy and his Council. It is also worth stating that no changes in the status of the Military Member can be made without Parliamentary Legislation.—(T. D. News.)

A few weeks ago Mr. George, the District Police Superintendent, taking with him a large force of constables, went down to Munohanda, a locality just outside Calcutta, to arrest one Chorian Avaran, the leader of a notorious gang of Moplah criminals who had been giving no end of trouble to the authorities. Avaran appears to have found out that he was to be netted, and decamped. A few days ago, the Quilandi Police received private information that the man had settled down in a neighbouring village, where under an assumed name, he had married a Moplah girl. A strong force of Police and villages were promptly sent out, and Avaran was found at home. On realising the situation, he showed fight and brandished a knife before the Police, but on being told that force would be used in the event of his offering resistance, he gave himself up quietly. When the house was searched, another dangerous criminal was found hiding within, and a large quantity of jewels was also recovered. Some of these proved to be a portion of the loot in a recent Cannanore house breaking case, and Avaran was sent on to Cannanore to stand his trial in this case. His arrest practically breaks up a gang that had been a source of terror to the public for more than a quarter of a century.

INDIA AND THE FAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, April 3.

The Tibet Mission.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the Viceroy at once communicated to Col. Younghusband the telegrams of July 1 and 27 last, from the Secretary of State forbidding Col. Younghusband to make to the Tibetans any suggestion as to the appointment of a resident at Lhasa, or to make any conditions without the sanction of the Secretary of State; and whether these telegrams were received by Col. Younghusband before the decision was arrived at to proceed from Gyantse to Lhasa.

Mr. Brodick: The telegrams to which the hon. member refers were communicated to Col. Younghusband by the Viceroy by telegraph on June 29 and July 5 respectively. I have, therefore, no doubt that they had been received by Col. Younghusband before July 8, on which date it was decided, as will be seen from a reference to the Blue Book (page 28, No. 85), that the advance from Gyantse to Lhasa should be no longer delayed.

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors to Children.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the Government of Bombay has received memorials in favour of the prohibition by law of the sale of intoxicating liquors to children under 14 years of age; and whether he can state the views of the Bombay Government upon this subject.

Mr. Brodick said that the Government of Bombay had received memorials in favour of the prohibition, and had decided to introduce a clause in future licenses prohibiting the sale of liquor to persons under 14 years of age.

The Employment of Women in Drinking Bars.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he is aware that representations have been made to the Government of Bombay deploring the growth of the drinking habits of the people, and urging the passing of legislation prohibiting the employment of women in drinking bars; and whether, in view of these representations, the Government of Bombay are now prepared to introduce legislation in order to make the law in this respect uniform with that in force in Bengal and Burma.

Mr. Brodick: I am aware that a resolution on the subject was passed by a temperance congress held in Bombay at the end of last year and was submitted to the Government of Bombay. I have ascertained that Government see no reason to alter their view that the necessary control can be exercised by refusing licenses, and that specific prohibition by law is unnecessary.

The Seistan Railway.—Mr. Schwann asked the Secretary of State for India: When is the Seistan Railway likely to be completed; and what distance would its western terminus be from the British Indian frontier at Jacobabad or Dera Ghazi Khan; and how far would the line extend into the waterless desert of Rajistan; what was to be the total cost of the line, and from what funds would that sum be provided; and what was the estimated percentage of net returns.

Mr. Brodick: As I informed the hon. member on July 3 last, no proposal for the extension of the Quetta-Nushki railway towards Seistan has been sanctioned. Its western terminus is at Nushki, which is 94½ miles by the route followed from Quetta. Nushki is about 150 miles from Jacobabad and about twice that distance from Dera Ghazi Khan. The line does not extend into the Rajistan desert. The estimated cost is about 70 lacs, and as my predecessor stated on March 3, 1903, it will be charged to Indian funds. No estimate of the net returns has been framed.

The Aden Delimitation and Seistan Boundary Commissions.—Mr. Schwann asked the Secretary of State for India: What has been the total cost of the Aden Delimitation and Seistan Boundary Commissions; and what sums representing expenditure on the military escorts of these Commissions respectively have been debited to the ordinary Indian Army charges since these Commissions were appointed two or three years ago; also can a statement be included showing casualties that have occurred in these escorts, more particularly those operating on the Aden and Yemen frontiers; and, these exploring negotiations being of an international character affecting Powers in correspondence with his Majesty's Foreign Office, will some proportion of the total expenditure thereon be defrayed by the British Treasury.

Mr. Brodick: The case of the Aden Delimitation Commission up to 1st January 1904, including the ordinary pay of the troops composing the escort was about 45 lacs of rupees. A further sum of about 14 lacs was provided in the Budget for 1904-1905. The expenditure on the Seistan Mission up to the end of 1903-1904, both civil and military, amounted to about 14½ lacs, and provision was made in the Budget of 1904-1905, but I am unable to give precise figures until I receive the financial statement from the Government of India. I have asked the Government of India to furnish me with a complete return of all casualties incurred by the Aden escort. The Seistan escort has not been engaged at any time in hostilities, and I have no information as to its casualties. The cost of both these Commissions will be borne by Indian revenues.

Children Employed on Tea Plantations.—Mr. Schwann asked the Secretary of State for India: What is the total number of children between the ages of five and 15 years employed or resident on tea or other plantations in Assam, Bengal, the United Provinces and Madras; how many schools exist for their convenience, and how many of such children attend the schools; also whether any further facilities have yet been provided in Assam and in Bengal; and whether it is proposed to establish additional schools in the planting districts of the United Provinces and Madras.

Mr. Brodick: I would refer the honourable member to the reply given by me on Feb. 27 to a question on this subject by the honourable member for Bethnal Green, North East Division. I have no statistics of the children between the ages mentioned on tea and other plantations in India; but the total number of coolie children in Assam is estimated at 249,104, a large proportion of whom are no doubt of the school-going age. In that province it is reported that there are 73 schools in or near gardens where education can be obtained; the exact number of coolie children attending these schools is not stated, but it is small. I have no statistics for other provinces in India, where

garden managers are not required by law to submit returns of their labour force. As I stated in reply to the question of Feb. 27, the matter is receiving attention from the Government of India and the Local Governments; but I am not in a position to report precisely what action has been taken or is contemplated.

Wednesday, April 5.

The Manufacture of War Material in India.—Mr. Weir asked the Secretary of State for India: If he will ascertain how many factories in India are at present engaged in the manufacture of war material and the number of Europeans and natives respectively employed in these factories.

Mr. Brodick: I informed the honourable member on March 23 that there are at present 11 factories in India engaged in the manufacture of war material. I will inquire of the Government of India as to the number of Europeans and of natives employed in the factories.

Thursday, April 6.

The Chinese War Indemnity.—Mr. McCrae asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he could state the amount of the annual instalments now payable in respect of the British share of the Chinese war indemnity; and whether these instalments would be applied to the reduction of debt.

Mr. V. Cavendish, who answered the question, said: Negotiations are now in progress between the Chinese Government and the representatives of the Powers as to the basis of payment of the indemnity. Until these are concluded, the amount of the annual instalments receivable by this country cannot be stated. Proposals will in due course be submitted to Parliament as to the application of the British share.

Great Britain and Afghanistan.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the agreement entered into by the British Government and the Ameer of Afghanistan as the result of the recent British Mission to Kabul together with other papers connected with the Mission, will be laid before Parliament at an early date; whether he will give a general indication of the contents of the agreement; and whether it differs in any material respect from the previous agreement existing between the British Government and the late Ameer.

Mr. Brodick said: I propose shortly to lay on the table of the House a translation of the agreement recently concluded with the Ameer of Afghanistan, together with such papers as are necessary to elucidate it. The purport of the agreement, as has already been stated in another place, is merely to continue and confirm agreements which existed between the British Government and the late Ameer.

THE MANICKNAGAR GHAT ROAD.

MEMORIAL TO THE VICEROY.

The Rate-payers' Association, Bhadreswar, has submitted the following memorial, dated the 22nd instant, to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council, through the Government of Bengal in re' the Manicknagar Ghat Road:—

"The humble petition of the Rate-payers' Association, Bhadreswar, in the District of Hooghly, in the matter of the acquisition of the Manicknagar Ghat Road for Messrs. Thomas Duff and Co. Most respectfully sheweth:—

"1. That the Association has submitted a petition to your Excellency dated 12-1-05 protesting against the acquisition of the Manicknagar Ghat Road.

"2. That though no reply has yet been received to be aforesaid petition the preliminary steps for the transfer of the said road and the Manicknagar Ghat are being taken.

"3. That at the meeting of the Bengal Council held on 31-3-05, the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose asked the following question:—

"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 ghat held in great sanctity by the people and largely used by them, specially on Hindu bathing days and on occasion of other Hindu ceremonies?"

"4. That in reply to the aforesaid question the Hon'ble Mr. Shirres is reported to have said:—

"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 Mukdambor's Ghat which are equally used by the people on Hindu bathing days and on occasion 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."

"5. That the statements that 'the people of Bhadreswar do not attach more importance to the Manicknagar ghat than to the neighbouring ghats known as Paikpara Ghat and Mukdambor's Ghat' and that 'no special importance attaches to the Manicknagar ghat road' are absolutely without foundation, and the Association regrets that the Government was led to give utterance to statements in the Council Chamber, which are not only incorrect but calculated to hurt the religious feelings of the people. This is in all the more to be deplored as petitions signed by respectable classes, testifying to the sanctity of the Manicknagar ghat and special importance of the Manicknagar ghat road (vide App. A, B, C, and D) are in the possession of the Government of Bengal.

"6. That the Association further begs to enclose herewith a statement (App. E.) signed by a large number of respectable people testifying to the special sanctity of the Manicknagar ghat, above all the ghats in the locality including the Paikpara and Mukdambor's ghats and also to the sacredness of the Manicknagar ghat road.

"7. That among the signatories to the petitions and the statements referred to in the two preceding paragraphs your Excellency will be pleased to find the names of the majority of the Zemindars of Telimparah, the heads of the four Khan families of Manikunda (including that of Babu Kenai Lal Khan, the well-known millionaire), almost all members of the Sircar family, the Zemindars of Purnabati (Bhadreswar), the majority of the leading members of the Dey Babus of Baraat, five out of the eight elected Commissioners of the present Municipal Board, five out of the six Hon. Magistrates (the remaining one being Mr. Bruce, an employee of Messrs. Thomas Duff and Co.), seven ex-Municipal Commissioners, four graduates of the Calcutta University (of whom two are retired Sub-Inspectors of Police and the majority of the others are leading merchants and traders of Bhadreswar. Thirty-three of

the signatories are residents of villages situated at 3 to 6 miles distance from Bhadreswar."

"8. That from the above your Excellency will be pleased to see how thoroughly has the Government of Bengal been misled in the matter by interested parties and that the statement that the opposition is factious is equally unfounded.

"9. That under the circumstances the Association most respectfully prays that your Excellency will be graciously pleased to ask the Bengal Government to withdraw the remarks it has made with regard to the sanctity of the ghat and also drop all land acquisition proceedings in connection with the Manicknagar ghat road and issue orders for the permanent protection of this road and the Manicknagar ghat.

"And for this act of kindness the Association is in duty bound shall ever pray."

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

THE BALTIC FLEET.

THE ARMADA OFF SINGAPORE.

Rear Admiral Enclift in Command.

The following appears in the Straits Budget of the 10th April regarding the Baltic Fleet:—

The following is the composition of the Squadron:—

BATTLESHIP.

Sissoi Veliki, battleship, 8,800 tons, 16 knots.

CRUISERS.

Aurora, 1st class protected cruiser, 6,630 tons, 20 knots.

Almaz, protected cruiser, 3,285 tons 19 knots, (Intended to be used as a yacht for the Viceroy of Russian China.)

Admiral Nachimoff, armoured cruiser, 8,500 tons, 19 knots.

Dmitri Donskoi, armoured cruiser, 5,900 tons, 15½ knots.

Izumrug 2nd class protected cruiser, 3,100 tons, 24 knots.

Zemchug, 2nd class protected cruiser, 3,100 tons, 24 knots.

Oleg, 1st class protected cruiser, 6,675 tons, 23 knots.

Russ, cruiser yacht presented to Russian navy by Count Stroganoff.

CONVERTED CRUISERS.

Furst Bismark, Hamburg-American liner, 10,500 tons, 19½ knots.

Augusta Victoria, Hamburg-American liner 10,300 tons, 19 knots.

Kaiserin Maria Theresia, North German Lloyd, 12,500 tons, 20 knots.

Kaiser Friedrich, North German Lloyd, 12,500 tons, 19 knots.

Rion, (formerly Smolensk) Russian Volunteer Fleet, 12,000 tons, 20 knots.

DESTROYERS, SEVEN.

NON-COMBATANT VESSELS.

(Under Russian Commercial Flag.)

Orel, (Hospital ship) Russian Volunteer Fleet, 10,000 tons, 19 knots.

Jaroslavl, Russian Volunteer Fleet, 8,600 tons, 12½ knots.

Kief, Russian Volunteer Fleet, 10,500 tons, 13 knots.

Tambov, Russian Volunteer Fleet, 8,600 tons, 12½ knots.

Veronej, Russian Volunteer Fleet, 10,500 tons, 13 knots.

Vladimir, Russian Volunteer Fleet, 10,500 tons, 13½ knots.

Jupiter, Russ. Stm. Navigation Co., 4,000 tons, 13 knots.

Mercury, Russ. Stm. Navigation Co., 4,000 tons, 13 knots.

Mebeor, Russ. Stm. Navigation Co., 4,260 tons, 13 knots.

Korea, East Asiatic S. N. Co., 6,200 tons, 14 knots.

Katal, East Asiatic S. N. Co., 4,660 tons, 13 knots.

Kniaz Gortchakoff, North Baltic S. S. Co., 3,300 tons, 12 knots.

CHARTERED COLLIERIES, FIFTEEN.

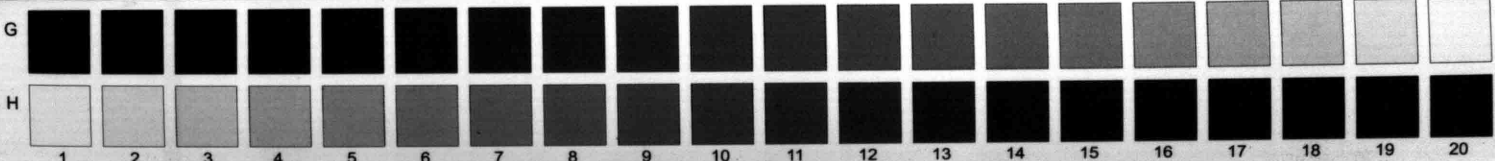
Salvage Ship, one.

Never in her history has Singapore witnessed a spectacle of such impressive splendour as the passage of the Baltic Fleet on Saturday afternoon, and never—according to all the chances of war and precedents of history—will she ever witness it again. Since the Duke of Medina Sidonia took the Invincible Armada out of Lisbon some three centuries ago, the world has seen no naval pageant of such vast, magnificence; but though the seemingly irresistible aggregation of sea power that steamed through in the afternoon sun appeared to be the most overwhelming fleet that man could possibly bring together, its value as a fighting body was small, and any fair-sized squadron of the enemy that encountered it might reasonably expect to obliterate the entire array of palpitant glory between the rising and the setting of one sun.

Out of the forty-four great ships that sailed so proudly by, but sixteen were proper fighting ships, though there were five additional converted cruisers. Of these four were formerly German Atlantic liners, and they formed doubtless the most impressive part of the procession, from a spectacular point of view. As fighting units against rapidly armed and armoured ships, they would, however, be as impotent as canal boats—a couple of luckily placed shells would send any one of them to the bottom. Still they made a brave show as they moved past ponderously, slowly, dallying, as it were, that all might see their overpowering magnitude, though truth to tell they tarried because their lame feet could no faster carry them. The quickest had to wait for the weakest, and the trailing growths of sea grass and seaweed that hung from their sides and trailed from their bottoms below clung to the waters viciously, and held back the erstwhile speedy hulls like numberless shredded demons of delay.

Sir Denzil Ibbetson, as Officiating Lieutenant-Governor, will take over charge of the Punjab from Sir Charles Rivaz on Thursday the 27th instant. The latter will proceed Home the same day on six months' leave.

A correspondent, marching in the hills towards Dalhousie, records the appearance of a remarkable phenomenon on the morning of the 16th. Soon after the sun had appeared above the hills a faint, rainbow was visible round the sun, forming a complete semi-circle with a diameter that appeared to be about five degrees. At the two ends were two dazzlingly bright spots, so remarkable that the natives asked why three suns had risen. Later on the bow became bright as its apex just above the sun, and lost its true circular form: at the same time faint disconnected bows appeared on either side of the first one, being connected with it by a long cloudy white line. It would be interesting to know whether these singular appearances were observed by others.



MYMENSING CONFERENCE.

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SPEECHES IN BENGALIEE.

(From our Special Reporter.)

Mymensingh, April 23. The Conference opened yesterday at 12 o'clock a.m. The big pandal, tastefully decorated with foliage, festoons, streamers etc., were filled up to its utmost capacity long before the appointed hour. There were over 2,000 delegates present of which some 1,800 belonged to the district, the majority being cultivators. There were such a rush of visitors that the large number of extra seats within the pandal and the two Shamianas outside could not contain them, and they had to squeeze themselves in the open space around the pandal. At a rough estimate some 10,000 people were present mostly representing the masses of the district. Notwithstanding the enormity of the rush, the assemblage was marked by its dignified and orderly demeanour throughout. A large number of Zemindars of the district were on the day.

A little after 2 p.m. Kumar Upendra Kishore Chowdhury, Chairman, Reception Committee, rose and expressed thankfulness to the delegates on behalf of the Committee. He spoke in Bengali touching with moderation all the topics of the day, and urged the necessity of continuing the agitation in the district all the year round.

Then at the proposal of Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee, the Honourable Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose was formally elected President. Letters and telegrams of sympathy from those unavoidably absent were read.

The President then delivered his inaugural address, which is published elsewhere. The Rev. M. A. Neville then, in response to a call from the chair, proposed the following resolution:—

That this Conference while agreeing with the views expressed, in the Government resolution on education, No. 658, to the effect that the courses of instruction now followed in Primary Schools are too long, too advanced and too diversified for the agricultural classes and emphatically protests against the proposal to divide the Bengalee language into different dialects. This Conference does not advocate the use of scholarly language in the text-books intended for the rural schools and recognises the fact that the spoken language is differentiated by provincialism in different districts and in the different parts of the district, but the Conference must affirm the books written in correct but simple Bengalee are understood in every district by all who are able to read them and that further more the division of the language into dialects reduced to the level of uneducated in the various districts would prove a great obstacle to its further development and would be viewed with disapproval by the people concerned and this Conference further protests against the recommendation of the Committee referred to in the resolution mentioned above that the text-book for Bengalee children should in the first instance be prepared in English and then translated into Bengalee as undesirable and unnecessary.

The speaker said that he had visited different Shires in England and found similar difficulty of understanding and being understood by the rural population there. Such is the divergency of English provincial dialects and yet the written language is the same everywhere and in England it was never contemplated that the people should be taught in their provincial dialects in rural schools. The speaker continued that by the division of language not only its progress would be arrested, but would bring about its ultimate ruin.

The resolution was duly seconded and supported by Babus Bipin Chandra Paul Ram Narayan Aghasthi, Upendra Nath Sen, and others. The resolution was then put to vote and carried with acclamation. At about 5 in the afternoon the meeting separated to meet again at 11 this morning.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Mymensingh, April 24. 200 more delegates arrived yesterday. The proceedings commenced at noon when the president said that he had received a telegram from Raja Kamalwar Prasad Singh of Purnea requesting to include the question of the Hindi language in the previous day's resolution about the division of the Bengali language. The request was acceded to. The president asked to put to meeting the resolution regarding the partition of Bengal without speeches and the following resolution was carried unanimously in solemn silence, the whole Conference standing:—

That this Conference is strongly of opinion that any scheme in any form whatsoever of dividing the territories under the Government of Bengal and thereby retarding the progress and development of the Bengali people should be definitely abandoned. This Conference further prays that the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal be raised to the status of a presidency government with an Executive Council.

The resolution was proposed by Rai Yatin Nath Chaudhury of Taki, seconded by Babu Anath Bandhu Guha of Mymensingh and supported by Babus Jagendra Chandra Mukherjee of Purnea, Jashoda Kumar Ghose of Noakhali, Akhila Chandra Dutta of Tipperah, Hem Chandra Das Chaudhury of Chittagong, Nagendra Nath Sen of Khulna, Mathura Nath Maitra of Faridpur, Hari Prasad Chatterjee of Nadia, Rojani Nath Bose of Dacca, Upendra Chandra Ghose of Barisal, Mulvi Abdul Rahaman of Haibatnagar, Hardev Nag of Chandpore, and the Dewan Shih of Etana.

Babu Radha Raman Kar of Calcutta proposed:—

That this conference is of opinion that the proposed Jute Bill is unsound in principle and will be abolished and it strongly condemns the proposal as calculated to protect the interest of a small section of the people connected with the jute industry while causing great hardship and oppression to the general body of cultivators and dealers in loose jute and thereby seriously interfering with the free development of the jute trade. As a bolder mover gave the history how the Jute Bill owed its existence owing to the representation of the Jute Association. Though in the beginning the mover was for legislation but now he came to realize that it was onerous in nature, and oppressing in operation.

Babu Isanchandra Chakraborty (Mymensingh) seconded the resolution and said that adulteration, the rayats are not responsible. He heard it said that a trader would refuse paying the weigman if not

clever enough to make 103 maunds of every 100 maunds of jute purchased. The resolution was supported by Babu Jatindra Mohan Chaudhuri (Bajitpore) and 3 delegates (cultivators) Sheikh Nazir-uddin, Azim and Yokubali. Their rustic speeches made great impression upon the vast audience. The simplicity with which they refuted the accusations of mixing water and sand surprised the whole audience. Their speeches were a magnificent success. None ever expected such simplicity of eloquence. Yokubali Khan (Tangail) said when jute shrubs were steeped into water and allowed to rot, plots of grass are spread over it. This process produces three varieties in each jute bundles. Owing to repeated rainfall and winds and muddiness of yards, admixture of sand and water is unavoidable. The cultivators, he said, did not gain anything by adulteration as there was great difference of price between dry and moistened jute. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Then the following resolutions were passed:—That this Conference while thanking the Government for its annual contributions of twelve-half lakhs of rupees for the improvement of the financial condition of the District Boards and for the admission made by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, that the road cess had been diverted to purposes for which it was not intended, is of opinion that the Government should take steps to see that the money realized on account of this cess be not spent for any purpose other than those for which it was originally levied, namely (1) the construction and maintenance of village roads and local paths, (vide Sir George Campbell's proclamation of 1873) (2) the sinking and improving of wells, tanks and other works of irrigation affecting comparatively small areas of land, so that the benefits to be derived from the road cess may be, to quote the words of the late Duke of Argyll, "brought home to the cess payers door and made palpable, direct and immediate" (6) that regard being had to the fact that many districts of Bengal suffer from scarcity of water during the hot season involving severe sufferings upon the people and resulting in the spread of cholera and malaria this Conference urges upon the Government the absolute necessity of sustained and systematic efforts with a view to the removal of this want by the systematic preparation and execution of a scheme of water supply for rural areas, and this Conference, while appreciating the motive of Government, recommends that the government be pleased not to burden the public with one third of the costs of digging tanks and sinking wells, seeing that they already pay the road cess and in many instances an additional burden to bear such an additional burden (b) in view of the fact that the Road Cess and the Public Works Cess are collected by one and the same machinery the charge of maintaining the joint establishment for realising the road and the Public Works Cess should be borne equally by the Boards and the Government and not in the proportion of two-thirds and one-third respectively as now.

It was proposed by Babu Syama Charan Ray (Mymensingh), seconded by Babu Sarat Chandra Gupta (Dacca) and supported by Enayatali (Bhawal), Mahabulhuq (Dewanguri), Adulali, Jahir, Alapsingh, Abdul Rahman, (Haibatnagar). The four Mahomedan cultivators spoke feelingly about the scarcity of drinking water. They said that the whole rural population and the cattle immensely suffered during the four dry months. The two speeches visibly affected the audience. A few actually shed tears.

The fifth Resolution runs thus:—"That this Conference desires to express its profound disappointment at the general drift of the report of the Police Commission and the resolution of the Government thereon and for the following among other grounds (1) that the pay and prospects of the Sub-Inspectors are inadequate and that the competitive test for the recruitment of Sub-Inspectors should not have been abolished but improved and rendered more effective, (2) that the pay and prospects of the Provincial Police Service are inadequate and its status is distinctly inferior to that of the Provincial, Judicial and Executive services and offers but a limited scope for the employment of educated men in the police service, (3) that the recruitment of the superior Police force in England by a competitive examination from which the Indians are to be excluded is contrary to the charter, the Act of 1883 and of the Queen's proclamation of 1888 and the invidious distinction of Raye opposed to the traditional policy of the British Government in the country and that this conference firmly believed that the police administration cannot be thoroughly reformed without separating the police from magistracy and placing the subordinate Magistrates under the District Judges.

It was proposed by Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee (Calcutta), seconded by Babu Hari Prasad Chatterjee (Krishnagar) and supported by Babu Bejoy Krishna Basu (Calcutta).

The sixth Resolution runs thus:—"That in view of the fact that the Chowkidari Tax in Bengal is a most oppressive one as every inhabitant of the village is liable to pay the rate except those who are too poor to pay half anna per month, and that it is very harassing in its nature and considering also that village chowkidars are now the servants of the state and not of the people this conference prays that the tax be remitted."

It was proposed by Babu Sarada Prasanna Sanayal (Krishnagar), seconded by Syed Nurulhossin (Jamalpur) Babu Pramatha Nath Roy (Pinjra) Babu Madhusudan Sarkar (Serajganje), Maulavi Abdul Menan Chaudhuri, (Dacca) and Sheikh Hossainali and Ahmadali (Mymensingh).

The seventh resolution runs thus:—"That this Conference considers that in the interest of political sanitary industrial and economic education of the masses one or more properly qualified and paid agent be appointed to carry on the work throughout the year in these provinces subject to the direction and control of the Mymensingh Association."

It was proposed by Maulvi Hidayatubux, seconded by Babu Prasanna Kumar Basu (Tangail) who, as the president later on announced offered his services to carry on the work without any remuneration; and supported by Babu Basantkumar Majumdar (Noakhali).

The eighth resolution runs thus:—"That this Conference begs to call the attention of the Government to the mortality and suffering in the rural villages on account of malarial fever and cholera and prays that

the Government will be pleased to take effective measures for their prevention."

It was proposed by Hon'ble Mr. J. Chaudhuri (Calcutta), seconded by Babu Kailash Narain Ray (Tangail) and supported by Dewan Abdul Hakim Khan Chaudhuri (Jawar), Babu Naresh Chandra Sen (Tangail).

The ninth resolution runs thus:—"That this Conference is of opinion that the principles introduced in the Bengal Local Self-Government Amendment Bill empowering His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to impose a fresh tax by a notification in the "Calcutta Gazette" is opposed to all sound principles of taxation, as it is the special function of the legislative council and not of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to impose taxes; (b) that the tax proposed to be levied on land for Railway purposes would involve a violation of the permanent settlement; (c) that the abolition of the Sudder Local Boards would be injurious to the interests of Local Self-government as it will deprive the people of the sadder of the right of electing their members to the Local Boards and also of sending elected representatives to the District Boards and further as the Chairmen of these Sudder (Boards) as at present constituted are for the most part non-official gentlemen who by reason of their being dependant on the suffrages of the people take a special interest in these works and make these Boards self-governing bodies in the true sense of the term; (d) that the union committees if placed directly under the District Boards, will lose all its importance and usefulness as an agency of Self-Government in as much as the said committees will be entirely led and influenced by the official Chairmen. (e) That this Conference prays that in the proposed amendment of the Local Self-government Bill provision may be made for further expansion of Local Self-government by allowing selected District Boards to elect their own Chairmen."

It was proposed by Babu Ananda Chandra Roy (Dacca), seconded by Mulvi Mahammad Ismail (Kishoreganj) and supported by Babu Purna Chandra Maitra (Faridpur).

The tenth Resolution runs as follows:—"That this Conference is of opinion that the economic regeneration of the country depends to a great extent on its industrial development and expresses its warm appreciation of and sympathy with all movements which encourage such development by directly aiding indigenous arts and industries and by the establishment of scholarship for the prosecution of industrial studies in such countries as Japan, America and Europe."

It was proposed by Babu Akshoy Kumar Majumdar (Mymensingh), seconded by Babu Jagendra Nath Guha (Dacca) and supported by Babu Amar Chandra Dutta (Mymensingh) Akhila Chandra Dutta (Tipperah).

Babu Amar Chandra made an appeal on behalf of the Industrial Scientific Association asking contribution of four annas each, which appeal was warmly responded to. The following resolutions were proposed from the Chair and carried.

The eleventh Resolutions runs as follows:—"That this Conference deprecates the excessive expenditure incurred in connection with marriages and other ceremonies in Bengal."

12th:—"That this Conference agreeing with previous Conferences reaffirm their resolutions on the following subjects (a) the necessity of preserving and developing indigenous arts and industries (b) the disastrous consequences resulting from the exclusion of the Indians from the higher appointment in the Telegraph, Police, Survey, Railway, Opium, Customs, Public Works Departments."

Babu Nagendra Kisore Roy Chaudhuri (Ramgopalpore), a premier zeminder proposed the following resolution.

13th:—"That a copy of the resolutions passed in this Conference be forwarded to the Government of Bengal over the signature of the president."

Syed Alihossain (Basardurpore) seconded it and it was carried.

Babu Surendra Nath Sen invited the Conference at Barisal next year Babu Jagat Kisore Acharyya Chaudhuri, another premier zeminder proposed thanks to the chair which was passed amidst cheers and hurrahs.

The President closing the conference made a feeling speech in Bengali and said that Mymensingh imparted a new life to the organization which dragged its existence from 18 years in as much as all sections, Hindus, Mahomedans, Zemindars, Rayats, Traders, Industrial classes and members of learned professions joined hand in hand with the warmth of heart and patriotic purpose, previously unknown in Bengal. He appealed to the Mymensingh people to contribute their mite towards defraying the expenses of sending a delegation to England, when the Secretary of the Mymensingh Association announced readiness saying 500 rupees at once and more here after.

With three cheers to the King-Emperor the conference separated. The proceedings were almost in Bengali. Then the bard Durgankur sang a political song which he did in the interior District travelling place to place exciting a patriotic feeling among the rural population.

Babu Bipin Chandra Pal then addressed the masses in Bengali, explaining their duty as an individual and a member of the community and introducing questions that vitally affected them.

While out at the Quetta Rifle Range, a Hazara Sepoy, of the 126th Baluchistan Regiment, shot dead the jamadar, and then fired at the havildar, who escaped with a slight wound, and was about to fire at the subadar, when he was overpowered by the others present. He said he meant to act similarly by the European officer present. Captain Chitty, had he not been present. The man had a fancied grievance with regard to his promotion.

The Singapore paper writes:—"It is stated that an armed Sikh guard under a European police officer has been put in charge of the German collier, "Hindoo," which has been coaling at Tanjong Pagar for some days past. The "Hindoo" passed through here in October last with a cargo of Cardiff coal and successfully ran the blockade of Port Arthur. She then went back to Japan, and thence brought a cargo of Murcan coals to Singapore consigned to Messrs. Paterson Simos and Co. It is understood that within the past few days she has taken 4,200 tons of coal on board from Tanjong Pagar, and she was to leave for Saigon, but her clearance papers were refused. The Captain, we understand, was officially informed that he could clear from Singapore on condition that he gave a guarantee to hand the coals over through the British Consul at Saigon. It is further stated that the Captain could not do this. The "Hindoo" is accordingly detained here for the time being under surveillance."

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE UNREST IN RUSSIA.

London, April 21. The Governors of the Province have been informed that the Congress of Members of the Zemstvos fixed to meet at St. Petersburg on 7th May has been prohibited and they are ordered to prevent the departure of the delegates.

London, April 22. A Secret Congress of representatives of 120 liberal newspapers and reviews has been held at St. Petersburg and has sat for four days, it has formed a press organisation with political objects.

BAKERS ON STRIKE.

London, April 23. A strike of 15,000 bakers has taken place at Moscow and the price of bread has been tripled; disturbances are feared.

THE PEASANT RISING.

London, April 24. For the purpose of checking the peasant revolt the Tsar has issued a decree ordering the most severe punishment to all directly or indirectly concerned in the outbreaks and appointing district Commissions to collect indemnities for landowners from the village communities implicated.

London, April 24. A strike of 15,000 bakers has taken place at Moscow and the price of bread has been tripled; disturbances are feared.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, April 20. The Japanese Minister in Paris has called the attention of M. Delcasse to the presence of the Russian ships in Kamranh Bay. It is maintained on behalf of France that precisely the same measures have been taken as when the Japanese cruisers lately visited Kamranh. Moreover it is affirmed that the Baltic Fleet has quitted territorial waters.

London, April 21. Reuter at Hongkong says there is noticeable activity in the China Squadron. The cruiser Hagare has been ordered to be in readiness for sea with full steam at two hours' notice.

The Japanese resentment against France is growing, and manifesting itself in public meetings which pass heated resolutions. A great popular demonstration is proposed.

It is stated in Paris that France has addressed communications to St. Petersburg and renewed orders to the authorities in Indo-China to insist on the Russians observing French neutrality.

The general consensus of opinion in London is that Rozhdestvenski has gained a great advantage in coaling and re-provisioning at Kamranh. Naval circles in St. Petersburg are becoming sanguine of success.

London, April 22. Reuter wires from St. Petersburg that it is understood France confined herself to transmitting the Japanese protest to Russia, who replied that the precise whereabouts of Rozhdestvenski is not known, and it is therefore impossible to say whether there is ground for complaint but he will be communicated with as soon as possible. The Admiralty promptly despatched yesterday's message, which, however, will not be received for some days. The Admiralty states that the telegram announcing Rozhdestvenski's arrival at Kamranh took four days in transmission.

London, April 23. A telegram published in the Paris "Temps" dated Saigon, 10-40, this morning, states that all the Baltic fleet left Kamranh at noon on Saturday. A violent cannonade was heard off the bay and it was supposed that an engagement had commenced with the Japanese scouts. Four Russian transports are at Saigon.

London, April 24. The latest news from Saigon states that the Baltic Fleet is fifteen miles off the Annam coast, steering north.

London April 24. Three warships are reported at Corregido Islands, in the Philippines. They are supposed to be Japanese, under Admiral Nishino.

London, April 24. It is stated at Saigon that Admiral Rozhdestvenski is ill with dysentery.

London, April 24. A telegram from Saigon to-day says that the Baltic fleet at Kamranh consisted of 53 ships including transports and has sailed north. Fourteen transports, the cruiser "Svetland" and the hospital ship "Orel" continue near Kamranh outside the territorial limits. The French cruiser "Descartes" sailed on Saturday for Haiphong where twenty warships have been sighted.

It is the opinion at Saigon that Rozhdestvenski will endeavour to effect a junction with Admiral Niebogoff's fleet.

GENERAL.

London, April 23. A German Mission is preparing to start for Fez. The tribes along the road are arranging great festivities in its honour.

London, April 23. Reuter wiring from Bangkok states that the telegram of 19th instant, stating that a hitch had arisen in the Franco-Samese delimitation is unfounded.

London, April 23. The Paris Temps says it would have been the worst of blunders to give the enemies of France in Morocco the satisfaction of the resignation of M. Delcasse. It is positively affirmed in Paris that his resignation has nothing to do with the neutrality complication.

London, April 23. The Powers replying to the Cretan Chamber adhere to the decisions against a union with Greece. Replying to the Cretan appeal to support the union agitation the Greek Government declares that while a union is the aspiration of all Greeks in view of the attitude of the Powers further demonstration is useless. It therefore, emphatically refuses to encourage acts aiming at a change of regime. The objectionable portions of the Constitution can be amended by legal means.

London, April 24. Firing is reported off Saigon. This probably indicates a conflict with the Japanese scouts.—"Englishman."

London, April 24. Earthquake shocks have occurred throughout the Midlands and Northern Counties, but the damage is slight and no one has been injured.—"Englishman."

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

GENERAL.

London, April 21. At Saigon the Governor has prohibited Russian steamers to embark a large quantity of coal consigned to them and only permitted them to embark a sufficiency for the voyage.

Reuter at Tokio says that the French reply to Japan promising the expulsion of the Baltic ships from Kamranh and affirming the determination to maintain the neutrality has been received with pleasure and relieved the tension of popular feeling.

London, April 24. Somewhat violent earthquake shocks were experienced at Matlock, Doncaster, Scarborough and other places in the Midlands and the north early this morning.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

THE BALTIC FLEET.

SIGHTED BY THE NUBIA.

Bombay, April 24. An officer of the steamer "Nubia" gives the following account of their encounter with the Baltic Fleet:—"The 'Nubia' sighted the Russians at a distance of about two miles just off Saigon on Tuesday, April 11th, and her officers counted 45 ships of all descriptions. The Russians were cleared for fighting, the awnings and all superfluous fittings above deck having been removed; but what astonished everybody was the extraordinary formation in which they were steaming. It would be more correct to say they were in no formation at all. A battle ship led the way and then came a line of four ships about two miles apart from each other, on the right of this line being a German ship converted into a cruiser, then a cruiser, then an armed ship of the Volunteer Fleet and fourthly another cruiser. Behind these came a whole mob of battleships, cruisers, torpedo boats, and coaling ships just sailing along anyhow without any attempt to keep even an irregular kind of order."

FURTHER OFFICIAL REPORTS.

Simla, April 24. The following telegram, dated 22nd idem, received from the Commissioner of Jullundur, is repeated for the information of the Govt. of India. The Company of Sappers and Miners in the Kangra Valley has completed the bridge over the Bower stream suitable for light wheeled traffic. A fourth double Coy of Pioneers has arrived in Shalpur and will join the Sappers and Miners in repairing the irrigation channels which take out the Bore in the neighbourhood of Kangra parties of Chamars employed to assist villagers in getting rid of carcasses of dead animals. Lists of indigent persons acquiring provision are being prepared through zaildars etc and checked by Tashil officials in order to legitimate distribution of free food. The Civil Surgeon has wired to the hospital in the Punjab for one Assistant Surgeon and three hospital assistants and is sending one hospital assistant hand, one compounder to Kulu. The Assistant Surgeon at Kulu and the hospital assistant at Saraj are safe.

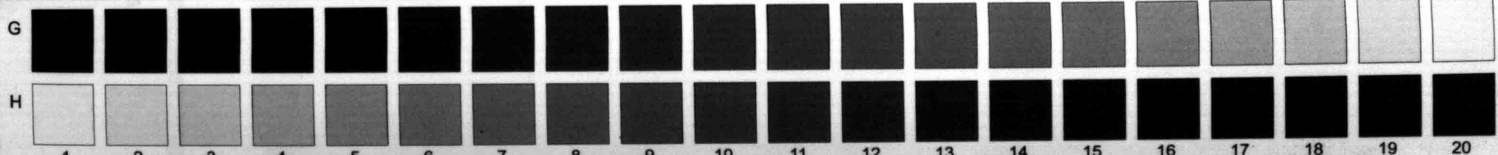
The following telegram dated the 22nd April from the Commissioner of Jullundur, Shahpur, is repeated for the information of the Government of India. Assistant Surgeon Farmer with medical relief, sent from Simla, leaves Mandi to-day for Kulu. Mr. Millar has left Palampur for Mandi with the Raja. The Sappers and Miners have commenced work on irrigation channel heads of Bower stream.

Captain Deas reports from Kangra that women are being brought in now and he intends to form a female hospital. The daily number of cases attending the hospital, serious and otherwise, is also increasing. Precautions are being taken to preserve good water supply and to guard it from infection. At Palampur and its neighbourhood not many serious cases are brought in but the injured continue to be visited and treated in the villages by Dr. Datta and others. Owners of private property at Dharmasala are urgently requested to communicate without delay with the local authorities there regarding the storage and custody of their property.

FEMALE EDUCATION IN THE PUNJAB.

Lahore, April 24. An important Conference of nearly forty ladies and gentlemen, official and non-official, experienced in, or in any way interested in, the promotion of female education in the province has been summoned by the Punjab Government and will meet in Lahore on the 8th May to investigate this difficult problem in all its general and local aspects. The following questions will be specially submitted for discussion at the Conference:—How is inspection to be provided for in outlying districts? Should the school year be uniform throughout the province? What changes are required in the scheme of studies. How to secure suitable courses of reading for girls? Are casual students desirable in girls' schools? Should an Anglo-Vernacular curriculum be provided? How to develop home education classes? Should Indian Christian girls be encouraged to read for the European schools examinations? Should special courses of instruction for the education-in-aid rules be framed for the education of low-caste village Christians? How far should Roman-Urdu and Roman-Punjabi be recognised? What changes are required in the grant-in-aid rules? What changes are required in the rules for the award of scholarships and stipends? How are local associations, religious or charitable, to be encouraged to extend female education? How to secure more female teachers? How and where to establish Government schools for girls? What other steps should be taken to promote female education in the Punjab? Mr. W. Bell, C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, will preside over the Conference which is without precedent in its magnitude and scope.

The Thakor Sahab of Gondal is stated to have prepared to offer five lakhs of rupees towards the Tata Institute provided it is located in his State.



COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES.

While dealing with the question of education, I may be excused to refer to another subject intimately connected with it, I mean the abolition of the competitive examination for the provincial executive services and the employment of Indians in the public services of this country. As regards the first, I shall not repeat what I have said elsewhere; His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has joined issue with us in this matter. His Honour has not been pleased to accept my picture of the development of sycophancy which the present system will lead to. I am half-nerved to suspect that his Honour believes that the development has already reached its limits. His Honour is not probably aware that his District officers are oftentimes objects of greater veneration than himself. They have opportunities of making their power felt, which the Lieutenant-Governor has not, and which he would not use even if he had. If the old system was at fault, a development on more liberal lines was what was expected and not a setting back of the hand: there has been no charge that the men appointed by competition have been found unworthy or wanting or that the public service has deteriorated by their introduction. On the contrary, the testimony is unanimous that these men have proved the salt of the service. Why then this anxiety to go back to nomination? The answer is given in the words of the Government resolution:—"He (the Lieutenant-Governor) regards it as the duty of Government to reconcile the conflicting claims of diverse rival religions, of varying degrees of intellectual and administrative aptitude and adaptability and of different races occupying the different parts of the province." We are far from denying to our more backward brethren the opportunities of entering the public service, from which, for some time yet to come, they might to a large extent remain excluded if a rigid system of competition were followed. But if it is sought to elevate them, it will not be by holding out a premium to backwardness, by driving them more and more to lean on recommendation and nomination and to employ the arts, let us not say of sycophancy, but, of successful canvassing, but only by teaching them to be more self-reliant and to stand on their own legs. Independence and straightforwardness of character cannot grow out of dependence and servility, a ship can be built only of oak but never out of weeds.

And, gentlemen, the executive service is one in which strength of character is of the utmost necessity. Situated as that service is, dependent on and subordinate to the District Magistrate who combines in himself the functions of the Police and the Judge, it is absolutely essential that the service for the sake of its own honor as well as for the welfare of the community should be strengthened by men who may break but will never bend. And who are more likely to satisfy this standard, men who enter the service on the strength of their own merit, men who have carved their way through industry and pluck and perseverance or men who enter on their career through the backdoor of nomination? There have been on an average 18 appointments a year: half of these may be easily thrown open to competition pure and simple taking care that properly qualified men are allowed to compete. 6 instead of 9 may be reserved for nomination out of candidates who must have appeared in the examination and have attained to a definite standard and the remaining three recruited from the ranks of the inferior grades of the subordinate executive service. The backward communities, the rival creeds and diverse races, might then all come under the second category without going through the humiliating process of obtaining a nomination and would be stimulated to further efforts to secure a larger share of these appointments through competition.

The evils of appointments by patronage are so patent, and have been found so intolerable even in a free and self-governing country like England, that the system has been practically given up in that country leading, according to the testimony of Englishmen, to the purification of the public service and the satisfaction of the national sense of justice. His Honour may think, any one unacquainted with the true state of things would think, that on a recent occasion I drew an over-coloured picture of what this new system will lead to, when the whole nation, advanced and backward and all the races and all the creeds inhabiting Bengal, will have to seek preferment through patronage. But, gentlemen, our Lieutenant-Governor after all is helpless. The Government of India in their resolution on the "Indian Educational Policy" stated that they had come to the conclusion "that the system of competitive examination is not a suitable or satisfactory system of admission to the Government Service in this country."

We regret more that the Lieutenant-Governor, himself one of the best products of competition, concurs in this opinion than that he should have given effect to it. WIDER EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES.

Gentlemen, in the appointment of Indians to the public services of their country, the Government of India claims to have shown unexampled liberality, meaning thereby the liberality of a conqueror to a conquered race. I do not know if the Government of India ever possessed the historic sense. Students of Indian history know how the dominion of India passed over to England. In the words of one of the most thoughtful historical writers of the last century "this was not a foreign conquest but rather an internal revolution." In the state of anarchy into which the country had fallen, the people invited and set up the English. They were rulers by choice and much was expected from them. India was not conquered and won by the unfought battle of Plassey nor was she conquered when the intrigues and jealousies of her princes placed them under the thumb of the paramount power but she has been conquered since by over-centralization and over-legislation. Assuming, however, that India was conquered by the English in the same sense as Alexander conquered Persia and Caesar conquered Gaul and Albion and the Moghuls conquered India, not to refer to the example nearer home and with which we are familiar, where are the Hindu Military Commanders, the Hindu Governors, the Hindu Statesmen and the Hindu Plenipotentiaries of the palmy days of the Moghul Empire. Gentlemen, I prefer to rest on the solid foundation of facts rather than let my fancy fly with the imagination of even the greatest personage in this realm. The Honourable Mr. Gokhale has shown that the Indian is nowhere in the Public Service so far as the superior grades are concerned. It may be satisfactory to our rulers in this comparison to consider appointments carrying a salary of Rs. 75 a month; but the manhood of India will not for ever rest content with that grade. Mr. Gokhale has given figures showing shrink-

age and not expansion in the employment of Indians in the higher appointments, figures which have not yet been controverted. During the period that the Government of India has taken under review, namely from 1867 to 1903, our population has increased by 12 millions and the educational standard has more than doubled itself, but where are we to-day in the public service of our country? We are wholly excluded from some and practically from most of the minor Civil Services. We can enter the Civil Service by competition in England, but not the superior grades of the Minor Public Services. And now we are told on the highest authority in India that we have all along misunderstood the tenor of the great Proclamation of Queen Victoria. The Government of India in their resolution, dated 4th June, 1904, formulated 2 principles, viz.:—"that the highest ranks of civil employment in India, though open to such Indians as proceed to England and pass the requisite tests, must nevertheless in a general rule be held by Englishmen and that outside this corps d'élite, the Government shall, as far as possible, employ native agency, and the Viceroy asserts that these principles in no way derogate from the language or tenor of the Proclamation of the Government of India Act of 1833." The words of the Queen's Proclamation are familiar to most of us but not so the Act of 1833. Section 87 of that Act provides that no person by reason of his birth, creed or colour, shall be disqualified from holding any office in the service of the East India Company. The Directors in their despatch accompanying that Act say "you will observe that its object is not to ascertain qualification but to remove disqualification." The beneficent intentions of the Charter Act practically remained a dead letter and the late Queen on the occasion of a great public event, reiterated and emphasized what had already been conferred on her Indian subjects. When a native of India is not allowed to enter the various services not because he is unfit, but because he is a native of India and therefore presumed to be unfit, both the spirit and the letter of the Charter and the Proclamation are broken. The objections which his Honor has stated against the native of India entering the superior Police Service by competition in England, on the ground of his caste, race or religion would apply equally to the Civil Service; but though the Civil Service is open to us, under heavy limitations no doubt, the police service, the preventive service, the superior grades of the Customs and Forest services and many other services which I might name are not. The Viceroy has referred us to the Report of the Public Service Commission as creating the two distinct services, Imperial and Provincial. We all know the history of that report, we all know how the Indian members of the Commission, finding that the higher services, notwithstanding all solemn promises to the contrary, had practically been closed to the natives of India, recommended the scheme of the provincial service, believing that Indians would find larger employment therein and a specified number of the appointments would be reserved for them. While the Government accepted their recommendation about creating an exclusive superior service, the Indians fared no better, if not worse, in the provincial services. No Commission or resolution of the Government of India can alter a parliamentary statute or undo the gracious promise of the sovereign or take away a people's rights.

MALARIA AND SANITATION.

Gentlemen, while dealing with these broader questions affecting our national well-being, I would pointedly ask attention of the Conference to the question of malarial fever, which is working such terrible havoc in rural Bengal: we suffer from it more in West Bengal than probably you do here, though parts of Mysensing, the Tangal Sub-Division for instance, are badly hit. It is a question of the greatest magnitude so far as we are concerned and the matter is attracting the attention of our Government which is in full sympathy with us in this matter. Good drinking water, good drainage, sanitary surroundings and a good diet, if procurable, would, I believe, be of greater avail than the cheapening of quinine pills. In this connection, we have a duty to perform: the recognition by our Government that the Road Cess Fund has been to a great extent diverted from its original purposes, and the repatriation that it is making, will enable our district and local boards to pay much greater attention than they have hitherto done to the questions of pure drinking water and sanitation. On our part we must teach the maffassil people, by example and precept, how to reserve tanks for drinking purposes, how to improve the sanitation of their surroundings and how to build their humble hamesteads with greater regard to sanitary laws. Let it not be said of us that, though we are unable to assist the Government in the large question of drainage and the cleaning of river beds, in which we must invoke the willing assistance of Government, we cannot in our humble way propagate among our own people the laws of sanitation which modern science has established. The Government may also do a great deal in this direction. The Guru holds an important position in village life and his importance would be all the more enhanced if he knew a little more of sanitation than of hydrostatics and zoology.

OTHER SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION.

Gentlemen, I have in another place said what I had to say about the main features of the proposed Jute Bill. The district of Mysensing is the home of the jute industry in Bengal and we have come here to learn and not to teach.

There is one other matter to which I wish to refer, the proposed legislation affecting the rights of the landlord and tenant. No one will pronounce the present Rent Act as a piece of legislative perfection, but the provisions which the Government proposes to deal with have not given much trouble. Much has been done to disturb the old relationship between the landlord and his tenant: new ideas have upset the old. There is an indication of a feeling that our rulers have probably gone too far in destroying the old institutions of the country and severing its old bonds. Why move further in the same direction?

YOU RUN TO RISK.

You need not hesitate to buy Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. If you are not satisfied with the results after using two-thirds of the bottle according to directions you may return it to your dealer and your money will be refunded. Here is what the Grocer Drug Co., Granite, Oklahoma, U. S. A., say concerning it: "We feel free to guarantee every bottle for we know we will not have to refund them." For sale by All Chemists & Storekeepers, Price 1 Rs. 2.

CONCLUSION.

Gentlemen, in all that I have said, I have not sought to revile the Government. We seek to influence and not to abuse. Do our rulers think that abuse is pleasant to us, or do they think that we are foolish enough to believe that we gain anything by it? Nobody gains by abuse. When Lord Curzon stigmatizes us from his place in the Council Chamber as the enemies of Government, when he takes upon himself to criticize our national works which probably he has never read, to vilify our national character which by his own admission, he does not understand, he does not gain nor does the Government gain, of which he is the spokesman. It is far from our intentions to ascribe sinister motives to Government. We are always anxious to give Government credit for what it does or professes to do for us. We are anxious to please, for we have nothing to gain by displeasing. We are so fallen, so utterly helpless, so utterly hopeless, that little things win us: a kind word, a kind deed is enough to warm the hearts that throb under a tropical sun: but even we, such as we are, cannot resist the irresistible logic of facts. We do not accuse Lord Curzon of the want of a sentimental attraction for the East, a sort of a scholar's admiration for its history, its antiquity and traditions; we do not accuse him of racial bias. Gentlemen, racial bias sometimes exists in a state of unconscious cerebration. But when we find Lord Curzon, in a solemn resolution, saying that the English race must practically monopolize the superior appointments "for they possess partly by heredity, partly by upbringing and partly by education, the knowledge of the principles of Government, the habits of mind and the vigour of character which are essential for the posts," and when we find him disclaiming all racial bias we pause and wonder. In British India, the Indian is never given a chance, but he is relegated to a back place in anticipation. Lord Curzon has referred in glowing terms to the potentiality of our civil life. We may, he says, be ministers of native states, we may be in states which through native are practically foreign to us, but in our own Government we may not even be a member of his Lordship's Executive Council. With all his sympathy and veneration for the East, has he given us a single appointment which we had not held, has he removed a single barrier, has he extended by a single line the boundary of our vision?

In the Municipality of the Metropolis of India, the control of their local affairs has been taken from the hands of the people: in the Universities, the control of their educational affairs has also been taken from the hands of the people: the higher appointments have practically been denied to them: the people have been crying for the separation of the judicial and executive functions of the District officers: it is a counsel of perfection but incapable of being carried out for want of funds. The treasury is now overflowing with money but this much needed relief has not come. These and others like them, His Lordship can hardly claim as evidences of his sympathy for the native, for his hopes and aspirations. But let that subject pass: it is no use reviving bitter memories: it is no use lamenting the "might have been and the has been."

Many questions of varying degrees of importance crowd upon my mind as I stand before you. It is not possible without being tiresome to deal with them in the course of a single speech. They will be placed before you in the different resolutions that we shall presently proceed to discuss. One of these resolutions, I notice with pleasure, is the curtailment of marriage expenses in Bengal, a subject in which Justice Chandra Madhub Ghose has taken a great and active interest and which deals with one of the greatest evils against which our society has to contend.

But there is one other matter to which I would address myself before I close. There seems to be an impression in certain quarters that political agitation in India has been tried and failed, that the Government has not moved with the degree of celerity that we wanted: that it has not moved at all and that not unoften it has gone back. The result of it all is not progress but bitterness, not success but disappointment. Leave the Government alone and let us work out our destiny in isolation. Gentlemen, such a line of conduct is neither desirable nor possible.

No doubt the difficulties of our position are great: an alien Government set up by a distant people and composed of men, few of whom know the people and their language, habits or thoughts, can hardly command the whole-hearted devotion or loyalty of the people. Its aloofness, its racial pride repel us. It turns, as it seems to us, a deaf ear to our prayers and to our legitimate aspirations. We labour under great disadvantages: for we pay the taxes which others spend, we till the soil and sow the seed which others reap: we are weak, because disunited; we are helpless, because infirm of purpose; but inspite of all these drawbacks, our efforts have not altogether been in vain. No Government, however autocratic, could stand divorced from the people's allegiance, and no

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.

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allegiance is possible without mutual understanding. The Government of India professes to consult public opinion in its measures and invites it. It is our evident duty to offer it. It is our duty to ourselves and to our country to protest against measures which we believe will be hurtful to the people; if we do not do so, we fail in our obvious duty as citizens, we let judgment go against us by default. Our silence is construed into acquiescence. I may remind you that obnoxious measures have been withdrawn or modified in deference to public opinion. Cases in point will occur to many present here. The right of the people to a share in the Government of their country has been recognized, though tardily, very tardily, I am afraid, and grudgingly. We are powerless now in the Councils of our Government but we must cherish and nourish the tiny seedling of representation that we have secured. The whole civilized world see how overwhelming are the forces of the Government against the representatives of the people and therein lies our hope. Gentlemen, we cannot let politics alone: the discussion of political questions, our very defeats and disappointments, have called the pointed attention of our people, as to how to raise themselves; we are all striving in an humble way to grapple with the facts of life, to toil and labour for the good of our country. God only knows under what discouragement. Activity is being displayed on all sides—social, religious, educational and industrial: to every lover of this country this must be a welcome sign. The educationist, the industrialist, the social and political reformer must all press forward hand in hand. One separated from the others would only weaken our ranks. The discussion of the political situation has created a public opinion that now sways India from one end to the other. An unpopular or reactionary measure sends a pulsation of motion through the tangled channels of our national life: common interests, common wants, common fears and common hopes under a common Government, are bringing together the different provinces of India. Conferences and Congresses gather together on a common platform men from all parts of the country, from Bengal to Assam, from the foot of the Himalayas as to the shores of the Sea and are silently knitting together in bands of sympathy the web which will gather the Indian races into a nation. The day may be distant, but to us has been permitted the vision of the flush, though yet faint and glimmering in the morning sky. The wheels of progress move slowly: it is for us to quicken their motion. It does not matter whether we are a conglomerate of races or a nation; words are but marks in the milestones of time. Whatever we are, we belong to India. It is a country well worth living for and well worth dying for. As the Bengalee poet sings: "From her ancient forests rose the first smoke of the sacrificial fire, from her ancient groves ascended the first incense of prayer to the throne of the All High and from her ancient shores proceeded the light which illumined the East and the West." Let us imitate the East and the West. Let us bring to her service greater earnestness, greater devotion, greater sacrifice. Let that be the rule of our life and the day of India's regeneration will not be far off.

Scientific Notes.

Professor Morosiewicz, of the Mineralogical Department of Cracow University, has discovered a new mineral, which he has named Beekolite, in honour of the Austrian mineralogist, Frederick Beck. According to Professor Morosiewicz, the new mineral does not correspond in composition with any other known, though it resembles granite, and contains many rare silicates, which enter into its composition to the extent of 76 per cent. The Professor thinks that Beekolite will be of great utility for the manufacture of chemical products, and especially of illuminants. He found it while exploring in Southern Russia, near Ekaterinoslav, among rocks known as marempolite.

Professor J. J. Thomson delivered, on March 25, his concluding lecture at the Royal Institution on "The Electrical Properties of Radio-active Substances." He said that some of these substances—thorium and radium in particular—were always giving off gas which was radio-active, radium being the more active. In the case of thorium the gas rapidly lost its activity. In the course of one minute the activity diminished by one-half, while radium took four days to descend to half its value. If they could examine each individual molecule in radium, nearly the whole would behave in a commonplace way. Only one here and there indicated a change, and that one was the source of all radio-activity. Professor Rutherford had traced many of the changes that took place in this substance. A radium atom lived for 800 years, and gave off an emanation which lived for four days. That changed into substances known as radium A, radium B, radium C, radium D, and radium E, which lived respectively three minutes, 21 minutes, 28 minutes, 40 years, and a year. Though radium was so expensive, it seemed one of the most common elements. Cambridge tap water and the soil of the ground contained large quantities, and he had found it in wheat flour. How it got there he did not know, but a specimen of flour was radio-active, and no doubt it would produce radio-active bread.

At the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, on March 24, before a crowded audience, Sir Oliver Lodge (Principal of the Birmingham University) delivered an address on "A Pertinacious Current." He described the electrical current which had been discovered as one which was persistent, would overcome great obstacles, and was gone in any direction, no matter what was placed or what stood in its way. He had been looking for such a current since 1884, and had only recently come to the manner in which it was worked and showed itself, and the current was worked and demonstrated. The gave many remarkable demonstrations. The chief of these was that of the creation and dispersal of a fog. A globe was filled first with sulphur and then compressed air, both creating an atmosphere. This being chilled produced a fog, the chilling process causing the expansion of the atmosphere. The "fog" having been made complete, a current of electricity on the principle which Sir Oliver termed a "pertinacious current," and the "fog" was ed a pertinacious current, and the "fog" was within a very short time dispelled. The lecturer paid a high tribute in the course of his remarks to the work done in connection with the discovery of the current by Sir William Crookes, of the Royal Institution, and also by Professor Aitken, of Edinburgh.

"THE FOOD OF THE GODS."

The food of the gods appears to have been discovered at last. According to a report of tests made by Dr. Clement and Dr. Huchard, formic acid can increase the strength of people in an extraordinary manner. One delicate subject, who could only raise a light weight was, after being experimented upon, able to lift five times the amount. Dr. Huchard's experiment upon himself is decidedly interesting. In two days, it is said, he doubled his strength, and in five days trebled it. To achieve this he had taken five grammes. Formic acid is a colourless liquid, found in the bodies of ants, in the hairs and in other parts of certain caterpillars and in nettles. It has a pungent smell, is highly corrosive and may be prepared artificially in many different ways. Formic acid and its salts are strong reducing agents, and precipitate metal from solution of gold, silver and mercury salts.

JIU-JITSU IN AMERICA.

The Joint Army and Navy Board, after studying the lessons of the war, have recommended the practice of Jiu-Jitsu, the Japanese form of wrestling, in the Naval Academy, at Annapolis, and the Military Academy and West Point. After the war in the Philippines it was thought that the sword was a less effective weapon for an officer than a revolver, and the use of the sword was therefore discouraged. The hand-to-hand fighting in Manchuria has proved that it is a mistake, and the Joint Board therefore recommended that the sword shall again be used by officers, but that it shall be a sword that will cut and not a mere badge of rank. President Roosevelt and Mr. Tait, the Secretary for War, have both approved the recommendations. The Navy Department withholds its approval of the recommendation concerning sword.

"SPOTTED FEVER."

The American epidemic of the mysterious disease known as cerebro-spina meningitis, or "spotted fever" as it is called, is causing an exodus of wealthy people from the towns of the affected States. Numbers are flocking to the seaside and the hills every day in the hope of escaping the dread infection. New York has been among the heaviest sufferers. Since the beginning of the year over 1,200 cases have been reported, and 700 of the patients have died. Nearly 200 deaths were reported last week alone. Among the most recent victims is President W. M. F. Potter, of the Long Island Railroad. He was attacked in the street by the epidemic, and died in 60 hours. Miss Jessie Blauvelt, of the Harlem Hospital, was attending on a number of children who were suffering from spotted fever, and although she was warned that if she did not have a rest she would herself develop the disease, she replied: "Some one has got to take care of these children; it might as well be me," and went on with her work. In spite of this she developed the disease, and in a few days she died in the hospital. The disease has completely baffled medical science. Doctors say it is due to the bacillus "Diplococcus Intracellularis," which, entering the system through the nose, attacks the brain and nerve system. But they have failed absolutely in finding any specific remedy.

A STRANGE ROMANCE.

A remarkable affair, reminiscent of the old Greek tragedies, has occurred at Appenzell. Nearly twenty years ago a young Swiss commercial traveller, named Muller, deserted his wife and infant daughter, and emigrated to Mexico, where he succeeded in amassing a considerable fortune. During his absence his wife died and the little girl was adopted by a farmer of Appenzell named Schloss. The child assumed the name of Schloss, and was generally regarded in the district as the farmer's own daughter. A year ago her father, who called himself Helder, after leaving his native country, sold out his business in Mexico, and returned to Appenzell. He was informed, and naturally believed, that both his wife and child were long since dead. Later he met his daughter, and ignorant of her identity, fell in love with her. She is now nearly twenty years old, while he is forty-one. For four months the returned wanderer wooed the girl with her consent. It was only when he asked the approval of the farmer Schloss that he learned the girl's history and recognised that he had won the hand of his own daughter. Rushing from the house, he travelled at once to Bale, whence he wrote to the former confessing everything and placing £3,000 to the girl's credit in a Zurich Bank. Nothing more has been heard of him. The daughter is heart-broken.

JAPAN AND INDIA.

A leading article in Prince Ukhtomsky's paper says curtain is slowly rising on the mysteries of Far Eastern politics. The Japanese are not playing the principal role. They are only food for the cannon—tools to hasten the realisation of the programmes of the Americans and British who are forging fetters for the Slav race. The reports that the Japanese will be called upon to defend the Indian frontier are very satisfactory, inasmuch as they mean that Russia's prestige is not altogether lost. Continuing, the article dwells on what it characterises as the treacherous role played by Great Britain from the beginning of the War. "Now, when we are beaten, the writer declares, 'we have no reason to hide behind the mask of an impartial spectator of the duel,' and in ironical language he invites the Japanese to share the fate of the sepoys to be used as a rampart against the detested and insatiable Muscovites whose fundamental ambition is to exploit the whole East. The article goes on to say that the movement of the Japanese to support Great Britain can only be received with joy in Russia, for the day on which the Japanese enter India, British influence will fall; and when Russia has recovered from the consequences of her want of success, she will begin to march towards her natural outlets on the Eastern Seas. The writer concludes by strenuously advocating a Russo-Japanese alliance, both defensive and offensive.

EVERY BOTTLE WARRANTED.

Chamberlain's Pain Balm will not cure you one cent if it does you no good. Give it a trial if you are troubled with rheumatism. One application will relieve the pain. Pains in the side or chest, soreness of the muscles or stiffness of the joints are quickly cured by applying this liniment. For sale by All Chemists & Storekeepers Price 1 Rs. 2.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

THE RUSSIAN LOSSES.

HALF A MILLION MEN.

According to the official statement of the General Staff the total Russian losses at Mukden were between 80,000 and 90,000. The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Matin" says that every one now considers that the war has lasted long enough. In this connexion he sends a striking estimate of the Russian losses both in men and money during the last 14 months. The official figures give a total of 162,100 men killed, wounded or taken prisoners in the engagements preceding the battle of Mukden. At Mukden 175,000 were killed or placed "hors de combat". This added to the 7,000 sick per month, makes an approximate general total of 435,000. The same correspondent concludes that Linerich cannot have at his disposal at present more than 300,000 men. As for the expenses, 900,000,000 roubles (290,000,000) is given as the cost of the Manchurian Railway with the keeping up of the line the losses caused by the Chinese, the construction of the city and port of Dalny, the organisation of the maritime service in connexion with the railway, and the item of Port Arthur. War expenses and foreign loans amount to 570,000,000 roubles (257,000,000), State securities 150,000,000 roubles (215,000,000), the loss of 1,450 guns, 10,000,000 roubles (1,000,000), confiscation of merchantmen 10,000,000 roubles (1,000,000), and the loss of the fleet 160,000,000 roubles (16,000,000). Thus, including the recent internal loan, the war has cost, so far, two milliards of roubles (200,000,000). Yet 5,000 Russian wounded are dying weekly at Kharbin, largely owing to want of proper care.

The correspondent of the "Matin" looks forward to peace for the month of May. The "Russkoe Slovo" says it learns from authoritative quarters that the question of an inquiry to be held in St. Petersburg into the events in the Far East is under discussion in high circles. The journal adds: "It is expected that complete light will be thrown on the events which have so profoundly stirred the public, and it is hoped that the truth will be brought out without regard to the high place of the person concerned."

Industrial Notes.

INDIAN TURPENTINE.

Turpentine is manufactured in very small quantity in India, and the quantity consumed here is also not very great. But what is manufactured is wholly a Government monopoly. In 1890 Government opened a factory for the manufacture of turpentine at Naini Tal and subsequently another at Jaunsar. The turpentine turned out by these Government factories have been declared by experts to be of as fine a quality as that imported from Europe and America. Indian turpentine is at present being used in Government Dispensaries, Hospitals and for military purposes. Not long ago, the financial secretary of the United Provinces observed that the turpentine industry had now reached a successful commercial stage and that the U.P. Government should consider what should be taken for its extension and whether it might not be more profitably conducted by private enterprise. It is therefore evident that manufacture of turpentine can no longer be continued as a government monopoly. We shall therefore be glad if the authorities will induce Indian Capitalists to take actively to this useful and important industry.

PLANTAIN-TREE FIBRE.

Plantain-tree fibre is said to be in demand in England. A ton of such fibres fetches an amount varying from £25 to £35 in the London Market. And the cost for extracting a ton of fibre together with the charges for their transmission to England comes to one hundred rupees. The business therefore is sure to yield a profit and it is highly desirable that in these days of indigenous industrial revival our countrymen will not lag behind in starting plantain-tree fibre concerns at an early date. plantain fibre extracting machine has been invented at Travancore, and experiments made with it at Pusa have proved its serviceableness. Again, the Muga fibre extracting machine has also been utilized in extracting fibres from the plantain tree. Information about the former machine can be obtained from the officer-in-charge of the Government Agricultural Farm at Pusa and that about the latter machine can be had of the "Eastern Landing, Clearing and Forwarding Company" in Calcutta.

NEEM LEAVES AS MANURE.

The Madras Agricultural Department has been engaged in the interesting experiment of testing the qualities of Neem leaves as manure. In some parts, of the south, for long have Neem leaves been used as manure with excellent results, the experiment may be made in other Provinces or the result of the Madras experiment should be taken advantage of.

A BENGALI AGRICULTURIST IN TRAVANCORE.

Babu K. Mukerjee, a young man from Bengal, is now in Travancore. He gave such satisfactory proofs of his knowledge of agriculture before the Maharaja of Travancore that His Highness has engaged him to act as the Superintendent of a model agricultural farm that His Highness has opened in his Capital. It is a patent fact that the scientific agriculturist will be indispensable in the reformed economic life of the Indian nation. He will be deemed a valued agency in the industrial regeneration of the people. It is high time for our youths to apply their attention to this branch of knowledge. Indian agricultural experts must take front rank among the most potent regenerators of India.

With regard to the apparently big landslides in the Dhooldhar Range, north of Palampur, the local view is that they are in the neighbourhood of the Nigal Gorge, in which rises the stream that flows past Palampur. The truth of this should be tested immediately in case any bunding up of the stream is taking place, which might involve a flood hereafter as the snow melts.

WHAT CHAMBERLAIN'S PAIN BALM WILL DO.

For the alleviation of pain Chamberlain's Pain Balm has no equal. Soreness of the muscles, swellings and lameness are quickly relieved by applying it. One application will promptly quiet a pain in the side or chest and nothing will compare with it as an external application for rheumatism. For the treatment of cuts and bruises there is nothing better. For sale by

All Chemists & Storekeepers Price 1 Re. 2.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN ENGLAND.

RECORDED BY INSTRUMENTS.

PROF. MILNE ON ITS ORIGIN.

Professor Milne the eminent seismologist at Shide, Isle of Wight, told an "Express" representative an interesting story how and why the Lahore earthquake occurred.

It took place, he said, on the southern side of the Himalayas, and was due to the continuous growth of these mountains. The Himalayas are formed of stratified materials which were once beneath the sea, and these materials are being crumpled up in the same way as one might make folds in a table-cover by rubbing a hand along its surface. In this process the strata are bent upwards, and when over-bending takes place there is a fracture. The fracture is accompanied by a jar or series of jars and vibrations, which constitute the earthquake. "We shall no doubt hear later," said the professor "something about the magnitude of this fracture, as it is called. It has extended many miles, with the result that the work of the trigonometrical survey will require rectification. This was the case after the great earthquake in Assam in 1897 when it was found as the result of resurveys that about 10,000 square miles had been displaced literally as much as twenty or thirty feet."

In Japan, after the great earthquake of 1891, the survivors refused to pay taxes on the ground which had been left to them, saying that it had not the same area after the earthquake as it had before. Their contention was found to be correct. We shall probably hear of a great number of secondary disturbances which will originate along the line of the newly-created 'fault,' indicating that broken and disjoined strata are settling to a state of equilibrium. These will not reach Europe or Great Britain, but will be felt in many places in North-West India. "If we look back at the history of the last 200 years we shall find that that disaster is only a repetition of what has occurred many times before."

THE WONDERFUL SEISMOGRAPH.

For the last nine years Professor Milne has resided at Shide, Isle of Wight. The professor has travelled almost all over the world, and is therefore fully acquainted with everything bearing on this fascinating subject. The Colonial Office has given encouragement, and through its medium circulars have been forwarded to the Colonies, Mr. Chamberlain being of opinion that the Colonies ought to consider the matter and determine themselves whether or not it would be an advantage to establish seismographs or earthquake instruments. The issue of these circulars was not without result. Over forty instruments are now at work, the Colonies being represented by New Zealand, Canada, Trinidad, Sydney, Melbourne, Mauritius, Cape of Good Hope. The Foreign Office results, included the United States of America, Java, and Japan, and those of the India Office, Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, besides others.

Exhibiting a strip of bromide paper which indicated the record of the Lahore earthquake, the Professor said: "The paper has been moving by means of a clockwork arrangement. Underneath the pointer of the earthquake instrument an image of the end of this pointer of the seismograph has been impressed, by means of a small light which is always kept burning, on this photographic film. When there is no earthquake this image is represented by a straight line, but when there is a disturbance, the pointer moves from side to side and gives a series of waves on the photographic film from which you can see the time of the disturbance when it reached its maximum, and when it ended."

The lines on the photographic film are very finely drawn; indeed the Professor intimated that it would take an hour at least employing a very fine pencil to take a facsimile of the record. The lines were over an inch in length in the centre of the record, indicating that the most violent shocks were experienced quite half an hour after the beginning of the disturbance.

Continuing his narrative Professor Milne said that from observations on the destructive effects of earthquakes, the knowledge obtained respecting the actual nature of earthquake motion, and from experiments made upon brick and other structures, new rules and formulae for the use of engineers and builders have been established in Japan and other countries. These have been extensively applied in the construction of piers for bridges, tall chimneys, walls, ordinary dwellings, embankments and reservoirs. Inasmuch as the new types of structure have withstood violent earth-shakings, whilst ordinary types in the neighbourhood have failed, it may be inferred that much has already been accomplished to minimise the loss of life and property. The application of seismography to the working of railways, particularly in Japan, has led to the localisation of faults on lines and alterations in the balancing of locomotives. Records of the unfelt movements of earthquakes indicate the time and position, and what is of more importance, also the course of certain cable interruptions; and the practical importance of this latter information especially to communities who may by cable failures be suddenly isolated from the rest of the world, is evident. The many occasions on which earthquake records have furnished definite information respecting disasters which have taken place in distant countries and correcting telegraphic reports relating to the same is another indication of the practical utility of seismic observations. Seismographs have frequently apprised us of sea waves and violent earthquakes in districts from which it is impossible to receive telegrams. The localisation of the origins of these world-shaking earthquakes has shown the routes to be avoided by those who lay cables. The most important scientific result obtained is dependent upon observations on the rate at which motion is propagated in various directions throughout the world. Until these observations had been made, our knowledge respecting the interior of the earth chiefly related to its density and temperature but now we know much respecting its rigidity.

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THE RANGPUR SENSATION.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Rangpur, April 21.

The following is a translation of a Bengalee petition of complaint, lodged by Jamini Kanta Sen Gupta, a student of the Bailey Technical School, Rangpur, before the Magistrate of Rangpur:—

"My complaint is as follows:—At 9-30 p.m. of the 18th April last, Mr. Smith, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Calcutta, enquired of me where the District Engineer's house was. I was in the Boarding House of the Technical School. I showed Mr. Smith the house. A little while after, the Sahib's Chaprassie came and called me to the accused. Mr. Smith began to beat me inside the Engineer Babu's house. He continued beating me outside the house. He thereby caused pain in many parts of my body. My prayer is that the accused and the witnesses (enumerated by me) may be summoned and justice be vouchsafed to me."

(Sd.) Jamini Kanta Sen Gupta."

The above petition was dealt with by Mouli Abdul Malek, Deputy Magistrate in charge, who examined the complainant on solemn affirmation. The examination supported the petition in material particulars besides eliciting the additional fact that Jamini Kanta was a new-comer to the school and the Boarding House and that he did not know whether the District Engineer, Babu Asutosh Lahiri, lived in the house with his family.

After recording the examination the learned Deputy Magistrate passed the following order:—

"This is a complaint against a European British subject. So put it up before the District Magistrate for necessary order."

17-4-05.

(Sd.) A. M. "D. M. in Ch."

The District Magistrate thereupon passed the following order:—

"To await disposal of cross-case."

(Sd.) T. Emerson, "Magistrate."

17-4-05.

The cross-case referred to above is presumably the case instituted by Mr. R. S. Finlow, a jute expert in the service of Government, against certain students of the Bailey Technical School. The alleged facts of the case, so far as we can gather, are as follows:—

At about 2 p.m., 14th April last, Mr. Finlow and Mr. D. N. Mookerjee, (Assistant Director of Agriculture in Bengal) were going in a gharry to the Rangpur Railway Station. On the way they were stopped by several

highly esteemed.

No liniment stands higher in the estimation of those who know its real value than Chamberlain's Pain Balm. There are thousands who feel that they cannot get along without it and always keep it in their homes. The balm from cuts, burns, bruises and all injuries is promptly relieved by its use. It is a most valuable household remedy. Sold by all Chemists & Storekeepers Price 1 Re.

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"Babus" who assaulted Mr. Finlow with stones and sticks. The Gharrywalla was also hurt. Mr. Finlow went back and complained to the Magistrate who ordered a police enquiry. Four boys of the Bailey Technical School have been sent up for trial. The Police theory seems to be that the boys beat Mr. Finlow by mistake, though they really wanted to beat somebody else. The case came on for hearing on the 17th April last. Before the complainant was sworn, Mr. P. K. Mukerjee, Bar-at-law, who appeared to defend the boys, put in a petition under section 526 clause (8) of the Criminal Procedure Code and prayed for an adjournment to enable the accused to move the High Court for a transfer of the case to some other District. The learned Counsel represented that the case had caused much excitement in all sections of the local community, and that the accused were under the apprehension that they might not get a fair trial in the District. The District Magistrate granted the petition, fixing the case for the 8th May next.

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Those who have tried all kinds of Allopathic, Homoeopathic, Ayurvedic and patent medicines and have received no benefit should give a trial to Dr. Biswas's Acidity Pills. Price Rs. ONE per box. Postage and packing extra.

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Puts an instantaneous stop to discharges however painful and obnoxious. Is a deadly enemy of Gonococci, the Gonorrhoea-balls. Has not hitherto been known to fall in any cases however complicated. Removes immediately all complaints about urination. Is equally effective in chronic and acute cases. Destroys the susceptibility to stricture, retention of urine, penitentials, and other horrible effects of gonorrhoea.

At once removes all agonising symptoms not to speak of itching inflammation and ulceration of the organ affected. Restores, without fail, the vital power, buoyancy and the ms sires.

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A few minutes in our office one can see patients pouring in to communicate the electric effect Healing Balm.

What the Doctors say:—

One of the Leading Medical Journals the "Indian Healing Balm" gives a most satisfactory account of the results of its use.

Dr. R. A. Laing and Co's Healing Balm is a safe and reliable therapeutic agent and one of which medical men and the general public may, without any doubt, depend.

Dr. K. P. Gupta, Col. I. M. S. M. A. M. D. F. R. C. S. (Edin) S Sc (Cambridge) J. F. H. D. (Cantab) late Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal, etc., says:—Healing Balm is almost a specific for Gonorrhoea and may be safely and strongly recommended for that troublesome and obstinate disease.