

Anrita Bazar Patrika

BI-WEEKLY EDITION—PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

VOL XXXVI

CALCUTTA, SUNDAY APRIL, 30, 1905.

NO. 31

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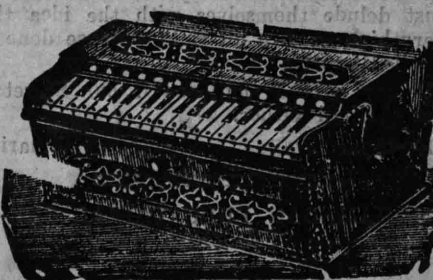
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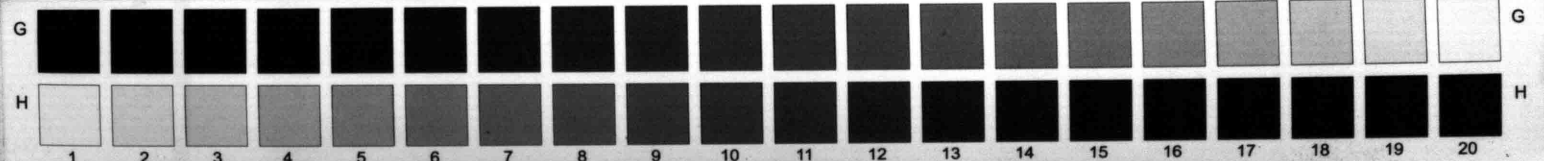
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Diary of Physician

(Special for the Patrika.)

A DRAMA IN THREE ACTS.

ACT I.

Miss D was the sister of a Colonel in the British army. The old Colonel having died a bachelor left all his property to his pet sister and this sum amounted to nearly Rs. 50,000 in hard cash. Miss D has adopted a native Christian girl by the name of Lucy and this girl she loved with all the fondness of a mother and would have bequeathed her entire property to Lucy but the latter having fallen in evil company continued to fleece Miss D. under the following pretext. At the time we are speaking of Miss D had fairly approached the period of wind-pause and as is sometimes the case Miss D laboured under a delusion that a certain Colonel H. whom she believed to be living close by but who was then actually engaged in South African war, had madly fallen in love with her. Nothing could disabuse her mind of this belief and any one who attempted in this direction was looked upon by her in the light of an enemy. While in such a state of mind she had some other ailments, more imaginary than real and did not stir out of her forlorn condition. Lucy under instruction from her associates, all of whom were men of notorious character, began to foment the false belief of Miss D. Besides she made her believe that the old Colonel who had died suddenly owed his death to some prisoners who, at the time we are speaking of, were under arrest and undergoing trial on a charge of murder. As Miss D. did not stir out of her room, she had no means to verify Lucy's statement and as such she readily believed what Lucy told her. After having made her believe all these foolish tales Lucy extorted from time to time a large sum of money from Miss D under the pretext of entertaining Colonel H. and his friends or prosecuting the imaginary case against her brother's murderers. When she was thus fleeced to an extent of nearly Rs. 20,000 the attention of the police was drawn to the matter and Lucy was arrested. But who was to prosecute her, not Miss D. On the contrary she engaged lawyers to defend her girl. The district authorities seeing this attitude of Miss D had her medically examined and declared her of unsound mind at the same time restraining the bank authorities from giving her any further money. The attitude of the district authorities compelled Miss D to depose against her girl Lucy and she was sent to jail for three years. Miss D finding herself quite helpless to fight with the district authorities made up her mind to proceed to England to live with some of her relatives and on her giving an undertaking to this effect the injunction on the bank was withdrawn. Thus closes the first act of the painful drama that we are going to narrate.

ACT II.

Miss D went to England and travelled over various parts of the continent. But all along she had been smarting under a sense of wrong that she had received at the hands of the district authorities. Her grievances were twofold. She thought that the prosecution and subsequent incarceration of her girl Lucy was quite illegal and to justify this illegality the district authorities had tried to declare her of unsound mind. To memorialise the Government on these two points and get redress she came back from England and fell under the clutches of an unscrupulous lawyer who found her a very good subject for fleecing. The lawyer whom we would call Mr. S. robbed her to an extent of nearly Rs. 1,500 under various pretexts and had formed a plan to rob her to the last farthing when the matter somehow removed from the scene to a safe retreat where nobody had access to her. But at this time Miss D having come to suspect the integrity of Mr. S. she began to correspond with another lawyer named Mr. X. who could at once see through the entire trick and disabused Miss D's mind of all the false stories that Mr. S. had concocted. Very naturally Miss D was very much annoyed with Mr. S. and wrote to Mr. X. to adopt means to compel Mr. S. to disgorge her money. Plague, however, carried off Mr. S. and the second part of the drama closed there.

ACT III.

The closing scene of this drama is written by Miss D herself and we will narrate the event as far as possible in her own words. She says: "As I have already told you I was sent to Mr. X. by two officers Colonel M. and Colonel B. from London, and believing them to be friends of mine I trusted him to a great extent. He was going to take up my case, on my arrival to India, when other big cases were offered him and then he wrote and told me that as mine was a very small case, he had no time to spare for it and asked me to make some other arrangements. After that I had nothing further to do with Mr. X. but whenever I met him out, he used to ask me if I had received my papers and to do so and so. I have already told you of Mr. S.'s going on. So I suppose it to be of no use to repeat those statements but when I came down to Calcutta, as Mr. X. pretended to be an enemy of Mr. S. (truly speaking he was all the time hand and glove with him), I wrote and asked Mr. X. if he knew of any good investment for my money which was lying idle in the Bank and he then wrote and told me to send Rs. 13,000 to—in his name—they would invest it. I complied with his request and a few days after I received a letter from him saying that he had invested the sum on 6 per cent and 8 per cent I would not have made the money over to him if he had not offered me such good interest. After that he wrote and told me that my girl Lucy appeared to be a very simple good girl and led me to understand that General H. and Col. D. with other friends were going on with my case here, that Lucy was with them and that this services had been engaged by them; and then my girl told me that they wanted some money so as Mr. X. had written to me saying that he would hand over my Bank receipts to me as soon as he came down to Calcutta. I wrote and told him that he might keep the money in his hands and give my girl or General H. and Col. D. themselves certain sums whenever they asked for them. When he came down to

Calcutta he told me to give him receipt for Rs. 500 and he would give the sum to Col. D. as General H. was ill at the time, and after taking that receipt from me, he went off to Bombay from where he wrote to say that there was no case going on, that General H. and Col. D. were not in the country, that Lucy had been telling me a lot of lies and was going about with her "Palls" and that he was off to South Africa. I then wrote to him immediately through his agents—, that if such was the case there was no necessity for him to keep my money in his hands and to send me the receipts for my money at once and that I claimed the full Rs. 18,000. To that letter as well as four or five others I never received any reply."

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

The above narrative relates to European Society and as the matter is likely to go to the court we have nothing to say for or against the merits of the case. All that we wish is that some charitably disposed European gentlemen should espouse the cause of the aggrieved lady and save her from being reduced to absolute penury.

Gya Notes

(From our own correspondent.)

Gya, April 24.

OBITUARY.

Since I wrote to you last, I am sorry I have nothing to communicate to you but the lamentable death of Babu Dabi Prosad, the youngest surviving brother of Rai Sital Prosad Bahadur and Sheristadar of the First Munsiff's Court at Gya, who fell a victim to plague on Thursday the 20th April at Tikari. He was just 37, and he had already given abundant proofs of the usefulness of his life. He had made Homoeopathy, the subject of his special study and had mastered the subject and gained experience in the science by free outdoor practice. He spent whatever he earned in Court towards purchasing medical books and medicines for distribution to the poor and the needy. He spent the greater portion of his time in ministering to the wants of suffering humanity. He distributed medicines gratis. Every morning and evening, hundreds flocked to his door for help which they readily got in him. He was possessed of a generous heart which never failed to win for him the admiration of those who knew him. As an ministerial officer of the Munsiff Court, he was liked by all. He had gone to Tikari to see his son who had been illing for some time from rheumatism. It is said that some rats died in the room occupied by the deceased, but in spite of the requests and the wishes of others, he did not remove and this, they say, has cost him his life. Besides his brothers, he has left behind him a son, a daughter and a widow to mourn his loss, which is no doubt irreparable.

PLAGUE.

It is still raging both in the old as well as in the new town. For about a couple of weeks, people thought that the new town was safe, and they returned to their homes but, as ill-luck would have it, no sooner did they return than sporadic cases began to be reported from quarters where no deaths had occurred for the last 16 or 17 days.

THE WEATHER.

It seems all the elements of nature have conspired to make the world uninhabitable. While we have deaths from plague the figures rising to an appalling total every week, and while we have shock of earthquakes ready to tell their own sad tales, the clouds gather every day above the horizon, pour forth torrents of rain with lightning and hail-storms here and there. It is doing immense damage to the crops, and it is apprehended, there would be a total failure of rain when it is most wanted. Heaven knows what is in store for us.

Khu na Notes

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Khulna, April 25.

TRANSFER OF A DEPUTY MAGISTRATE.

Babu Raghadas Chatterjee, a local Deputy Magistrate, has been transferred to some remote Bengal district. Highly educated and a brilliant scholar of the University, he has, during his short stay here, rendered himself an unpopular Hakim by his fits of temper and extraordinary procedure. His treatment of the Pleaders and Muktears practising in his court was far from desirable.

AN APPEAL TO OUR MAGISTRATE.

Senhati is a well-known village in the district. Our Magistrate wanted to introduce the "Drainage taxation" in the village, the rate of which was fixed to be equal to that of the Chowkidari tax with a view to improve its sanitary conditions. The inhabitants approached the Magistrate and so far convinced him of the excessiveness of the rate as to induce him to order its reduction. Though reduced, the tax has been a veritable engine of oppression upon the poor inhabitants. We are unable to justify the introduction of the tax in the village. We say there was no necessity for it. The alleged insanitary condition of the village does not justify the imposition of an additional taxation upon the poor inhabitants. The health of the village due to defective drains is not worse than that of other villages which have been saved from similar enforcement of the "Drainage tax." In our view neither the one is existent nor the other is necessary. If its enforcement is thought indispensable, a further reduction of the tax so as to remove the just grounds of complaint on the part of the poor inhabitants, is all that is desirable, and we beg to draw the attention of the Magistrate on the subject with a view to his reconsidering the matter.

A European complains that his trousers were whiped through the window of his house a few nights ago, and, after detailing various other mysterious happenings, he concludes:—"I might add, the ladies hear every night a diabolical sounding kind of malicious grin, as if gloating over something."

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 Great 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 redeem them." For sale by
Chamberlain & Sons, New York Price 1 Re. 2.

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 Re. 2.

Correspondence.

We would impress upon our generous correspondents the need of their writing upon one side of the paper only in bold and legible handwriting and leaving one-third margin on the left side of the paper.

AUTHORITY OF DIVISIONAL COMMISSION.

To The Editor.

Sir,—The recent circular of the Bengal Government published in your to-day's issue as well as your able leader thereon have set me a thinking on one of the important aspects of the subject. It is this:—no doubt we cannot take exception to the principle underlying the circular, viz., the placing of the ultimate control in a responsible and senior Government official so as to minimise chances of the vagaries and aberrations, moral and otherwise, of any erratic or impulsive officer in the division as well as of the undesirable consequences thereof. But, Sir, I ask in all seriousness where is the guarantee that this "responsible head" will preserve its coolness and not turn giddy with the intoxication which the possession of so much power is sure to engender? Is it not a sad fact that a Commissioner also is sometimes as much prone to jobbery and riding rough-shod over the people entrusted to his charge—not to speak of the other official vices which this circular contemplates to check—as any officer in the division? Who is to control, for example, a Commissioner who is ever inclined to mount the high horse in dealing with Indian gentlemen—an instance of which you had lately occasion to comment upon? Whom are we to look up to, Sir, when the civil head of the Division, clothed with plenary control, comes down from his Olympus and hurls down chastisement and humiliation on the devoted heads of innocent fathers for the peccadilloes and schoolboy pranks of their sons who have hardly bust their swaddling clothes? And yet such a thing did actually come to pass and is not the outcome of fancy. Does Sir A. Fraser think that a Commissioner being but one step removed from the Belvedere Satrapy, is like Royalty, incapable of doing any wrong? Where, Sir, is our remedy against evils such as I am referring to and under the load of which we have to groan now and then? Where, I ask, is the hand that will set right an erratic Commissioner? Surely not Sir A. Fraser himself—for then His Honor would not have been so solicitous to vest the Commissioners with such dangerous powers. And just fancy our difficulty under such circumstances. If we, being aggrieved, have recourse to the only remedy left us—I mean ventilating our grievances through the press, it not only defeats its own object by serving to increase the "Zid" of the Government to protect and give indulgence to the officer, but may not unoften expose the writer or the community to untold trouble and harassment. Such cases are unhappily by no means few or far between. I dare say, Sir, you are at one with me on these points and that you will, in the course of your learned criticism on this pernicious Circular, expatiate on them and thereby add another to the already long list of obligations under which you have laid us helpless mortals.

A Mofussilite.

24-4-05.

THE EDUCATIONAL "EXPERTS" IN THE PATNA DIVISION.

To The Editor.

Sir,—In my remarks published in your issue of the 4th instant, I related how a flagrant jobbery had been committed in this division in the matter of selecting text-books. We would request the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose to interpellate the Council upon the subject of this letter. The Bihar Text-book Committee consists of ten members, including the Inspector of Schools, who is the "ex-officio" President, and the Assistant Inspector, "usually" the "ex-officio" Secretary. There is more to be said about these learned gentlemen than

Bharat Vaisajyanilaya.

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—100—

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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 Kabis KASHAB 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 L. 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 can 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 Ayurvedic medicines, if properly prepared, are most efficacious for chronic diseases."

MANAGER, BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA, CALCUTTA.

you can allow me space for in a single issue so I confine my remarks to-day to the last two only, they being the most important members on the Committee. They are typical of the "experts", who guide departmental action in the matter of selecting text-books. The Government rules leave no room for choice in the matter of appointing the President of the Committee; in Behar, the Inspector of Schools must always be the office-bearer in question, whose duty it is to "decide", I quote from Government rules, "for what particular grade of schools, and for which classes in schools the various text-books may be suitable." In regard to the Secretary, the rules, however, say that the Assistant Inspector shall "usually" occupy this position. So, if our present Assistant Inspector has been appointed to this responsible post in preference to others in the province, we are justified in concluding that he must be a great educationist and a master of the "vernaculars of Behar", which means Hindi above others. Bearing these things in mind, one may well enquire as to what amount of knowledge in the vernaculars is possessed by these educational "experts", especially the Secretary, as he has been appointed by preference.

Everybody, of course, knows how deep the erudition of our Inspector is in his own tongue. He takes just pride in criticising the mistakes in English of his half-educated Sub-Inspectors and some Deputy Inspectors too. He has very naturally no faith in the M. A. degree of the Calcutta University, if won at the first chance; and the holder of it is sure to get plucked in the oral examination held by him in idiom and pronunciation, though persons of much lower educational qualifications easily get through it. However, it does not necessarily follow that a great English scholar, that Mr. Billing supposes himself to be, should also be an oriental savant. "Mahamahopadhyaya" Alex. Pedler may consider "Upadhyaya" William Billing another Grierson, but his monumental ignorance of the vernaculars of Behar is too stern a fact to be ignored by the lovers of our literature. Does the Director of Public Instruction know that the President of the Committee of his educational "experts" in Behar is utterly unable to examine boys in vernacular? Does he care to know that sometimes wily subordinate inspecting officers pass off wrong answers on him as right and get good remarks from him for their favourite "gurus" of Pathshalas? Can Mr. Billing put even a single question to a boy in vernacular? I have it from many respectable persons competent to pronounce an opinion on the subject that a considerable amount of money has been wasted on so-called inspection had better be devoted to the appointment of better teachers. But it is a digression. Now, if what I state is a fact (and any body wishing to controvert it is welcome to do so, giving facts in support of his assertions), how is it possible for our present President of the Text-book Committee to decide which are the best books in Hindi or Urdu and which are suited to which class? He must naturally be obliged to depend upon others doing the work for him. The ridiculousness of a procedure such as obtains in Behar cannot be overrated and yet the Government must delude themselves with the idea that everything goes in all right because done by so-called experts?

In my next I shall see if our Secretary knows Hindi either.

Bankipur.

Bihari.

MOHAMEDAN EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The second session of the Provincial Mohomedan Educational Conference was held on the 22nd and 23rd of April last in a big pandal erected at Paschingaon, Comilla, in the district of Tipperah. All credit is due to Khan Bahadur Ali Nawab Chowdhury, Zemindar and President of the Reception Committee, for the excellent arrangement made. The Khan Bahadur welcomed the delegates in a next nice speech. The President-elect Khan Bahadur Mirza Sujat Ali Beg could not attend the Conference owing to the fatal illness of his mother-in-law, the Begum of Murshidabad. Mouvi Mahomed Nabi, Deputy Magistrate, was elected President and he read the speech prepared by Khan Bahadur Mirza Sujat Ali Beg. A summary of the speech will be published in a future issue.

The spacious pandal was full to its utmost capacity. More than two thousand persons, including delegates and visitors, attended the Conference; and the delegates took active interest in all the resolutions proposed. The Magistrate of Comilla wires his regret at being unable to attend the meeting. The only Hindu delegate in a Mohomedan Conference was Babu Bomkesh Mustafa, Assistant Secretary of the Bangia Sahitya Parishad of Calcutta, and the interesting paper read by him about the improvement of the Bengali literature was much appreciated. Among the visitors were noticed Mr. Habibar Rahman of Lucknow, the inventor of Urdu short hand writing, and Mrs. Aziz, a European lady newly arrived in India.

The following resolutions were carried:—

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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MANAGER, BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA, SHAMBAZAR, CALCUTTA.

I. That this conference expresses its sense of profound sorrow for the calamity that has befallen to the inhabitants of the Puniab in consequence of the recent earthquake and authorises the treasurer of the central committee to transmit to the proper quarters such sum of money as might be collected here for their relief.

II. That in order to carry out the objects of the conference it is deemed expedient that proper measures be adopted for inducing the Muffasil people to form a Local Committee in each District and that "District Educational Fund" be opened for helping such local educational institutions and poor students as deserve encouragement.

III. That with a view to secure the stability of the District Educational Fund this conference suggests that greater preference and prevalence be given to the custom of "Mooshti-Bhiksha" and that the proceeds from the collection thereof be added to the aforesaid fund.

IV. That this conference generally approves of the new scheme of education for agriculturists embodied in the Govt. Resolution No. 658 dated the 7th February 1905 but takes exception to the recommendations contained therein regarding the preparation of text books for the Lower Primary Schools in provincial dialects and translation thereof from Model, English; the conference prays that the objects of the resolution has in view will be secured if the text books be written in plain and simple style but in literary languages of Bengal.

V. The in order to equip the Mahomedan students with the requirements of the age, this conference deems it desirable that English be introduced into the senior classes and Bengali into the junior classes of the Arabic Madrasah as second language.

VI. That in the opinion of this conference great importance should be attached to religious education of the Moslem boys and suggests that at least one hour, every day be set apart by the Supporter, Manager and Trustee of every Mahomedan institution for such purpose.

VII. That having regard to the large number of private Maktabas and Madrasahs in this Province and the unsatisfactory state of education imparted therein, this conference is of opinion that efficient teaching may be secured if the aforesaid Mahomedan institutions conform to the Departmental Rules and be kept under the supervision of the Education Dept. The conference therefore suggests that steps be taken to induce the owners and managers of these institutions to teach text books prescribed by the Education Department.

VIII. That in the opinion of this Conference it is expedient that there should be Inspecting Maulavis and Madrasahs in the same way as there are Inspecting Pandits for schools and pathshalas and that the Govt be approached with the prayer to employ such Maulavis and to open Moula-vi-training school on the principle of Guru-training schools.

IX. That having regard to the present injudicious use of the Mohsin-fund this Conference deems it necessary that the attention of Government be drawn to the above fact with the prayer to employ a special Mahomedan Inspector to superintend the proper distribution of the aforesaid fund.

X. That as the text-books now in vogue in schools and pathshals do not contain the topics associated with Mahomedan life, they fail to be attractive and interesting to the Mahomedans and are responsible to their feeling of indifference in respect of the present system of education. The Conference therefore prays to the Government to get new books prepared containing interesting Mahomedan topics and see that such books and suitable books written by Mahomedan authors be also taught in Government and aided schools and pathshals.

XI. That having regard to the larger number of Mahomedan-Zamindars as well as the Mahomedan population in this district, this Conference requests the Local Committee to take proper steps to open a hostel for moslem boys to prepare and submit a plan to the Central Committee.

XII. That having regard to the fact that the Arabic-students after completing their educational career have no chance of entering into Government services and can seldom get employment elsewhere for their livelihood, this Conference suggests that such students be induced and encouraged to take themselves to the study of unani medicine and that Local Committee and Central Committee as well as the Mahomedans at large to try to send to the recognised unani schools such students as will be willing to prosecute Tahabat (unani medical education).

XIII. That this Conference suggests that contributions should be made to the Central Committee from the local funds to meet the expenses of the Central Committee regarding the Conference.

OMNIBUS RESOLUTIONS.

(a) That this Conference is of opinion that a contribution from the local committee, if funds permit, be made to the hostel fund in connection with the proposed Ranchi College (b) Having regard to the larger number of Mahomedan students in the vernacular schools in Bengal and the paucity of Mahomedan members in the Central Text-book Committee, this Conference deems it desirable that a proportionate number of Mahomedan members proficient in the vernacular literature be appointed. (c) Having regard to the fact that the Mahomedan students have not succeeded in securing sufficient number of vernacular scholarships in general competition, this Conference prays that a certain number of vernacular scholarships be set apart to be competed for by Mahomedan students only.

Lieutenant-Colonel Baynon, Assistant Military Secretary to Lord Kitchener, is about to be appointed D. A. A. G. in Bengal.

Heavy rain still continues to fall at Sib-sagar. Two and a half inches fell on Tuesday night. The weather is extremely cold for the time of the year. Tea crops are seriously checked, the maximum and minimum temperatures being 77 and 31 for the last three days.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

seem to have purified themselves by inspiration from above.

Mr. E. B. HAVELL, the Principal of the Calcutta Government School of Art, as an ardent friend of the people of this country. We are, therefore, surprised that complaints of any kind should be made against his management. We dare say he will be able to explain them away, as soon as he knows the nature of these complaints. The allegation, in short, is that ever since his appointment to the Principalship of the school, Mr. Havell has been gradually transferring the scholarships and free studentships, exclusively reserved for students of higher art, to those of the Technical Art. Their exclusive nature, we are told, was always respected by Mr. Havell's predecessors in office. If this be a fact Mr. Havell must have some special reasons for departing from the established order of things. What are these reasons? They are not known; so, before introducing the alleged innovation, what we think he should have done was to make them public. In the absence of such information what occurs to the outsider is that the result of the Principal's action will be the discouragement of higher art training in the school. Here is another complaint. The fee for higher art training originally was Rs. 3, but it has been raised to Rs. 5. That this will discourage higher art training goes without saying. We also hear that no permanent teachers are provided for the students in this class, though they are made to pay an enhanced rate of school fees. The students, we are told, brought all these matters to the notice of the Principal but without avail. We trust, Mr. Havell will be good enough to send for them and try to convince them that no wrong has been done by him if he is absolutely sure of the soundness of his position. But, we fear, some screw is loose somewhere, otherwise these complaints would not have reached us at all.

We have already noticed the extraordinary procedure of Mr. Craven, the Sub-Divisional Officer of Habiganj, Sylhet, in connection with a dispute between two rival zemindars—let us call them A and B—over the possession of a piece of land. A was given possession of it by the Civil Court and he employed some men to guard the property. Thereupon both the zemindars were humiliated before the public by Mr. Craven by being converted into Special Constables in violation of the law. Now, this power of reducing respectable people into the humiliating position of Special Constables conferred on the Magistrates is a terrible engine of oppression in their hands. And the executive are every now and then tempted to abuse it at their sweet will. Here is a further development of the case as one can see from an article published in the "Weekly Chronicle" of Sylhet. Now the only fault of A was an attempt to build some houses on the piece of land of which he got possession from the Civil Court; and let us see how he had to suffer for this quite innocent and legal act. The Magistrate somehow or other imagined that there might be a breach of peace and he at once appointed both the contending parties as Special Constables. Besides he drew up proceedings against them under section 145 C. P. Code and also issued an ad interim attachment order. Now, the reader need hardly be told that all these proceedings were wholly illegal, for the Sub-Divisional Officer could neither set aside the Civil Court order, nor draw up proceedings under section 145 C. P. Code against one who was acting under the authority of a Court of law.

We have said, both the parties were enlisted as Special Constables; but B was more lucky than his rival. And why? Because, as stated by the Sylhet paper, he did, in the opinion of Mr. Craven, "a good service to the State by procuring the surrender of an absconder." A was however asked to remain a Special Constable, and what is more to go through drill as an additional penalty. And all this for having got a Civil Court decree, and acting upon it! Mr. Craven now thought of dealing more leniently with A. He therefore directed him to compromise the matter with B, and A had no alternative but to yield. However when the time came for the parties to sign the terms B refused to do it unless he got better terms. A was now so disgusted that he preferred drill to submitting to the terms dictated by B.

But quite unaccustomed to this kind of rough work and having been ill for a long time. A soon broke down and asked the Hospital Assistant, who was under Mr. Craven, to give him a medical certificate to enable him to obtain leave. The Hospital Assistant refused it; but succeeded in securing one from the Civil Surgeon. Mr. Craven had now no help but to grant A one month's leave. But, says the writer in the Sylhet paper, Mr. Craven took his revenge upon the Civil Surgeon by "discrediting him in the open court." A next appealed to the Deputy Commissioner of the District who set aside the Sub-Divisional Officer's order with the remark that the appellant was perfectly within his rights to erect sheds on the plot of land in question, and that if any body was to blame it was B and not A.

In regular course when the appeal of the proceedings under Sec. 145 Cr. P. Code, came up for hearing before the High Court, the Hon'ble Judges remarked "If the facts which are stated in the petition of the second party (A) before us be true, namely, they obtained a decree as late as the 28th. January last, it is clear that the Magistrate's duty would be either to drop the proceeding or to make an order directing that the possession as given by the decree should be maintained." Mr. Craven however did quite the reverse of that, in the opinion of the High Court, he should have done. Indeed, there can be no doubt whatever that Mr. Craven has been guilty of a gross dereliction of his duty from whatever standpoint the case may be looked at. Doubtless the Hon'ble Mr. Fuller will call for the records of the case and judge whether it is safe any longer to allow Mr. Craven to be in charge of an important Sub-Divisional like Habiganj if the allegations made against him are true. The case is a living instance of the gross impropriety of the union of the judicial and executive functions in the same person. It also goes to prove the contention of Sir Henry Cotton that Europeans and Eurasians, with honorable exceptions, are not fit to discharge the duties of Sub-Divisional officers.

One of the most important industries in Upper India is the silk industry of Kashmir. It is an industry with a history of nearly 400 years behind its back having been mentioned by Mirza Haider in 1636. The industry had never been allowed to improve except in a spasmodic and desultory fashion till in 1869, Maharaja Ranbir Singh made some resolute attempts to revive and improve the industry. He succeeded partially but owing to some cause or other it had decayed till in 1897, it was practically non-existent. But to that year may be attributed the beginning of the improved silk industry of Kashmir. It was in that year that Sir Thomas Wardle in a beautifully illustrated volume called "Kashmir, its new silk industry" drew the attention of the Government and induced them to exert for the resuscitation of the dead art. Sir Thomas Wardle has been indefatigably working for the revival of the industry ever since the year 1885 for it was in that year that he was sent to Bengal to report on the sericulture of this province and collect specimens for the Exhibition in London of 1886. It must be admitted that it is mainly through the instrumentality of this noble Englishman that Kashmir has been able to tap an important source of revenue. Sir Thomas travelled through France and Italy for the express purpose of purchasing eggs and cocoon-reeling machinery but he also visited, we are told, Kashmir and Jammu to advise the Durbar upon the planting and care of mulberry trees, the use of the microscope, the method of feeding the worms and hatching the eggs, and the introduction of hand-loom. It was no up-hill work for Sir Thomas to satisfy both the India office and the Kashmir Durbar of the necessity for the use of modern specialised machinery, the adoption of which has placed Kashmir silk upon a footing with Japanese silk. What is still more encouraging is that Kashmir silk is in some quarters, being given the preference. Firms in Europe who at one time would not have it on any account in deference to their prejudice against sub-tropical Bengal silk are now eager to have it in any quantity. The largest firm of raw silk distributors in Europe held no less than 60 bales of Kashmir silk last year and was prepared to take in any quantity Kashmir might produce while a rival firm at Lyons in France is ambitious of outdoing the former by opening up direct business with Kashmir. The Kashmir poorer population owe a deep debt of gratitude to Sir Thomas Wardle and to him alone are due the thanks of the Kashmir authorities.

Our readers have already been told that the circular published by the "Sanjivani" was in our possession for several weeks before its publication; and that without publishing it, we sent a copy of it with a covering letter to the Hon'ble Mr. Carlyle. The latter has been pleased to send the following reply to the letter of the publisher of this journal in which he enquired of two things, first, whether the circular subordinating the District Judges to the Divisional Commissioners was correct or not, and whether or not it could be safely published:—

"I return the enclosed circular. I have not compared it with the official circular to see whether it is textually correct, but it appears to be substantially a true copy of the orders issued by this Department. You are at liberty to do as you please about publishing it.—23rd April, 1905."

As the letter reached us three days after the publication of the circular in these columns, the information contained in it is not of any value to us now. May we enquire why was not the circular in question communicated to the press when it was of such grave importance to the public? The policy of secrecy, inaugurated by the present Government, is as much at the root of the unpopularity of the present Lieutenant-Governor as the number of retrograde measures introduced by him without paying any regard to public opinion.

MR. CARL HEATH has contributed an interesting article on "Capital Punishment and Reform" in the last number of the "Human Review." The writer is opposed to capital punishment, which, according to him, is essentially a great wrong done to society, whatever it may be as regards the criminal, and the punishment therefore should be abolished primarily in the interests of society. Mr. Heath divides murder cases into two classes, and he holds the death sentence should be reserved for only deliberate murders. There are many different kinds of murders, varying with age, sex, type and environment. Capital punishment should, says he, on no account be applied to the case of the following types of murder (a) murder by children; (b) infanticide; (c) murder by women who are envious; (d) murder by privy to an attempt to procure an abortion which results in death and (e) murder due to passions resulting from great provocation or other extenuating causes. In this country and murder justifies a Judge to pass capital sentence upon the perpetrator of the deed. The result is that nowhere are people hanged with such a light heart as here. In this connection, it may be interesting to note that the Jains in Mysore are advocating that hanging as a legal punishment should be abolished.

A new urinal has recently been erected at the South-West corner of the Wellington Square. This has two chambers, one intended for Europeans and the other for the Indians. We find that, on the direction plate attached to the latter, the word "Native" is boldly printed. Now, it is well-known that the term "Native" is resented by all respectable Indians as one expressing contempt. Such being the case, we wonder why the word "Native" was substituted for the more appropriate word "Indian." In India alone, the spectacle is seen of an employee, when he is an European, having the privilege of calling his Indian bread-giver a "Native." Will some Municipal Commissioner ask of the present autocrats of the Municipality if the use of the word "Native" was made with their approval and sanction?

MR. GREER, the Chairman of the Corporation, and Sir Andrew Fraser intend to introduce the London Borough Councils for the administration of the municipal affairs in Calcutta, whatever they may mean. We have not the slightest idea of what they are like; but on behalf of these institutions, it is contended that they must be good when they obtain in London. The question is argued in this fashion. Whatever is good for the citizens of London must be good for those of Calcutta, and since the Londoners have benefited by the Borough Councils, the Calcuttians must also do the same. But

have the Londoners benefited by this system, and is there no difference of opinion in regard to it amongst themselves? We don't know. Granting that the Borough Councils have proved a real boon in London, is it the intention of the Government to introduce the London system here in its entirety? That is the point before us. In London, we believe, the Borough Councils are controlled by the representatives of the rate-payers. In Calcutta, they will be controlled by the nominees of the Government! So it means nothing indeed. Following this principle, even a Republican system of Government can be conferred upon the Indians by the British Government. For instance, the British rulers may very well allow us the privilege of having a President and a Cabinet of our own to rule the country; only withholding from us the privilege of electing the President and the members of the Cabinet, and kindly selecting them for our benefit! The Americans have a President and a Cabinet. But, in that country, the president and the members of the Cabinet are elected by the people. As a matter of fact, we have already a republican system of Government here in India; only its members are not elected by the people but selected for them by the members themselves. These members, in short, appoint themselves and arrange their own pay, the scale of their pensions, and leave rules. The duty of the people is only to pay taxes and obey laws. Mr. Greer is going to give us the London system of Municipality. But will the Borough Councils be controlled by the rate-payers or the officials? Of course by the officials or their nominees!

SCRAPS

The Hon'ble Mr. Venkatrao has had the generosity of placing the public "Hall" he has built at a cost of Rs. 10,000 at the disposal of the Provincial Conference Committee at Bellary and it is in this hall that the Conference will be held in the middle of the next month.

The recent frost is said to have done great damage to the crops in some parts of the Punjab. In view of bringing relief home to the poor cultivators the Government have issued orders to the effect that those whose crops have sustained damage would at once be allowed a suspension of revenue and if the damage caused appears to the Collector to be so great as to call for a remission of revenue the District Officer should make no delay in bringing the matter to the notice either of the Commissioner or of the Financial Commissioner to the Government for orders. This is as it should be.

H. H. the Thakore Sahib of Gondal has made a munificent offer of five lacs of rupees, a free grant of 300 acres of land and an annual grant of Rs. 35,000 to the proposed Tata Institute. But the princely grant is conditional upon the Institute being located at Gondal. The Thakore Sahib has in fact bid one better than the Maharaja of Mysore in that he offers Rs. 5,000 more than the Mysore State as annual grant. The Thakore Sahib is a highly educated Prince and his love of science is well-known and gains further evidence from the fact of this magnificent offer.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce have addressed a letter to the Government of Bengal in the Municipal Department promising its support if the Government were to institute the measure of the extermination of rats in order to eradicate plague altogether. They approve of the measure as having done great good wherever it has been given effect to such as in Sydney and other parts of Australia and nearer home of the East India Railway and Bengal Coal Companies' collieries at Giridih. The Chamber is of opinion that since plague among rats invariably precedes the outbreak of the disease among human beings the adoption of a measure such as this is bound to succeed.

The Bombay Government is quite alert on the subject of the scientific improvement of agriculture in the Presidency. With the sanction of the Government of India, the Bombay Government appoint three agricultural experts and extend the botanical side of the gardens at Ganeshkhind. Government have also resolved to hold an agricultural conference annually and distribute leaflets for the diffusion of knowledge on the science of agriculture. Additional staff of European agricultural chemists and economic botanists is to be appointed and assistants given them from the ranks of native agricultural experts. It has been decided to extend the Karkse experimental farm and to make it a really useful institution by the addition of a museum, a library, chemical and botanical laboratories and modern agricultural implements. With these additions the Karkse farm gives promise of a useful future. Other experimental farms also are to be established at Dharwar, Dhule, and Mirjun Khas in Sind.

Judging from the Report of the Bombay Mill Owners Association the year under review is a satisfactory one. Nowhere in the world is individual or corporate prosperity such a common thing that it should be passed over without a word of appreciation. The most gratifying feature of the Mill Industry of Bombay is that it is almost exclusively financed by native capital conducted by native skill and managed by native ability and despite heavy excise duties imposed by a paternal Government, the formidable competition with Japan and other countries into which it has had to enter, it has flourished during the past year. The depreciation of silver and the desolate attempts of the American millionaires have had not a little to do with the extremely indifferent nature of the prosperity of the Mill Industry of Bombay in the past—so much so that shareholders regretted having put their money in it and investors became cautious. But the present report is a pleasant reading. In both the departments of spinning and weaving industry showed decided progress. There were a large increase of spindles and as many as 1011 looms were added while the rest of India could not boast of more than 234. There has been a very large increase of export to foreign countries and the increase is calculated to be nearly 17 times as much as in 1903. The present war between Russia and Japan has, it is supposed, increased the purchasing capacity of the Chinese who give preference to the output of Indian mills.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS

London, April 7.

THE CALAMITOUS EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA.

This week has afforded one of the rare instances in which India is permitted to occupy the most prominent place in the British press; even the war in the Far East, the German Emperor's journeyings, and the situation in Russia have been relegated to secondary positions in the newspapers. India has stood first, but the reason of her pre-eminence is a great disaster. Sympathy has not been wanting; scarcely a journal has not expressed in its editorial columns deep regret for the calamity from which N. W. India is now suffering. Even yet we do not know many particulars, and it is feared that the death roll will amount up and up as details are forthcoming. The illustrated papers have published pictures of Lahore and other stricken towns; this morning we hear that Lady Curzon had a narrow escape at Simla; and the India Office as yet cannot supply the assuring information for which many are hungering, namely, that their relatives are safe. It is a matter of interest to find that "Zadkiel," the prophet, foretold the earthquake in his "Almanac for 1905," published last October. The forecast ran thus: "About the 74th degree of east longitude, where Saturn is on the fourth angle (lower meridian, at the lunar eclipse of February 19) a sharp shock of earthquake will soon be felt, most probably at the latter end of March or beginning of April." Lahore is in 74 deg. 16 min. of east longitude. This fact, says "Zadkiel," accentuates the reality of planetary influence on the earth and its atmosphere.

In connection with the manifestation of this power of Nature, I turned to that most interesting work, "Natural Law in Terrestrial Phenomena," in which Mr. William Digby set forth Mr. Hugh Clements's theory for forecasting not only weather but "Natural Phenomena," among them, earthquakes. Those chapters devoted to earthquakes repay most careful perusal. It is abundantly proved that the position of the moon and its tangential pull are dominant features in earthquakes. A great many instances are given to show that wherever in the world an earthquake occurs, the position of the moon is almost identical. Among them the Calcutta earthquake of June 12, 1897, is compared with that which occurred at Hereford, England, on Dec. 17, 1896, and, after a series of calculations and diagrams, the summing up is: "There is thus a remarkable agreement in every particular of the circumstances under which these two earthquakes occurred." Scientific men, however, manifest a remarkable apathy towards lunar influence in the matter of earthquakes; they prefer to search for their causes beneath the surface of the earth.

Professor Milne has been telling interviewers during the past few days that the Lahore disaster is the result of the crumbling of the earth's surface owing to cooling from within. I will try to send you Mr. Clements's opinion by next week's mail. His theory has been proved correct in so many cases, that it is to be regretted that scientific men will not regard it more favourably. An unexpected confirmation of the lunar influence on rainfall came only a week or two ago from Australia, where a lone observer reached conclusions that corroborated those of Mr. Clements in certain details. The observer wrote to Mr. Digby to express the delight that "Natural Law in Terrestrial Phenomena" had afforded him, and his recognition of the immense value of Mr. Clements's discoveries. He was not aware that even when the letter was written Mr. Digby's course on earth was over. The importance to the whole world and its varied phases of being able to forecast not only rainfall but great disturbances of Nature should be recognised, but everyone is so taken up with his own concerns that discoveries in this direction pass almost unnoticed. Yet they are, putting them on the lowest grounds, important financially; when not only lives but property might be saved, the matter should touch people in the most vulnerable spot: the pocket. But Mr. Clements has still to wait for the day when his work will be hailed as marvellous. To-day all that is done, when a calamity like that in India happens, is to render assistance to the sufferers and show sympathy for their grief.

"A JUDICIAL MIND" AND INDIA.

"I was told that I was an exception to my military caste in understanding the native, but then, being also a barrister, I had more or less a judicial mind."

These are the concluding words of "an officer's view of the problems of our rule in India." They were called forth by the recent interview with Mr. Samuel Smith, M. P., in which the hon. Member expressed himself strongly with regard to the further employment of Indians in the Civil Service, to the need for preparation for self-government in India, and for a periodical enquiry into the condition of India as was the case under the Company.

Mr. Smith declared that though there was discontent in India there was no disloyalty, but that unless concessions were made the discontent may ripen into something ominous. This remark moved, "H.A.M.," the military officer just mentioned, to write to the "Westminster Gazette" on the subject. He tells that he was in Bombay for the Congress in December last, but does not consider that the discontent is serious. He agrees that there is a very general desire among educated Indians to take part in the administration of the country. A great many who successfully pass through a University, he declares, are not suitable for official posts, but he adds: "In spite of this it must be admitted that the natives are not given sufficient opportunities to enter the public services." He continues, with a naivety which is amusing and frank, to give the reason: "No doubt it is a difficult matter," he says, "and naturally Englishmen wish to keep appointments open to our own people." He speaks with knowledge and authority on the subject of the army, and his opinion is that "there would be no danger in allowing natives to command a certain number of Indian regiments."

British rule in India is to be preferred to Russian, but Russia allows those whom she rules to rise to any rank, even to that of Viceroy. This England does not do in India. The officer gives a brief account of a conversation he had with an Indian gentleman as to Indian grievances, and when the latter declared that the key-note of complaint was the treatment of Indians by Englishmen in India, "H. A. M." remarks that

there is truth in the assertion and he agrees with it. The kindness shown in England to Indians is followed by snubbing and a length treatment in India. "You come to India," said the Indian gentleman, "you blame our ways, our shoddiness; you beat and abuse your servants because they do not understand your Western customs, and often do not understand your bad Hindustani." "Englishmen in the East generally did not, or would not understand the native," this is the comment of the officer which led to the remark that opens this paragraph. It is well that there are military officers whose minds are judicial as well as military; such officers were plentiful in past days, but the Imperialism of to-day is responsible for the dominating and over-bearing spirit which disgraces many Britishers abroad.

Calcutta and Mofussal

Legislative Department.—Mr. Payne, Registrar of the Civil Secretariat, Punjab, officiates as Registrar of the Legislative Department, of the Government of India.

Deferred Telegram.—The proposal to place deferred telegrams on the same footing as urgent and ordinary telegrams by allowing ten words for the unit charge of four annas, inclusive of the addresses, instead of six words in the address and four in the text, has been considerably advanced and is about to be sanctioned.

Capture of Live Rats.—The following notice has been issued by Dr. Frederick Pearce, M.D., D.P.H., officiating special health officer, Calcutta, from 13, Chowringhee:—"For every living rat caught in Calcutta and delivered at the Incinerator Station (Moulali Durga) Entally a reward of two pice will be given. The Station will be open daily, Sundays excepted, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m."

Plague Figures.—On Thursday there were 104 cases and 97 deaths. The attacks and deaths were distributed as follows:—District I (Wards 1 to 4 and 6) Cases 27 deaths 28; District II (Wards 5 and 7 to 12) Cases 27 District III (Wards 13 to 17 and 19 to 20) cases 19 deaths 20; District IV (Wards 18 and 21 to 25) cases 23 deaths 18; The average mortality on that day was 184, the quinquennial figures being 142.

Suit Against a Raja.—At the High Court on Friday before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sale, Babu Monohor Lal Seal of Messrs. Morgan and Co., applied for the admission of a plaint on behalf of Mandie Grimby, against the Raja of Katikola, in the District of Ganjam, for the recovery of Rs. 7,600 and odd due by the plaintiff for the goods supplied to the Raja. His Lordship admitted the plaint and ordered written statements to be filed.

Adolphus vs. Adolphus.—At the High Court, before Mr. Justice Sale, Mr. Thornhill, instructed by Messrs. Leslie and Hinds, applied on behalf of the petitioner in the divorce suit of J. L. Adolphus vs. Florence Mary Adolphus for an adjournment and for liberty to add the name of the co-respondent, Dowling. His Lordship said that the petition could only be amended by a petition being put in, but he could grant the adjournment asked for. The matter was then allowed to stand over with liberty to the parties to mention.

A Divorce Suit.—Before Mr. Justice Sale at the High Court Mr. Walter Gregory applied on behalf of the petitioner in the divorce suit of Elizabeth Vauquelin vs. Arthur Henry Evelyn Vauquelin for an order for alimony pendente lite. Counsel asked that the matter might be referred to the Registrar to inquire into and report what is the proper amount to be given to the petitioner as alimony pending the hearing of the suit. The suit was filed on the 8th instant for dissolution of marriage on the grounds of cruelty and adultery and for the custody of the infant children. On the 14th instant the citation was served on the respondent, but he had not entered appearance. The petitioner is at present without any means of support and since the filing of the petition had been living, together with her infant children, on the charity of her father and mother, and the respondent, who is employed in the firm of Messrs. Bird and Co., had not been paying anything towards their support. The petitioner was obliged to file a suit for judicial separation against the respondent in 1901, but she withdrew it. Since then the respondent had been guilty of frequent acts of cruelty towards the petitioner, and in consequence she was induced to file the present suit. The respondent is in the receipt of a fixed income besides commission which amounted to more than his salary, so that no order could be made for alimony without a reference to the Registrar. His Lordship granted the application in terms of the petition.

A Daring Fraud in a Railway Station.—On Friday before the Sub-Divisional Officer of Baraset one Bidhu Bhusan Sircar, Assistant Station Master of Nowpara of the B. C. Railway and Bidhu Bhusan Ghose, flying ticket checker of the same line were charged with criminal breach of trust and cheating in respect of some money belonging to the Railway Company. It is stated that on the night of the 22nd March last eleven passengers wanted tickets from Nowpara to Calcutta and paid Rs. 16. The Assistant Station Master told them that there were no tickets in the Almira, but that he would have them safely seated and arrange for their getting down at Sealdah. He also returned them the change of annas five out of Rs. 16 which would be due to them after paying for their fares. In the meantime the train steamed into the station and he had some conversation with the other accused who was travelling by the same train. Both the accused then asked the passengers to get into the trains. At the Dum-Dum Cantonment Station the accused Bidhu Bhusan Ghose purchased eleven tickets from Dum-Dum Cantonment Station for Sealdah and handed them to the passengers. They got down at Sealdah and their tickets were collected there. The ticket collector suspected them to be pilgrims coming from a long distance and questioned them. The passengers told him that they were coming from Nowpara and going to Gya. He then asked them as to how they had got the tickets from Dum-Dum. The passengers pointed out that the accused Bidhu Bhusan Ghose who was then going out of the station, as the man who had given them the tickets. The accused was then and there arrested and the whole fraud was subsequently disclosed. Babu Nundo Lal Mookerjee appeared for the first accused and Babu Bankim Chander Sen, for the second. The trial is proceeding.

COTTON FORECASTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Simla, April 28.

The following resolution upon the forecast of cotton crops has been issued: In their resolution No. 29 dated the 26th Nov. 1902 the Government of India pointed out the incompleteness of the statistics published in the official forecast of the cotton crop and made some proposals for the improvement of the methods of their preparation having now considered the reports made by local Governments of the action taken upon these proposals and having also received suggestions on the same subject from the Manchester Cotton Association, they have decided to endeavour to meet the requirements of the mercantile public for more complete and accurate information by prescribing the following arrangements for the preparation of the cotton forecasts in supersession of those now in force. The value of these forecasts has hitherto been seriously impaired by the omission from them of some important cotton-growing tracts. Arrangements have been made in pursuance of the resolution above quoted to include information for certain parts of British India such as Assam, Ajmere, the zemindari areas of Madras and parts of Bengal for which forecasts were hitherto not prepared. The preparation of complete returns has also been undertaken in Hyderabad, Mysore and the Native States under the Agents to the Governor General in Rajputana and Central India and the Government of India hope that steps will now be taken for the supply of information from the Native States under the Governments of Madras, the United Provinces and the Punjab. When the preparation of forecasts has been secured from these additional areas, no part of India where cotton is grown in other than negligible quantities will be omitted so that the defect of incompleteness which has hitherto marred the utility of these returns will be removed.

The Government of India are pleased to observe that in several provinces improvements of system have already been made by which it is hoped that greater accuracy will be secured in the estimates of area. They recognize that in some tracts the available agency does not permit of the collection of accurate statistics of area but they hope that no efforts will be spared to furnish estimates as accurate as possible, for a correct estimate of area is more useful to the commercial world than an estimate of yield. The tabular data in the forecast as registered in the Director's office should specify separately the figures based upon ascertained data for surveyed areas and those based upon approximate data for unsurveyed areas; but it will not be necessary to make the distinction in the published returns where cotton is largely grown as a mixed crop. The additional uncertainty of area and yield requires special efforts to secure accuracy under the system prescribed for British India. The Director of Land Records maintains a register of the standard normal output per acre and calculates therefrom the estimated output of the season. On receiving the local estimates of the relation borne by the season's output to the normal so far as the normal standards are concerned they have been revised in most provinces with considerable care but they are no doubt still imperfect and the Government of India desire to emphasise the importance of collecting more information and of making further revisions from time to time after an examination of the trade statistics, the results of crop experiments and the actual outputs obtained on government farms and other available data. The main source of error in the estimate of yield appears however to be the Government of India to lie in the inaccuracy of the estimates made by the local reporting agency of the relation between the season's output and the normal. Such an estimate is difficult to make owing to the extremely large variations in output due to differences of season, the yield of good years being generally much understated. It has also been suggested that this defect is due to the difficulty that the subordinate Agency experience in comparing the prospects of the harvest with a visionary standard of a normal crop which they may never have seen and that they would give more accurate information of the expected output by comparing with the output of the previous year of which they and their informants must have fairly accurate recollections. Their estimate of the year's crop would thus not be given in the form of a percentage of the normal crop, but they would state how much better or worse than in the previous year the output per acre promised to be. It is understood that this is the method which commercial firms ordinarily follow in obtaining information from their local agents and the method should be given a trial by any local government by whom the suggestion is proved, a report being made to the Director General of Commercial Intelligence after two years experience of it. No change will however be made for the present in the form of the forecasts published by local governments and submitted to the Director General of Commercial Intelligence.

It may be noted in this connection, that in some provinces considerable help in estimating the yield is received from non-official business firms, small traders, members of District boards and the like, and an extension of the system is recommended for the consideration of Local Governments. In view moreover of the fact that the final forecast shows the estimated yield of cleaned (Ginned) Cotton in bales of 400 lb., it must be remembered that the percentage of lint to seed varies considerably in different varieties of cotton and to a smaller extent in the same variety from year to year. Care should be taken to secure accuracy in this factor. Ginning factories can often give valuable information in this point.

A most important aid to accuracy in future forecasts is an examination of the inaccuracies of preceding forecasts. It would seem that some Directors rest content with making as accurate a forecast as possible at the time without submitting it to a further examination at the close of the season. A comparison of the forecast with the actual information regarding the actuals should be made annually with a view to the location of any error and the issue of instructions to guard against its repetition in many provinces. A most valuable check is available in the trade statistics of the year by comparing the estimated yield with the net exports and consumption in mills (an allowance being made for wastage). There are no reliable data for estimating the local consumption for handspun yarn, winter garments, mattresses, lampwicks cordage and the like but this class of consumption must be borne in mind. If errors are discovered

by such examination, the corrected figures should be used in the compilation of the next forecast.

The value of the forecasts published under existing arrangements is moreover materially diminished by the want of uniformity on the dates prescribed for their publication by the failure to issue them punctually on these dates and by the fact that different tracts are included in each of the various forecasts issued in order to attain the uniformity of dates so essential for commercial uses, for cotton forecasts will in future be issued by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence at uniform intervals of two months, viz. On the 15th August, 15th October 15th December and 15th February. No effort will be spared by the statistical Department of the Supreme Government to ensure punctuality in publication but they must rely upon the punctuality of the Local Governments and Native States from whom they derive their information and it is essential that the Director General of Commercial Intelligence should receive the local forecasts without fail by the 10th day of the month above specified. The Government of India trust that the local governments and states concerned will co-operate heartily in securing absolute punctuality in the observance of these dates. The fact that the various forecasts deal with different tracts of country is due partly to the fact that the cotton crop is sown and matures at different periods in different parts of India and partly to the desire of the Government of India to avoid harassing local officers by insisting upon reports that are not absolutely necessary. The Government of India are however anxious that future reports should cover the whole of India and for the attainment of this object would wish four forecasts to be supplied annually for each province or state upon the four dates above mentioned. It is not intended however that in all tracts each forecast should involve the imposition of work upon local officers in provinces or states which are now for the first time supplying forecasts. It will not be necessary unless the local staff is available and able to undertake the work to call for more than one of the forecasts from the local staff and in provinces or states which are now called on to supply a larger number of forecasts than heretofore. It will not be necessary if the demand for further information from the local staff is thought undesirable to call on that staff for more forecasts than before. In cases when the local staff is not called on for a forecast the required information should be supplied by the head quarters office of the province or agency concerned in the basis of previous returns subject to such modifications as are indicated by a general knowledge of the conditions of the weather etc. In the same way for provinces where early cotton alone is grown the final forecast for February will consist of a repetition of the December forecast with such changes in the statistics as may have come to the notice of the head quarters office since their issue. The August forecast showed as hitherto contain an estimate of the area sown with the early crop as compared with the normal estimated area at that time with remarks as to the general condition and prospects of sowings. The October forecast showed certain a corrected and completed estimate of the area of the early crop and the savings to date of the late crop together with a report on the condition and prospects of both crops in cases where it has not been customary hitherto to give in October any figured estimate of the output either in bales or in the form of a percentage of the normal so such estimate need now be given. In the December forecast the area and estimated output of all the cotton sown to date should be given in the tabular form prescribed in appendix 2 of this resolution and a comment on the figures should be given in the letter press. In the February forecast the area tabular form should be used and the area and condition of the harvest up to date should be reviewed. When quantitative estimates of output are given it should be understood that these represent the expected output of the area which has been sown up to date and not necessarily the total output of the year. It is recognised that forecasts based on these returns will include data of varying value but this is inevitable in a country so varying in its conditions as India and the reports issued under these revised instructions will have the merit of representing for the first time forecasts of the cotton crop not merely in certain provinces and states but in the whole of India. The Government of India are also of opinion that in the forecasts published both by local governments and by the central office sufficient regard has been given to the necessity for business purposes of a brief report of general conditions in a clear and concise form rather than an elaborate summary of the local information available. It is requested that the local directors of land records and the Director General of Commercial Intelligence may bear this consideration in mind.

In order moreover to make the forecasts of greater value for use outside India it is desirable to indicate the degree etc. which the figures apply to each of the main commercial varieties of cotton (Benigals hingabhat Tinnivellys etc.). In some provinces (as in Madras and Bombay) the varieties are already shown in the provincial returns the whole produce of a district being presumed to belong to the variety which is most prevalent in the district. It is not thought advisable to prescribe this procedure as necessarily to be followed in all provinces as the entry of details for the various growths of cotton in the tabular returns may be looked upon as claiming for the classification a greater amount of accuracy than it would in many cases possess but it is believed that in most cases directors will have little difficulty in ascertaining approximately the manner in which the provincial totals of area and estimated output should be divided among the various main growths and where this is feasible they should indicate in the letter-press of their reports the approximate totals under each commercial variety of the crop. The tabular statement issued with the Imperial return will be somewhat simplified but the forms adopted in the provincial forecasts should for the present be maintained unchanged. It has however been observed that the quinquennial and decennial averages for area an output are sometimes affected seriously by the fact that the period adopted include one or more famine years. In such cases it will be open to the officer compiling the return to append in a foot note the provincial average for the five or ten years in question as they would stand after the omission of famine years. It is hoped that the measures above described will lead to improvement in the forecasts of the cotton crop and it is expected that the data on which the forecasts are based will gradually become more uniform and trustworthy. The arrangements now prescribed should be followed in preparing the cotton forecasts of 1905.

GAZETTE OF INDIA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Simla, April 28.

Major Phillott, 23rd Cavalry, officiates the Secy. Board of Exrs. vice Col. Ranking.

Lt. Murray, I.M.S. is appointed Health Officer, Simla.

Rev. Thomas is appointed Junior Chaplain, Lahore establishment.

Rev. H. O. Moore, Senior Chaplain retires from service.

Capt. Dawson is appointed Supdt., Civil Vety. Dept. Baluchistan.

Mr. A. R. Tucker, Registrar, is granted privilege leave for one month. Mr. Sissart officiates.

Mr. Barry, Forest Dept. Ceylon, is appointed Asst. Conservator, Civil Works.

Mr. Bucknill, Asst. Engr. retires from service.

Mr. Mears is appointed Electrical Adviser to Government of India.

Mr. Welsh, Ex-Engr. is transferred from Assam to Punjab and Mr. Bird from Punjab to Burma.

Lt. Lorimer Consul at Ahwaz is granted six months' leave.

Mr. Wagle officiates as Dy. Acctt. Genl. Madras vice Mr. Dewar on leave.

Mr. Prichard officiates as Controller, Post Office vice Mr. Anthony on seven months' leave.

Mr. Middlemiss (Geological Dept.) is granted six months' leave.

Messrs. K. A. R. Hallows, G. De. P. Cotter are appointed Asst. Supdt., Geological Dept.

Mr. Clifford Dy. Exr. is granted three months' leave.

Mr. O. G. Kiermandar officiates Asst. Traffic Supdt. N. W. Ry.

Mr. T. W. Payne from the Punjab Secretariat, is appointed sub-protem Registrar, Legislative Department, India vice Mr. Marshall posted temporarily to the Foreign Department.

THE EARTHQUAKE.

JAPAN'S SYMPATHY WITH INDIA.

A PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Simla, April 28.

The following press Communique has been issued:—

Mr. Hayashi, the Japanese Consul at Bombay, visited Simla on the 21st instant to convey to the Viceroy a message of sympathy from the Japanese Government in connection with the recent earthquake in northern India. The message read as follows: "My government on being informed of the great disaster caused by the recent earthquake in this country ordered me to hasten to the seat of the Indian Government and to convey to your Government their deep sympathy. I deem it therefore a great honour now to tender to your Excellency on behalf of my government the most profound and cordial sympathy for this catastrophe. His Majesty my august sovereign also takes deep concern in this affair and my government further instructed me to ascertain and telegraph the sphere of the regions affected by the earthquake as well as the extent of losses caused by it so that His Majesty's anxiety might be removed as soon as possible. I take this opportunity to say a few words on behalf of my countrymen. They too deeply sympathise with the sufferers from the earthquake and some of them are contemplating to devise some means with the object of relieving them. Finally allow me to express my sincere hopes that the evils done by this lamentable event will be speedily remedied by the most timely and effective measures adopted by your Government in connection with this calamity and to offer my hearty thanks for the courtesy bestowed upon me during my stay here."

His Excellency was unable owing to indisposition to receive the consul in person but the following reply was communicated by the Foreign Secretary: "I am directed by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India to offer on behalf of the Government of India his sincere thanks for the courteous message sent by the Japanese Government which you have made. The long journey from Bombay to Simla in order to deliver personally to His Excellency these words of sympathy are highly valued as an expression of the fellow-feeling of a great nation with which India is allied by more than formal ties which has itself suffered in times past from similar calamities and which has shown that it can meet the gravest emergencies with incomparable heroism."

PARS FROM "PIONEER."

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Allahabad, April 28.

Mr. T. C. Miller leaves Simla on 30th instant for Pachmarhi to take up his appointment as Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces.

A committee of experts including the geologists will shortly be assembled at Dharmasala to consider whether it is safe to rebuild the civil station and the Cantonment there.

News from Tashkend regarding military movements in Afghanistan need not cause anxiety. It is at this period of the year that relief of Afghan garrison is carried out and consequently troops are more in evidence than usual along the frontier.

Sir James Bourdillon, Resident Mysore, proceeds on six months' leave from 22nd May and Mr. A. Williams O.S. has been appointed to act for him. Major Archur will act as Revenue and Judicial Commissioner in Baluchistan vice Mr. Williams.

Mr. W. H. Impey, Chief Secretary to the Govt. of these provinces is confined to bed with an attack of illness following upon a chill.

R. Starchey, Railway District Engineer Allahabad has been offered 2000 to value the Durhanga castle at Allahabad.

We regret to have to announce the death in the North of India, of Mr. Ewing, formerly of the Public Works Department, the inventor of Ewing's Mono-rail Tramway, which the deceased introduced in the neighbourhood of Madras, from Avadi to Poona-mallee, in conjunction with Mr. T. Numburam Chetty.

INOCULATION OF SOIL WITH NITROGEN

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Simla, April 27.

A correspondence has been published for starting experiments in the inoculation of soil with nitrogen fixing bacteria in the various provinces. The circular letter which has been issued by Mr. Sly, Inspector general of Agriculture, runs as follows:—

I have the honour to make the following suggestions for the starting of experiments in the inoculation of the soil with nitrogen fixing bacteria (2) It is perhaps advisable in the first place to correct some popular errors in regard to the possibilities of soil inoculation. The method can only be applied to leguminous crop and the advantage, if any to crops of cereals and vegetables, is derived from the available nitrogen accumulated in the soil by such preceding leguminous crop. The best result in America has been obtained by inoculating each kind of legume with a culture obtained from its new nodules. Several persons have obtained from America cultures for clover and other crops that are unknown in the plains of India, which are useless for trial in this country. It must be also remembered that the bacteria are very susceptible of a change in their environment, so that it is impossible that cultures prepared in America will be suited to the very different climatic conditions of India. (3) I beg to enclose a copy of the patent describing the method of preparation of cultures and to suggest the experiments should be started to isolate and cultivate the nitrogen fixing bacteria of one or two of the principal leguminous crop of the province at any available laboratory. Pot culture trials could then be made to test the result in soil (a) in which the same crop has often been grown and (b) in which crop has never been grown. In selecting the soils it should be remembered that inoculation would be of little benefit in any rich soil containing a large amount of available nitrogen. If these trials give promise of success experiments on a larger scale can then be started. Full information about the system is given in bulletin no 71 United States Department of Agriculture Washington. (4) Even when all the preliminary difficulties are overcome the limitations of the method must be recognised. The only purpose of soil inoculation is to furnish nitrogen to the plants in an available form, and it is evident that little benefit can be expected from inoculation of a soil in which organisms are already abundant. The remarkable results in America have been obtained by the artificial introduction of the necessary organisms into the soil, naturally devoid of them in which leguminous crops have not been previously grown. The growth of a leguminous crop in rotation for the purpose of soil renovation is already so widely practised in India that there does not seem much scope for artificial inoculation

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE PUNJAB.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Simla, April 27.

A "Gazette of India" extraordinary contains the following announcement:—A temporary vacancy having occurred in the office of the Lieutenant governor of the Punjab and its dependencies consequent on the grant of leave for six months to the Honourable Sir Charles Montgomery K.C.S.I. the Governor General of India is pleased under the authority vested in him by the 29th section of the Act 21 and 22 Vict. Cap. 106 and subject to the approbation of His Majesty to appoint the Honourable Sir Denzil Ibbetson K.C.S.I., an ordinary member of the Council of the Governor General, to officiate as Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab and its dependencies during the absence of Sir C. M. Rivaz on the said leave. The Honourable Sir Denzil Ibbetson has this day assumed charge of the office of Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab and its dependencies.

PARS FROM THE "PIONEER."

Allahabad, April 27.

News is still awaited regarding the effect of earthquake in Spite but it is hoped no serious loss of life occurred there.

Sir Charles Rivaz left Lahore this afternoon by the Bombay mail enroute England.

Sir Denzil Ibbetson assumed officiating charge of Lieutenant-Governorship of the Punjab to-day, Sir Lewis Tupper taking up the acting appointment of Revenue member in the Viceroy's Council.

It is understood the Secretary of State has accorded sanction to the formation of an Imperial Customs Service in India subject to certain modifications.

Mr. S. M. Johnson, Managing Director Muir Mills Company has been elected President of Upper India Chamber of Commerce in the place of the Hon. Mr. McRobert.

An interesting discovery of gold quartz has been made in an old working on northern extension of Kolar gold field. It is believed that a rich chute of ore has been struck.

Services of Mr. E. Blaber, Public Works Department have been placed at the disposal of the Port Commissioners, Chittagong, as Port Engineer.

Mr. Blaber's services will be utilized on work of reversion of Kamafuli river, for which Rs. 2,55,711 has been sanctioned by Government. He will also conduct engineering surveys in the river and generally advise Port Commissioners in the extensive works, which are in contemplation at the port of Chittagong. Proposals for the purchase of a dredger which the Viceroy had promised should be provided are also under consideration. Port Commissioners being fully alive to the necessity for improving the bars of the river so that larger vessel can enter and leave the port. The Commissioners propose to appoint an officer, Royal Indian Marine as Port Officer, with a separate office for Collector of Customs in the place of Mr. E. Good, Port Officer and Collector of Customs, Chittagong, who has retired.

THE EARTHQUAKE.

Allahabad, April 25.

Slight shocks of earthquake continue to be reported from various parts of the affected area outside the Kangra valley, especially to the eastward. Simla has felt two or three slight shocks in the last few days though they have passed unnoted by most of the residents there. These echoes are considered by the Indian Geologists as a good sign showing that the settling process is proceeding gradually and that any further violent shocks are improbable. It may be remembered that after the earthquake in Assam in 1897 slight shocks were reported 4 months afterwards.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE UNREST IN RUSSIA.

London, April 27.

Feeling akin to consternation has been occasioned at St. Petersburg by rumours reproduced in the leading newspapers that 15,000 Hooligans organised in bands, will attack all the so-called intellectuals in the streets at Easter tide. The authorities have taken elaborate precautions and a special contingent of Don Cossacks has arrived at St. Petersburg.

There is a general exodus of the aristocratic and middle classes over the holidays.

Reports from the Provinces indicate that similar fears prevail there especially in connection with the 1st of May, the Russian Easter Monday.

London, April 27.

M. Trepoff in a Proclamation assures the population that order will be preserved by armed force if necessary.

London, April 28.

Despite General Trepoff's proclamation the shops in St. Petersburg are already barricading.

Official reports from the Caucasus describe numerous encounters between the peasants and the troops, the former armed with pickaxes and bludgeons and occasionally with revolvers. Many have been killed and wounded in Cossack charges. Serious disturbances have taken place at Cheliabinsk on the Siberian Railway and the troops have been sent to the scene from Ekaterinburg.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

London, April 26.

Reuter from Hong Kong wires that three Russian battleships and two cruisers have been sighted at Linting Island this morning steaming South-South-East.

London, April 26.

Five thousand Russians with one battery attacked the Japanese in the neighbourhood of Kaiyuan and were repulsed leaving two hundred dead, meanwhile two other columns attacked Changtu and Liaotatzu and retreated, when their comrades at Kaiyuan were defeated.

London, April 26.

The German steamer "Juliette" which had been detained at Mauritius has been granted 600 tons of coal and proceeds to Saigon to-morrow.

London, April 26.

The vessels sighted off Lingting Island prove to be British.

London, April 26.

Reuter at Tokio says that the Privy Council held to-day decided to proclaim martial law throughout Formosa.

London, April 27.

Seigon telegrams seem to indicate that the Baltic ships are still lingering in the vicinity of Kamranh.

London, April 28.

Reuter at Tokio says that Formosa has been extensively fortified, but the public is absolutely ignorant of Togo's whereabouts, and the officers and men have ceased communications with their families.

London, April 27.

Owing to the poor success of the recent internal loan, Russia has decided to appeal to German financiers for another loan of two hundred million marks on more severe terms than the former issues. Preliminaries have already been arranged at Berlin.

London, April 28.

The Standard says that it is believed that the Russian loan has been placed at a rate yielding 6 1/2 per cent., and that some small lines have been taken up in London.

GENERAL.

London, April 24.

A despatch from Shanghai says the Tibetan murdered Frenchmen, the Chinese Commissioner to Tibet, and his whole suite at Batang on the 21st April.

London, April 26.

The endeavours of the Prince regent to adjust the disagreement between Norway and Sweden affecting the union of two countries has failed, Norway refusing to negotiate under their sovereign right to establish a separate consular system is recognised.

London, April 26.

The following is the result of the race for the City and Suburban:—

Pharisee	1
Ambition	2
Dean Swift	3

Betting at the start was 11 to 2 Pharisee, 20 to 1 Ambition, 100 to 1 Dean Swift.

Nineteen started, three-quarters of a length separated the first and second, and one length the second and third.

London, April 26.

The King's visit to Paris is regarded as an important political event and an affirmation of entente in Morocco vis-a-vis with Germany.

The King maintains his incognito in Paris. He will dine with President Loubet on Sunday and remain two or three days in Paris.

London, April 26.

The Liverpool "Daily Post" states that Lord Kitchener has cabled offering to resign.

London, April 26.

M. Pokotloff, Director of the Russo-Chinese Bank, has been appointed Russian Minister at Peking.

London, April 26.

The match between Surrey and the Gentlemen of England resulted in a draw.

London, April 26.

The United States cotton crop is extraordinary and exceeds the world's record by two and a half million bales. The efforts of the growers to keep up prices by burning a million bales proved futile.

London, April 27.

Mr. Lowther, British Minister, proceeds to Fez in about three weeks to present his credentials.

London, April 28.

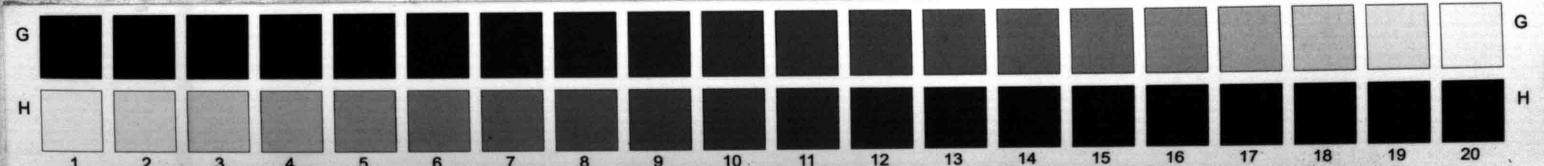
Sir George White has been summoned from Gibraltar to consult with the War Office, it is reported, in connection with the alleged friction between Lord Kitchener and the Military Member.—"Englishman."

London, April 28.

The Russian Government is engaging German and Austrian workmen for the State arsenals; 4,000 are due next week.—"Englishman."

London, April 27.

King Edward landed at Ajaccio and visited Napoleon's birth place.



High Court—April 28.

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justices Pangloss and Woodroffe.)

CASE UNDER SEC. 145.

Babu Sibaprasanna Bhattacharya moved in the application of Baikanta Nath Chakravarti and several others constituting the second party in a proceeding under sec. 145 Cr. P. C. In the judgment, there was absolutely no finding as to any imminent danger of the breach of peace; besides the written statement filed by the second party showed that they claimed a right by prescription in the tank in question, as the provisions of section 145 Cr. P. C. was not applicable and the learned Magistrate in the court below did not properly understand the case as he dealt with the matter as a dispute for possession by both the parties. A Rule was issued upon the District Magistrate of Hooghly as well as upon the first party to show cause why the order of the Joint Magistrate passed in the case should not be set aside as he had altogether failed to consider the question of easement raised by the second party in the case.

ALLEGED EXTORTION.

Babu Dasarathi Sanyal moved on behalf of one Gul Mahomed Sircar who had been convicted under sections 384 and 352 I. P. C. and sentenced to 2 months' rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 60.

The facts are shortly these: One Rekatulla Chowdhury purchased some rent free land of one Mahesh Baidagi in Mouza Bartakigram and on the basis of this purchase he wanted to take possession and realize rent of certain "Mal" lands of the Mouza. Rekatulla had his chutney in the house of one Cheharu Mandal, where his Burkandaz lived and his paddy was also stored up in the "Khalihan" of Cheharu. As Rekatulla wanted to realize rent of "Mal" land the petitioner who was a Tehsildar of the Mouza on behalf of the zemindar prohibited the tenants to pay rent to Rekatulla and this highly displeased him. On 20th January Cheharu complained before the Deputy Magistrate of Dinajpur charging the petitioner under sections 384 and 352 on the allegation that seven days ago the petitioner had called Cheharu to his house and gave him a beating and threatened to Chalan him if he did not pay him Rs. 50 and eventually extorted Rs. 25 from him. The petitioner was prosecuted under those charges and convicted and sentenced in the manner stated above. There was an appeal before the Sessions Judge but without success.

Learned Vakil contended that having regard to the great delay in making the complaint and also having regard to the admitted facts and circumstances of the case the court below should have held that the case against the petitioner was absolutely false and was instituted out of grudge at the instigation of Rekatulla.

Their Lordships passed the following order:—"Let a rule issue on the Magistrate of the district of Dinajpur and also on the complainant to show cause why the conviction of this applicant and the sentence on him should not be set aside and a fresh trial ordered on the grounds that the joinder of the matter of the Machalker and the payment of Rs. 25 in one charge was contrary to the provision of law and also on the ground that the joinder of the three matters charged was contrary to the provision of law as not forming part of the same transaction and thirdly on the ground that the payment of Rs. 25 did not satisfy the provision of the Indian Penal Code regarding the extortion and why such other orders should not be passed as to this court may seem fit."

TROUBLES OF A TENANT.

One Birbal Sardar was in possession of a certain holding in village Singra, in the jurisdiction of the Magistrate of Bogra having purchased the same from the former tenants. The landlords instituted a suit of ejectment against him, but that suit was compromised. The landlords granted a new lease on enhanced Jama to Birbal. Some time after one Rupa Pramanick, at the instigation of the landlords, filed a complaint in the court of the Deputy Magistrate of Bogra alleging that he was in possession of the said holding as tenant and Birbal cut and carried away some bamboos. Proceedings were drawn against Birbal under sections 447, 143 and 379 I. P. C. After a preliminary enquiry Birbal was placed upon his trial on a charge of theft. On 20th April when the complainant and witnesses on behalf of the prosecution were examined, Birbal asked for an adjournment to enable him to adduce his evidence, but the Deputy Magistrate refused his application and on the same day convicted and sentenced him to six weeks' rigorous imprisonment.

Babu Dasarathi Sanyal with Babu Sarat Chunder Lahiri who moved their Lordships for a rule on behalf of Birbal, urged that the Deputy Magistrate had erred in law in refusing the petitioner to adduce his evidence and that the facts found did not warrant the conviction under section 379 I. P. C. Their Lordships granted a rule in the terms of the petition.

ALLEGED ILLEGAL ORDER.

Babu Atulya Charan Basu moved on behalf of one Thakur Pratap Narain Deo for a rule calling upon the District Magistrate of Bhagalpur and on the opposite party to show cause why the order of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Banka should not be set aside. The facts of the case are as follows:—On or about the 25th October, 1904 one Mugh Lal Singh presented a petition to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Banka praying that the petitioner or anyone whom the court deem proper might be bound down to keep the peace so that his possession of the lands mentioned therein might not be disturbed. On receipt of the petition the Sub-Divisional Magistrate ordered the police to enquire and report. On the 4th November, the police submitted a report. On the 19th Nov., Mugh Lal Singh also put in a petition praying that his other two brothers should be joined as first party and that correct boundaries of some plots of the proceedings might be given and that other lands might be included in the same proceeding. A copy of the petition was submitted to the police for enquiry and on receipt of the police report a fresh proceeding was drawn upon the 12th December 1904, in respect of 3 plots of land making the above named three persons as 1st party and the petitioner Thakur Pratap Narain Deo and 16 others as 2nd party thereto and simultaneously an order for attachment of the said plots was passed pending his decision under the said section. The petitioner and others put in separate written

statements in which they contended inter alia that there was no fresh material justifying the initiation of fresh proceeding, that the police report did not disclose any likelihood of a breach of the peace, and that separate lands were in the possession of separate persons and such a joint proceeding was illegal. On the 28th February the Sub-Divisional Magistrate passed an order declaring the 1st party to be in possession of the 1st plot and the 2nd party to be jointly in possession of the other two plots.

Learned Vakil contended that the said order of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate was bad in law and liable to be set aside on the ground that the initial order by which he instituted proceedings did not set forth the fact that he had satisfied that there was a likelihood of a breach of the peace, that the copy of the said order contemplated by sec. 145 cl. 3 of the C. P. C. not having been published in some conspicuous place at or near the subject of dispute the order is liable to be set aside, and that the land having been attached at the time of the original proceedings and the attachment having continued up to the time of the 2nd proceeding the order declaring the 1st party in possession was bad in law.

Their Lordships granted a rule in the terms of the petition.

A MURDER CASE FROM MYMENSING.

This was a reference made by Mr. J. N. Ghose, Additional Sessions Judge of Mymensing, for the confirmation of the sentence of death passed by him in agreement with the unanimous verdict of the jury, on one Abbas Sheikh, an inhabitant of Kowrat, thana Iswarganj in the District of Mymensing. Against this order of the Sessions Judge Abbas Sheikh also preferred an appeal to this Court. Both the appeal and the reference came on for hearing together.

Mr. J. N. Roy with Babu Upendra Nath Roy and Surendra Mohan Das appeared for Abbas Sheikh. Babu Sirish Chandra Chowdhury, Junior Government Pleader, appeared for the Crown.

The prosecution story of the case was that on the 13th January last Abbas Sheikh asked his brother Jiban's wife, Lal Jan Biby, to wash some clothes. She replied she could not wash the clothes then and hot words passed between them. Abbas lost his temper and struck at Lal Jan Biby with an axe and wounded her. Lal Jan's mother, Muluk Jan Bawa who was in the house, came on hearing the disturbance. Abbas struck her with the same axe and killed her. Bakshi Sheikh, an uncle of the accused, had returned from the fields, while Abbas was in the act of striking his sister-in-law and the latter's mother, and when he cried out accused aimed a blow at him and wounded him. Rupjan Biby, the wife of Bakshi, was inside the house, and on hearing the disturbance came out. Abbas also aimed a blow at her and wounded her slightly. The medical evidence showed that there were wounds on the head of the deceased Muluk Jan Bawa, the skull was fractured and the brain injured and that death was due to the injuries on the head. Lal Jan Biby had a dangerous wound on the left side of the head and the skull was cut along the upper part of the wound. Thereafter Abbas Sheikh was placed on his trial before Mr. J. F. Pereira, Magistrate of Mymensing. The trying Magistrate found that the accused had lost his temper over a very trifling matter and that he practically ran amok. He framed charge under sections 302 (murder) and 320 (causing grievous hurt) of the Indian Penal Code and committed Abbas to take his trial at the Sessions.

Before the trying Magistrate Abbas made the following statements:—"I had a quarrel with my maternal uncle Bakshi Sheikh in connection with cows. On account of that Bakshi Sheikh struck me with a bamboo. I also struck him with a bamboo. Then Bakshi aimed a blow at me with the bamboo (which I escaped by running away and the bamboo struck my brother's mother-in-law and she fell down. I do not know whether she had died. I did not go home again. I went to my father-in-law's house." At the Sessions Court the trial was held with the aid of jury, who unanimously found Abbas guilty under sec. 302 (murder of Muluk Jan Bawa) and under sec. 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt to Lal Jan Biby). At the Sessions Court the accused did not say anything more in his defence nor did he cite any witness. Mr. J. N. Ghose, Additional Sessions Judge, agreeing with the verdict of the jury found the accused guilty and sentenced him under sec. 302 I.P.C. to death. Their Lordships after hearing both sides reserved judgment.

Two cases of fever with enlarged glands were admitted into the hospital at Mandalay on Saturday and Sunday respectively. The former case is pronounced to be plague.

According to a Simla paper, Mr. A. Williams, C. S., Officiating Judicial and Revenue Commissioner of Baluchistan, will officiate for Sir James Bourdillon as Resident of Mysore.

On the 22nd instant while a party were out shooting about seven miles east of Manihari, a very fine tiger measuring nine feet two inches, was bagged by Captain H. J. Cracknell. The party were out five days and had a very successful shoot. Two other tigers were put up but owing to the heavy jungle they got clean away.

A murder was committed in the village of Malgumana, in Yatinuwara, near Kandy, Ceylon, on the 11th instant. It appears that one Ibrahim Saibo, a wealthy moonman of the village, was, on the day in question, in his house, when, about 8 p.m., a gang of about twelve men rushed into the house and laid hold of him and his son, a lad of about eight years. Overpowering them they throttled the old man and blind-folded the boy. The robbers then searched the house for money. While the accused were preparing to carry off their booty, a man with a lantern came towards the house and the boy is said to have made a noise. Ibrahim Saibo was soon united by the members of the gang, but he was then dead. The gang, however, removed money and valuables to the extent of Rs. 3,000. The Police having received information, Mr. C. L. Tranter, Superintendent of Police, and Inspector A. Collette proceeded to the village, and after making certain inquiries, returned to Kandy and sent Inspector Dias to make further inquiries in conjunction with the Ratamahatmaya. Three men were arrested confessed their guilt and disclosed the names of the other members of the gang. So far, eight men have been arrested. The accused were remanded, and the case came before the Police Magistrate on the 27th instant. Another murder is reported from Hanguranketa. A Sinhalese man is alleged to have stabbed his own brother to death. The accused is in custody, but no particulars are available at present.

Her Late Highness Nawab Shams-I-Jehan Begum Sahiba C.I.

(Special for the "Patrika.")

We have already noticed the sad death of H.H. Nawab Shams-I-Jehan Begum Sahiba, C. I. which melancholy event took place in Calcutta on the 21st instant. Here is a short account of her life which, we doubt not, will be read with interest by our readers.

Her Highness Nawab Shams-I-Jehan Begum of Murshidabad C. I. traces her descent from Hassan Mussam, Mussam (son of Imam Hosan) son of Hazrat Ali and grandson of the Prophet Mohammed who married Fatema Saghra, daughter of Imam Hossain, grandson of the Prophet. From their issue, she descends and is thus called Sodati-Hussain-ul-Hossain, who were held in the highest reverence in Arabia. The Sheriff of Mecca also descends from the same line.

Her Highness was born at Murshidabad in 1834. It was on account of her birth that she was selected to be the bride and consort of His Late Highness Sayed Mansoor Ali Khan, the last Nawab Nazim of Bengal. She was descended from both sides from a long line of rulers and nobles. Her marriage took place in 1846 with the approval and sanction of Government which made a grant of two lakhs of rupees for its celebration. The Nawab Nazim contributing a like sum from his private purse, the marriage was performed with all the pomp and ceremonies befitting the occasion.

Her Highness Nawab Shams-I-Jehan Begum at once assumed the position as the female head of the household and was designated as "Her Highness the Nawab Begum of Bengal." In due course, she bore her husband eighteen children, of whom only three survived, two daughters, and a son the unfortunate Prince Syed Iskander Ali Metraza Sultan Sahib, who died in Calcutta in 1893 in the prime of his life at the age of 36. The eldest surviving daughter Nawab Shahar Bano Begum, was married to the Nawab of Khagra the proprietor of Surjapur Estate in the Purnea District and on his death was married a second time to Khan Bahadur Mirza Shujaat Ali.

After the death of the Nawab Nazim in 1884, Her Highness the Nawab Begum of Bengal accompanied by her son the Prince Iskander Ali Meerza and a large retinue of officers and servants, started from Murshidabad on a pilgrimage to the sacred shrine for Kербала in Arabia. The Turkish officials and the public at large received her with the respect due to her position. Here she was widely known and she gave in charities not less than two lakhs of rupees. Her Highness also made an endowment of Rs. 50,000 for a Madrasah for Indian students at Kербала. After a stay of 7 months Her Highness returned to India and purchased a large property and beautiful mansion in Bombay. A year after she returned to Murshidabad to the great joy of the public there, but after short stay went back to Bombay.

In 1887 Her Highness sent Khan Bahadur Mirza Shujaat Ali to London to present an address before the throne of the late Queen Victoria "The Good" on the happy occasion of Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee. In commemoration of this occasion Her Highness arranged for the education of the Khan Bahadur in England at her own expense. In March 1888 Her Highness accompanied by her son set out on a pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina. At Suez she was received by the Khedivial naval officer Abdur Rahnum Beg. Her son then proceeded on a trip to England and the Continent accompanied by Khan Bahadur Mirza Shujaat Ali. On the Prince's return from England, Her Highness started for Jeddah. After performing the pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina Her Highness and the party returned to Bombay and stopped there till her son died in Calcutta in 1893. Shortly after Government was pleased to grant her pension of lakh of rupees per annum with several allowances.

Her Highness's charities had been very great since 1893, and mounted to over eight lakhs of rupees. The Nawab Begum Sahiba took part in all public movements. She was patroness of several institutions and vice-patroness of the Countess of Dufferin's fund, in India, and also of the Bengal Branch. She took a keen interest in the cause of female education and established a girls' Madrasah in Calcutta, which was almost entirely supported by her. In 1898, Her Highness made a gift of considerable properties for religious and charitable purposes and made a deed of endowment, a committee of trustees was appointed for the management in 1898. Her late lamented Majesty Queen Empress of India bestowed on her Highness the Begum the exalted order of the Imperial Crown of India.

Her Highness's charities were directed towards the most laudable objects such as Lady Elliot Hostel, the Trust Fund, the Sadat Munzil at M.A.O. College, Aligarh, the Mackenzie ward, the Marcus Sarker scheme, the Metropolitan Club, the Girls' Madrasah etc. No appeal was ever made in vain. In her noble work her Highness was always ably aided by Khan Bahadur Mirza Shujaat Ali, son-in-law and Consul for Persia at Calcutta, a man of enlightenment and education who is an enthusiastic and loyal subject of the British Government.

PURI NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Puri, April 26.

The town is being visited by many European officials and ladies during these Easter holidays. These gentlemen are fond of sea-baths. We are sorry to report the drowning of one J. Smith of Macneil and Co., Calcutta, who went out to bathe in the sea yesterday at 8 a.m. The sea was rough and he could not withstand the breakers which fell upon him and the gentleman was found no more. A search was made of his body by the "Nullias", the fishermen and was found half a mile off from the Post Office. Juggernath appears in the Raghnath "basha" (dress) on the 27th inst. The preceding one took place a century ago. There is rush of pilgrims from various parts of India to see it which many may not see during a life time. We hear that within a year or two the Temple will be fitted with Electric Light.

The Minerva Theatre of Calcutta has come to Puri to perform before the pilgrims and the inhabitants of the town. Their first performance begins on Wednesday next. Maharajah Manindra Nath Nandy of Cossimbazar with his brother-in-law who is ill and Pandit Promotha Nath Tarka Bhushan of Sanskrit College are now in our midst. The general health of the town is good.

MR. TAHL RAM GANGARAM IN COURT.

SHEW CAUSE MATTER.

RULE DISCHARGED.

On Friday before Mr. D. H. Kingford, Chief Presidency Magistrate, the case in which Mr. Tahlram Gangaram the well-known political preacher was called upon to show cause why he should not discontinue lecturing in the College Square, as it was alleged by the prosecution that it was dangerous to the public to collect in large numbers near the confined tank, was resumed. As the matter was taken up the name of Mr. Tahlram was called out. He appeared in the dock and said addressing the court "may I speak a word, your Honor, I have committed no offence. May I sit in Court?"

Court:—Yes, go and sit.

Mr. Tahlram then came out of the dock and sat by the side of his pleaders Babu Mohun Bose and Kessab Chander Gupta. At this stage, Mr. Hume entered into the court room and said "your Honor I have a plan made out of the spit and tank." I wish to examine the draftsman Babu Shama Charan Manna who prepared the plan. Shama Charan Manna examined said:—I have been making plans for the last four years. I went to the College Square on the 13th April with Inspector B. L. Mitter. I made a plan. The Inspector pointed out the places marked in the plan.

Mr. Hume:—What is "D" marked in the plan?

Witness:—This is the place where Tahlram preaches.

Q:—Whether the depth of the tank was measured before you?

Ans:—In my presence the depth of the water in the tank was measured. It was 26 feet in depth in the middle. On the north side of the tank in 3 feet length towards the south the depth is one foot, in 5 feet length 14 feet deep, in 8 feet length 44 feet deep and in 10 feet length towards the south 5 feet deep.

Mr. Hume:—Can you say what depth the tank is at 6 feet?

Ans:—It was not measured.

Mr. Hume:—In how many feet a man may get drowned?

Ans:—In 15 feet length of the water.

Witness continued:—There are weeds from the side of the water. The weeds can be seen from the bank to 20 or 25 feet.

Pleader:—You have never heard Mr. Tahlram lecturing?

Witness:—No.

Pleader:—Was the angle of the inclination of the tank measured on the north side?

Ans:—I don't know what is meant by angle of inclination. (laughter in court)

Witness continued:—A man must get into 17 feet (from the bank of the tank) to get sufficient water for drowning. I did not examine the weeds.

Mr. Hume then re-examined the witness.

Mr. Hume:—If one is pushed and he rolls down in how many feet of water a man will get drowned?

Ans:—It may be in one or two feet of water.

After this, his Worship delivered judgment reviewing the evidence of the draftsman.

It is apparent therefore that a person precipitated into the tank would not be in any immediate danger, since it is not until at a distance of over 10 feet from the bank that he would be out of his depth. While therefore I am satisfied on the evidence that the defendant's lectures are attended by a very considerable crowd, that excitement often occurs amongst the audience and that there is a possibility of some persons amongst the excited crowd being pushed into the water, I am not satisfied that the depth of the water is such as to endanger the life of such persons and under these circumstances I discharge the rule.

Mr. Tahlram thanked his Worship and left the court room. The people who were taking interest in the trial also thanked his Worship.

Babu Mohun Bose said that his client had stopped lecturing in the College Square.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

WAR AND PUBLICITY.

GENERAL NAGAOKA'S VIEWS. General Nagaoka, Vice-Chief of the Army Staff at Tokio, last month, addressed the Oriental Society at Nobles' Club. In the course of his speech General Nagaoka said:—

RECORDS IN BATTLE.

The present war has established some records in battles. In modern times the duration of continuous fighting has never exceeded three days, but the battle of Liaoyang lasted 8 days, the Shaho, battle 5 days, and the battle of Mukden 14 days. Thus the belief that the duration of fighting would be shortened on account of the improvements in the science of war and the larger forces put in the field has not apparently been justified. During the fourteen days of the battle of Mukden, Japanese officers and men worked with insufficient food and sleep, but they worked like giants rather than human beings. In this we felt that they found at the same time a worthy enemy.

The General concluded by describing the barren country surrounding Mukden, the hardships of the troops campaigning in a temperature 7 to 12 degrees below freezing point, with ice two to three feet thick covering the ground. Such work called for strong men and indeed proved the good physique of the Japanese. Their achievement was the result of the training of the Army in the past thirty years, and the Japanese people should keep the fact well in mind that such work required a strong and healthy body.

ENORMOUS ARMIES.

In the course of his address General Nagaoka gave some interesting particulars of the numbers engaged in recent battles. The total Russian and Japanese forces engaged in the battle of Liaoyang, he said, were 460,000; and in the battle of Shaho, 580,000; and in the battle of Mukden, 850,000. The head-quarters at Liaoyang of Marshal Oyama were the centre of over 100 telegraph and telephone connections. He said the field post service had greatly developed during the present war. In the year and ten months during which the troops at the time of the Japan-China war remained in China, mails despatched from the field of campaign numbered 12,000,000 and money remitted by Post Office orders amounted to ¥6,600,000. During one month alone of the present war (December) 16,284,900 letters were sent by post, while the money remitted up to the end of December from the beginning amounted to about ¥20,000,000.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Lieutenant-Colonel Beynon, Assistant Military Secretary to Lord Kitchener, is about to be appointed D. A. G. in Bengal.

It is understood that Sir Hugh Barnes will lay the foundation-stone of the new Rangoon General Hospital in the first week of May prior to his departure from Burma.

Mr. C. J. Greengrass, Civil Engineer, residing in Puttur, North Arcot District, has filed an invention for a fibre-extracting machine which is claimed to be suitable for all kinds of fibre bearing plants.

An extraordinary hailstorm passed over Peshawar a few days ago. A man was killed and many people were badly hurt. The mules of the various Mule Corps were also considerably knocked about. The hail-stones were as big as "large eggs."

Some little time ago special emissaries from Japan were sent to Australia to secure horses suitable for use in the War. That they have been successful is demonstrated by the fact that over 8,000 animals have been secured.

Heavy rain still continues to fall at Sib-sagar. Two and a half inches fell on Tuesday night. The weather is extremely cold for the time of the year. Tea crops are seriously checked, the maximum and minimum temperatures being 77 and 61 for the last three days.

The "Rangoon Gazette" is informed that a serious injury to railway bridges in Burma is likely to be occasioned by the running of the new heavy engines over them. It is said that some of the bridges between Rangoon and Toungoo are seriously shaken and that it will be impossible to use these engines during the rains. A great deal of time is lost in cautious driving over several bridges which still remain unstrengthened. The railway authorities are believed to have been premature in getting out these engines before they were quite prepared for them.

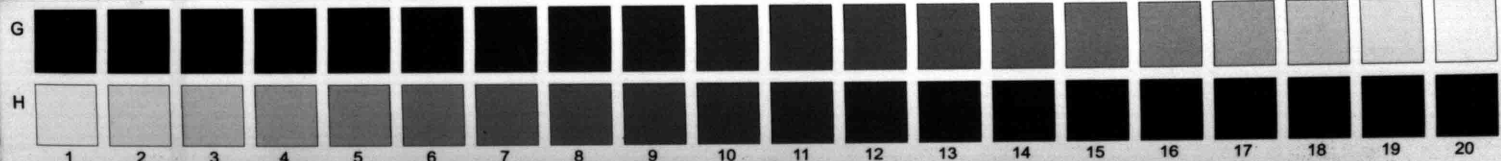
The raising of the amount of kit-money paid to recruits on enlistment in the Indian Army is a change which will be enormously appreciated. The present sum, Rs. 30, has not for a long time past been sufficient to cover the necessary expenses, which a recruit has to meet, and the additional Rs. 10 now sanctioned will go far to help him on his way in regimental life. He will start that much less in debt, at any rate; and his soul will not be vexed by cuttings from his pay—a procedure which he never understands. This increase in kit-money should have a good effect on recruiting.

It is reported from Cairo that Professor Flinders Petrie, the distinguished Egyptologist, has made some very interesting discoveries. He found a Sometic temple in an almost perfect state of preservation about forty miles north of Mount Sinai. Its date is anterior to the birth of Mohammed, and the temple is modelled on the glorious lines of the temple of Solomon. Professor Petrie has also unearthed some memorials of former rulers of Egypt and has established the fact that it was the custom in ancient times to erect at the top of mines a picture or effigy of the King under whose direction the mine was worked. One engraver pictures a pharaoh with typical Soudanese features. The important discoveries are likely to go towards throwing light on many phases of Egyptology that have been hidden from students.

On the 10th April, at Aligarh Station, a complaint was lodged by a second class lady passenger to the effect that she had been molested by some European, from the off side of the train while she was lying half asleep, and who then made away. She raised the alarm and insisted on summoning her husband to her assistance, who was travelling in another part of the train. Enquiries led to the arrest of a man named Davies who was the Fireman of the same train. Davies is the same man who was convicted and sentenced to eight years and 9 months' rigorous imprisonment by the High Court in Allahabad for offences committed in 1897. A part of this sentence was remitted during the King's Coronation. The case is being tried by the District Magistrate of Aligarh and it is expected that Davies will be committed to the High Court once again.

The recommendations made by the Bombay Government on the subject of the improvement of horticulture and agriculture in the Bombay Presidency have been generally approved by the Government of India, and the Secretary of State, has sanctioned (1) an initial expenditure of Rs. 1,10,000, to be spent partly on buildings on the Experimental Farm at Manjri and partly on the additional accommodation required for agricultural research and teaching on the Kirkee Farm and (2) an annual increase in the recurring expenditure of Rs. 51,195, of which Rs. 40,295 will be on account of increase of establishments. Mr. J. B. Knight, M. Sc., who has been doing duty as Special Assistant in the Bombay Agricultural Department since April, 1903, has now been confirmed as Professor of Agriculture, and Mr. G. A. Gammie, Professor of Botany at the College of Science, has been appointed Economic Botanist, while the question of the selection of an officer for the post of Agricultural Chemist is under the consideration of the Secretary of State.

The fact that Formosa has been placed under martial law by the Japanese seems to indicate that Admiral Togo has determined to resist the passage of the Baltic Fleet through the Formosan Straits and the Pescadores. As has been aptly said, martial law means no law at all, and the Japanese Admiral doubtless wants facilities for provisioning his fleet, keeping off spies, and the like. In the meanwhile it is certain that Admiral Rozhdestvensky has left Kamranh Bay and is somewhere at the head of the Gulf of Tonquin. The fourth Baltic squadron it is known has crossed the Indian Ocean, and doubtless it is the intention of Admiral Rozhdestvensky to wait for it. The exact composition of the reinforcing squadron is not known, but one of the vessels is an exceptionally powerful battleship. The others are supposed to be obsolete. If the reinforcement reaches Rozhdestvensky he will have with him eight battleships, against the Japanese three. Admiral Togo, of course, still retains his superiority in fact cruisers, but it is becoming more and more evident that the Japanese fully realise the formidable nature of the force opposed to them and are not inclined to take any risks.—"Englishman."



ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH
TOPICS

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, April 7.

THE RESULTS OF THE KABUL
MISSION.

Although Lord Reay was assured last week that the results of the Kabul Mission would be disclosed to Parliament in due course but that it was not expedient then to make any statement with regard to them, the "Standard" this morning declares that "there were moments during the negotiations when the Amir's proposals were so extravagant that the attainment of any definite result seemed by no means certain." Is there wireless or telephatic communication between the returning Mission and the editorial chair of the "Standard," or between its editor and the Viceroy? Who knows? However, the "leader" goes on to declare that no trade relationships will be opened up or railways built in Afghanistan as a result of Mr. Dene's visit to Kabul. The old understanding with Abdur Rahman has been ratified and reduced to writing; the payment of the subsidy of £120,000 is to be continued, and the Amir is to be defended by Britain in case of outside aggression. "Though we reserve to ourselves the right to decide what form the assistance will take," this is all very well, but is it authentic? In any case the policy of continued exclusion will be a disappointment to those who wanted to push forward railways and train Afghan soldiers by British officers. From the tone of the "Standard's" article it is evident that Afghanistan is regarded as almost a negligible quantity from a military point of view. The Amir has every reason, it is said, to take out side in any quarrel that might arise in Asia, but we have no alliance with him which makes his co-operation a certainty. Therefore let India prepare to defend her frontiers. The parting advice of the "Standard" is on no account to interfere with the excellent work that is being done by Lord Kitchener in India, do not let him be recalled by the advent of a new party to power at Westminster. Meanwhile we await the publication by the Indian Government of the results actually accomplished by the Mission to Kabul.

WILL THERE BE A RUSSO-JAPANESE
ALLIANCE?

According to recent reports from Russia the prospect of a speedy cessation of hostilities is not likely to be fulfilled, but an interesting development in the attitude of Russia towards Japan is chronicled in several directions. There seems to be a decided feeling in favour of making friends with the enemy in order to stop British and American aggression in Asia. The possibility of further cementing the Anglo-Japanese alliance has probably given cause for the outburst of Russian feeling with regard to Japan. Russians are now asked to terms with the formidable Far Eastern people in playing a great role in Asia. Japan, it is declared, will want as the price of peace, territory and the railway from Harbin to Port Arthur. But what matter? She will only get it back to China, and Russia can secretly provide money for the purpose. "The friendship of Japan was once rejected by Russia," says a writer on this subject, "on the occasion of the visit of the Marquis Ito. Realising what a tremendous mistake it was, Russian statesmen are now arguing that the offer might again be extended, and that Russia could again secure a preference over her European rivals." Prince Ukhomsky, a vehement Anglophobe, strenuously advocates a Russo-Japanese alliance. Referring to the tightening of the bonds of the Anglo-Japanese agreement and the probability that Japan would be called upon to help to defend India, he urges Japan, in imperial language, to share the fate of the Sepoys and to be used as a rampart against the "detested and insatiable Muscovites." On the day that the Japanese enter India British influence will fall. We may perhaps smile at this outburst of Russian hatred against England, but we must not forget that the blame for its provocation lies to a large extent at the door of those who are for ever crying "Wolf! wolf!" with regard to Russia, and in this cry our Yellow Press has largely participated. Sir Charles Dilke this week has been protesting against the great military expenditure undertaken with a view to a Russian invasion of India; he reiterated the difficulties of transport in such an invasion, but he is laughed to scorn and the finger is pointed to what Russia has done by means of a single line across Siberia. The question, however, must come back eventually to resources. Whether Russia has the great treasure of which the Finance Minister has been boasting lately is a matter on which it is impossible to dogmatise, but it is evident that she cannot go on building railways that cost huge sums of money and are a serious financial loss in working, cope with anarchy at home, and prosecute an active campaign abroad whether in the Far or Middle East, unless she has millions and millions in reserve. The failure of the loan in France does not seem a favourable sign. As to the defence of India, let reasonable steps be taken, but let us come to Queen Victoria's wise words, in India "prosperity will be our strength, in her contentment our security."

THE BRIGHTON VICTORY.

The victory of the Liberal candidate at Brighton last Wednesday almost took away the breath of even the most hopeful. Such a sweeping success was not anticipated. All Liberals looked forward to the reduction of the Conservative majority, but that a Tory majority of 3,165 should have been wiped out and an additional 817 votes recorded in favour of the Liberal and Free Trader came as a great and gratifying surprise even to the Liberal Whips. Mr. Villiers lost no time in taking his seat in the House of Commons. The result of the election was declared on Wednesday evening about 11 o'clock; the next afternoon the new member was introduced to the Speaker, took the oath, signed his name, and seated himself on the green benches amid uproarious cheers from the Opposition. Mr. Loder, the rejected representative of Brighton and the Junior Lord of the Treasury in Mr. Balfour's administration, was also in the precincts of the House, but he can no longer pass through the swing doors on to the floor. He is not a representative of a constituency, although he holds an official position. The case is unusual, although, as Mr. Balfour reminded his hearers yesterday, Mr. Gladstone at one time was Secretary of State for the Colonies without a seat in the House. The question is, will Mr. Loder resign his official position, which,

it will be understood, necessitated his re-election at Brighton, or will Mr. Balfour allow him to retain it but never enter the debating Chamber? The result is extraordinary. Mr. Loder represented what was thought to be an invulnerable stronghold and his majority was more than 3,000. Besides which, the election was rushed through with only a few days for the candidates to address the people of Brighton. In so short a time the Opposition can never bring up re-inforcements, it was thought, and Mr. Loder is well known for he has already sat for Brighton for a number of years. But all forecasts were mistaken; Mr. Loder is out, and Mr. Villiers is in. It is a most notable victory. Speculation is rife as to the actual results. It is thought by many that after the Budget has been introduced on Monday next the dissolution will come speedily. But Mr. Balfour has "sat tight" so long that it is not safe to prophesy what he will do. But the Unionist papers, usually strong supporters of the Prime Minister, are reading him lectures as to the unwisdom of his conduct of the House. He, of course, never reads newspapers, so will not heed the lessons. The country reads newspapers, and the shifting ways of the Premier have not strengthened his position in the eyes of the country. His absence from the House of Commons is severely commented upon as unworthy of a leader. Whether any compact was made with Mr. Chamberlain the other day remains to be seen. But whatever happens, nothing can efface the impression on the country of the extraordinary result of the Brighton election. The Premier's special follower was rejected by an overwhelming vote.

AN ENGINEER OF PROMISE: WILLIAM
POLLARD DIGBY.

Readers of the "Patrika" will bear with pleasure of the distinctions that are being won by the eldest son of India's great champion, the late Mr. William Digby, C.I.E. Mr. W. Pollard Digby is a consulting engineer who is being more and more recognised as an expert, and there is no doubt that he has already won a name for himself among engineers of which men twice his age might be proud. His latest public appearance was on Monday evening last when he read a most interesting paper before the Society of Engineers at the Royal United Service Institution, London. The subject of the paper was "Statistics of British and American Rolling Stock," it was received with evident appreciation by the engineers present, and Mr. Digby was complimented by the chairman, Mr. N. J. West, President of the Society. Mr. W. Pollard Digby has inherited his father's skill in grasping and dealing with statistics, as well as his capacity for doing an immense amount of work in the shortest possible time. His paper to the Society of Engineers was, perhaps, too technical to be of great general interest, but some noteworthy comparisons were made with regard to British and American railways. The United Kingdom, he observed, has thirty-six vehicles, excluding locomotives, to every mile of line; in the United States this rolling stock amounts to 8.20 vehicles per mile. Comparing the equipment with the number of passengers and the weight of goods carried, Mr. Pollard Digby said that there were in the United States 57 passenger cars per 1,000,000 passengers, and 1,288 freight cars per 1,000,000 tons of freight carried. In Great Britain there were respectively 42 passenger carriages and 1,619 goods wagons apportionable to the same duties. British statistics, however, are not so full as those of the United States, and some comparisons are not possible. An instance was given with regard to the work done the heaviest and most powerful locomotives in America; in nine years the passenger mileage had increased by 32 per cent. and the ton mileage by 63 per cent. The lack of a collection of such returns by the Board of Trade rendered an English comparison on this point unobtainable. Mr. Pollard Digby pleaded for an expansion of Railway Returns, and concluded his able lecture by showing a number of excellent lantern views of typical locomotives and recent rolling stock in each country. Mr. Pollard Digby, it may be added here, does not confine his practical and literary activities entirely to engineering matters. Last spring he read a paper before the Society of Arts on the subject of British Trade and Mr. Chamberlain's policy; it won such praise from the Council and from those who heard it that Mr. Pollard Digby received the Society's Silver Medal as a reward.

The Viceroy continues to make good progress, though he is still confined to his room.

The Viceroy will give a farewell dinner to Colonel the Hon'ble E. Baring and Lady Ulrica Baring on May 2nd.

A Negapatam correspondent writes under date April 20:—A pleasant function took place at Shivali on the 25th ultimo, when the Collector of Tanjore presented a gold bangle and a sum of Rs. 10 to Chittambala Nattan, the head fisherman of Sivadi Kuppam, near Tirumalavassal, as a recognition by the Government of his intelligence and humanity in the care of the shipwrecked survivors of the Chittagong brig "Kabul," which was wrecked about four miles south of Tirumalavassal on the 18th December, 1904, in a cyclonic storm. The Collector was on circuit at the time and a public meeting was held in a chutnam near the Taluq office at Shivali, at which many officials and other residents were present. The bangle was of 22 carat gold, made by Messrs. P. Orr and Sons at a cost of Rs. 100 and bore a suitable inscription. It was given to the happy recipient after a eulogistic speech by the Collector.

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High Court—April 26.

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justices Pargiter and Woodroffe.)

TWICE PROSECUTED FOR SAME
OFFENCE.

Mr. P. L. Roy moved on behalf of one Sharobekhan Gohain, a Revenue Collector in Assam who had been convicted by the Assistant Commissioner of Dibrugarh under section 176 I.P.C. and sentenced to one month's simple imprisonment and ordered to pay a fine of Rs. 500.

Two men were committed in the Court of Sessions at Dibrugarh on a charge of murder. It was the prosecution story in that case that these two men committed to the Sessions killed the deceased or made him senseless and then throw his body into a tank where it was given out, that he drowned himself. It was part of the story that the occurrence was not reported to the police till about a year after. A subsidiary case was also started against the petitioner who was the principal Government Revenue Collector of the locality. In that case petitioner was charged under Sec. 201 with causing disappearance of evidence in a case which he had reason to believe was murder and under Sec. 202 with having omitted to give information which he was legally bound to give. The murder case resulted in an acquittal and the charges against the petitioner were withdrawn. Immediately after petitioner was prosecuted under Sec. 176 I.P.C. and convicted on the same evidence as the basis of the charges under Sec. 201 and 202 I.P.C. The petitioner moved the Sessions Judge, but with no effect.

Learned Counsel urged that upon the findings of the Sessions Judge, as the charges under Secs. 202 and 176 arise out of the same state of facts and evidence, the Court ought to have held that Secs. 236 and 237 Cr. P. Code applied to the case and as such the petitioner could not be tried again under Sec. 176 according to the provisions of Sec. 403 Cr. P. C. when he was once acquitted of the charge under Sec. 202. It was further urged that under the circumstances of the case, the petitioner if he knew anything of the occurrence, acted "bonafide" in the matter.

Their Lordships passed the following order:—Let a rule issue on the District Magistrate of Dibrugarh to show cause why the conviction and sentence passed upon the petitioner should not be set aside on the ground that the offence of which he had been convicted could not be charged against him according to sec. 403 Cr. P. Code or why such other order should not be passed. In the meantime the applicant may be released on two sureties of Rs. 100 each.

"ONE JUDGE IN THE SADDLE IS
WORTH THREE ON THE BENCH."

Mr. J. Lang, Deputy Commissioner of Manbhoon, after hearing a certain case which came before him in appeal ordered the trying Magistrate to hold a local enquiry and record his own deposition. In the course of that order Mr. Lang remarked: "one Judge in the saddle is worth three on the Bench." Babu Dasarathi Sanyal who moved their Lordships in that case, after quoting the above remark, said that in the opinion of Mr. Lang their Lordships were not competent to try cases. Their Lordships made no remark but simply smiled. The facts of the case are shortly these:—

On the complaint of one Mahabir Chatterjee, three persons—Behari Singh, Rabi Deswari and Jagat Majhi—were placed on their trial under sections 147 and 379 I.P.C. (rioting and theft) before Babu Hemanta Kumar Maitra, Sub-Deputy Magistrate of Puri, in the district of Manbhoon. The Sub-Deputy Magistrate after examining several witnesses framed charges under the above sections, the common object set out being "to loot the 'Kurthi' crop of the Missers of the village. Behari Singh and others pleaded not guilty but they were eventually on 23rd January last convicted of the charges and sentenced to one month's imprisonment each under section 147 and 2 weeks each under section 379, the sentences running one after the other. The men next appealed to the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhoon who on 3rd February last passed the following order:—

"The question of title and possession to the land where the 'kurthi' was sown has been discussed before this court on appeal at some length. It is doubtful whether the statement of that question in favour of the appellants would in any way affect their punishment for assaulting a defenceless person when they were in numbers. But as the lower court has charged the appellants with looting a crop, it is important that the scene of the occurrence should be inspected and compared with the boundaries to facilitate justice. One Judge in the saddle is worth three on the Bench, and in this and similar cases where much depends on the verdict, and the scene of occurrence is as in this case within easy distance, the Sub-Deputy Magistrate will be well advised to see for himself."

The sentence of the lower court is therefore suspended and the record returned to enable the lower court to examine the site to prepare a rough plan of the same, to examine himself as an witness and record his own deposition as to what he observes etc."

Agreeably to the above order the Sub-Deputy Magistrate held a local enquiry and on 6th March recorded his own examination and submitted the said examination with the report before the Deputy Commissioner. On 18th March the Deputy Commissioner affirmed the conviction but set aside the separate sentence under section 379 and further directed that the value of the property be recovered from the appellants and restored to the complainant.

Babu Dasarathi Sanyal who moved on behalf of Behari Singh and others urged that the Deputy Commissioner had no jurisdiction to direct a local enquiry, specially at the appellate stage of the case, that the order of the Deputy Commissioner directing the trying Magistrate to examine himself as a witness was not warranted by law, and that the Deputy Commissioner as an appellate court had no jurisdiction to pass an order under section 517 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Their Lordships issued a rule upon the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhoon to show cause why the order passed on him on appeal confirming the conviction and sentence passed on the petitioners should not be set aside as it was not in conformity with law and on the ground that he admitted on appeal the deposition of the trying Magistrate as proper evidence and that his order under section 517 Cr. P. C. was not warranted in law. The petitioners were ordered to be admitted to bail to the satisfaction of the Magistrate.

WILD BEAST VS. MAN.

RESULTS IN CENTRAL PROVINCES.

The total human mortality from wild animals in the Central Provinces is attributed. It is said that there are three in this tract; all the efforts hitherto made to kill them have failed, and so far no report has been received of the success of the operations which were to be undertaken against them during the current season. Deaths from panthers have decreased by 50 per cent, nearly the whole decrease occurring in the Raipur District, where 87 persons were killed, against 110 in the previous year, 29 of the males in 1904 in the Central Provinces shows a most satisfactory decrease compared with either of the two preceding years, being 351 against 470 in 1903 and 498 in 1902. The deaths by tigers are slightly fewer than last year, the majority occurring as usual in Chanda, Balaghat, Mandla and in the districts of the Chhattisgarh Division. The Salakia man-eater, which infested portions of Bhandara and Balaghat, was killed early in the year, but his death, together with probably that of a second, was more than counterbalanced by the Ambabhona tiger to which nearly all the 55 deaths in the Sambalpur district in the Balod Circle. It is satisfactory to find that in the Khariar Circle, where three years ago 119 persons were killed by panthers, not a single death was caused in 1904. Wolves were less active in 1904, but the number of persons killed in Raipur (23) and Bilaspur (11) is still very large. It appears that in the early part of the year, and that after the special operations against these animals there were no more human deaths. No special measures appear to have been undertaken in Bilaspur, though the human deaths in that district rose from 4 in 1903 to 11 in the year under review. In the Hosangabad district, where wolves commenced attacking children, the District Superintendent of Police initiated prompt measures which resulted in stopping further damage; from the results in this case and in Raipur it appears that these animals soon learn when danger threatens them and cease their ravages as soon as systematic operations are started, even though the number actually destroyed may not be great. The Chief Commissioner, therefore, trusts that some efforts will be made to get rid of these dangerous pests in Bilaspur. The number of persons killed by snakes was rather greater than in the previous year, and almost exactly the same as in 1902. In two cases in the Sonei District the successful use of antivenene is reported. Several officers refer to the newspaper reports on the permanganate treatment and recommend its general adoption. The Chief Commissioner will consult the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals on the subject, and is prepared to consider proposals for supplying the lancets to police stations, post-offices and panyaris. It is observed that deaths attributed to gophers or bi-cobras are excluded from the returns; it would, perhaps, be better to include them and attribute them to snake bite.

The total number of cattle killed by wild animals is slightly less than in 1903, though still much greater than in 1902. Panthers alone killed more cattle than in 1903, the increase occurring entirely in the Jabalpur Division. This increase is attributed to the inclusion of goats under cattle in the returns. The cause assigned for the increase may be accepted, though it might have been expected that it would operate in the same way elsewhere. The destruction among cattle by wolves and wild dogs together was a time as great in 1904 as in 1901, and this fact cannot but be regarded as an indication of the extent to which game is decreasing in these provinces.

The total number of animals for which rewards were paid was 1,682 costing Rs. 28,237, which figures are considerably in advance of those of the past three years. The increases occurred under panthers, wolves, and wild dogs. For all these animals the scale of rewards in the Central Provinces has recently been raised and the results distinctly justify the action taken. It is unsatisfactory to find that so few wolves were destroyed in the districts where they did most damage, especially in Bilaspur, while in other districts, especially those in Berar, the number destroyed was comparatively large. It appears that in some districts, notably Chanda and the Satpura districts, the Gondas are for superstitious reasons averse to killing wild dogs, though they do great damage, and though the reward has been raised to Rs. 15. Rewards are paid for snakes in very few places. The Chief Commissioner seriously doubts whether much or any good can be done by the offer of rewards for snakes, and though he does not wish to actually discourage the offer of such rewards, he cannot help thinking that the small sum of Rs. 170 paid for them was money wasted.

The total number of licenses issued free of cost for the destruction of wild animals and protection of crops was considerably more than in the previous year, and the total number in force rose from 13,227 to 13,720.

The reason assigned for this increase by the Deputy Commissioner is the necessity of issuing many licenses for the destruction of pigs, which have become very numerous and destructive to the crops in a portion of Berar.

STRANGE CONDUCT OF A WIFE.

On Wednesday before Mr. D. Svinhoe, second Presidency Magistrate, a young woman named Ramdulari against whom a warrant had been issued for her production in court, appeared with an infant in arms. Some days ago, one Nanku missed his wife Ramdulari from the house. He made a diligent search for her and at last traced her in a house in Bellighat where she had been living with one Shibu as man and wife. On the 19th April, Nanku made an application against Shibu on a charge of having enticed away his lawfully married wife for immoral purpose. The court was pleased to order the issue of a warrant against his wife Ramdulari. In pursuance of that order, she appeared before the court and stood in the witness box. The name of her husband was then called out and Nanku came and stood by her side. Court:—(to the husband) Is she your wife?

Nanku:—Yes, sir.

Court:—(to the wife) Is this man your husband?

Wife:—I was never married. I am a woman of the town. (laughter in court)

Court:—Do you know one Shibu?

Wife:—Yes.

Court:—Is it not true, that he has enticed you away and took you to Bellighat?

Woman:—I am a woman of the town—Shibu visits me.

Court:—Did you live with Nanku?

Woman:—Yes. He kept me for two years. I was never married to him. About 10 days ago, he beat me and I turned him out of the house. I left the house of my own accord.

After this, the court ordered that she might go away and dismissed the application. Soon after this, Babu Sukumar Chatterjee appeared and submitted "will your honor allow me to speak a few words in connection with the enticement application which you honor just now disposed of?"

Court:—Yes.

Pleader:—I appear for the complainant. No doubt that the woman has been brought on a warrant. She is hostile and denied the marriage with the complainant; but must have an opportunity to prove the case for the prosecution.

Court:—How it can be done now? I have passed the order. The man did not say anything at that time.

Pleader:—Your honor I was engaged downstairs. I have witnessed to prove my case. Shall I be permitted to make a fresh application in the matter.

Court:—Yes, you can do that.

Pleader:—Thanks.

PROVINCIAL MAHOMEDAN CONFERENCE.

Lakshmi, April 24.

Before the proceedings began the President announced the sad death of the Mursheedabad Begum. The whole assembly received the news standing and expressed sorrow. A short prayer for the deceased's salvation was held. The conference sent a condolence message.

The first resolution expressed sorrow at the calamity that has befallen to the people of the Punjab by the recent earthquake. The second resolution urged the necessity of establishing local committees. The third resolution suggested collection of small amounts by the local committee. The fourth resolution took exception to the recommendations of translating Text books for lower Primary schools into different dialects. The fifth resolution thought it desirable that English should be introduced into the senior and Bengali into the junior classes of Madrasahs as second languages. The sixth resolution urged strictly observing transfer certificate rules in the Makhtabs and the Madrasahs. The seventh resolution suggested taking steps to inducing the owners of the Madrasahs to teach text books prescribed by Education Department. The eighth resolution thought expedient to create Inspecting Moulvis and opening Maulvi-training schools. The ninth resolution prayed the employment of Mahomedan special Inspector to supervise the distribution of the Moshim fund. The Tenth resolution prayed that books containing topics associating Mahomedan life should be taught in schools. The Eleventh resolution dealt with opening a hostel at Comilla for the Mahomedan boys. The Twelfth resolution suggested, encouraging Moulvis to study unani-medicine. The Thirteenth resolution suggested contribution to the central Committee from local funds.

The President proposed the following omnibus resolutions. That funds permitting contribution should be made to the Ranchi college fund. That a large number of Mahomedan members be employed in the central Text Books Committee. That a few vernacular scholarships be set apart for the Mahomedans.

The chief event of the evening was the excellent learned lecture by Mrs. Aziz a European Mahomedan lady recently arrived from England, on "Islam past, present and future and obligation it laid the world under."

Babu Bomkesh Mustafi, representative of the Sahitya Parishad spoke on the improvement of Bengali Literature by Hindus and Mahomedans. Mr. Mirza Habib Hossain of Lucknow inventor of Urdu-Hindi shorthand and who was specially invited, spoke at great length on unity and social intercourse between Hindus, Mahomedans and Europeans.

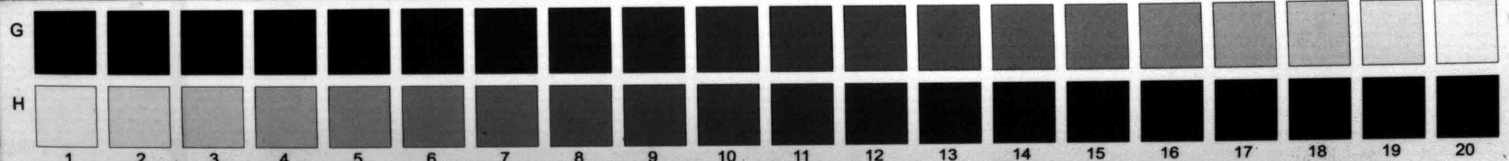
The President closed the proceedings with a short speech in Urdu. The next conference will be held at Mymensingh.

A Kashmir correspondent telegraphs that heavy rain on the 20th and 21st has caused landslides near Hattian and that the Chakothi road was blocked, and the mails and passengers transhipped. If there be more rain it is anticipated that the road will soon be cleared.

The Madras Government recently sanctioned estimates and proposals for the establishment at Coimbatore of a training school for Deputy Rangers and Foresters. The estimated expenditure will be Rs. 10,000. Mr. V. S. Gurnumath Pillay, Extra Assistant Conservator, has been appointed to the charge of the school. The subjects taught will be elementary surveying, fire protection, supervision, and the elementary principles of agriculture.

The Revenue and Agricultural Department is now considering various proposals for spending the twenty lakhs which was allotted for the improvement of Agricultural schemes. The Local Governments are being consulted and certain decisions will probably be arrived at shortly. Sir Denzil Ibbotson's speech at the Budget debate gave the broad lines on which the improvements are contemplated. So far no such appointments have been made in connection with the Department.

Exceptional damage from frost having occurred to the crops in many parts of the Punjab, the following, which has been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor, is issued for the guidance of Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners proposing relief:—Damage by frost to the more delicate kind of crops is not an unusual thing in any part of Northern India though the damage this year has, no doubt, been unusually severe and has extended to crops which ordinarily are not affected by cold. The extent to which the remission will be necessary will, therefore, depend upon local circumstances, and particularly on how far the harvest was originally above the normal, and how far ultimately it proves to be below. Normal relief should be given means of suspension of land revenue in first instance, and in cases where the ship caused appears to the Collector to be so great as to call for suspension being immediately converted into remission should be reported by him through the Commissioner for orders of the Financial Commissioner, and, if necessary, of the Government.



NEWS OF THE DAY.

Mr. Harrington, lately Agent and Chief Engineer of the Kalka-Simla Railway, goes home on the 28th instant.

News reached Calcutta of a distressing accident at Puri. Mr. J. Smith, of Messrs. Macneill and Company, who had gone down to the sea-side with some friends, was drowned. Details are wanting, but it would appear that the unfortunate gentleman was bathing in shallow water and was sucked under by a wave.

The question of the desirability or otherwise of rebuilding Dharmasala upon the same site will be reported on by a committee of experts. Mr. Middlemass, one of the senior scientific officers of the Geological Survey Department, is already upon the spot making observations and collecting data, and Mr. Holland, Director of the Geological Survey, proceeds there shortly.

A correspondent writes:—"An enterprising Indian merchant, P. Tholasingh Modellar, has been the pioneer in a new industry in Madras, and has started a mill in Wall Tax Road. (North), near the Basin Bridge, which produces boiled rice free from impurities of every description, such as stone, grit and bran. The mill has been designed by the merchant himself and was constructed under his direct supervision."

The Government of India have sanctioned the making of a new branch line connecting with the Southern Mahratta Railway from Gudeg to Byadgi via Lukmashur, and have directed that the survey be undertaken at once. The new line will pass through the Gudeg gold-fields and tap several important stations. The latest reports show that new gold mines near Gudeg have recently yielded as good results as the Kolar mines.

A P. W. Inspector (Bengali) of the B. N. Railway on the East Coast section was on the 8th instant trollying homewards with a laden trolly, when he was overtaken and run into by a "G" class light engine. The trolly, from accounts, was smashed, and the Inspector has since succumbed to the injuries received. An inquiry has been instituted, the results of which are not yet known.

Major Hayashi and another Japanese Attache have arrived at Simla. They have been asked by the Japanese Government to ascertain the extent of the earthquake damages and the nature of the help they can render to the sufferers in India. They have accordingly addressed the Government of India on the subject, but considering the free flow of subscriptions to the Lahore Fund, there will be no need to open a fund in Japan.

It has been proposed to transfer the villages of Aragod, Kodgod and Kadimamala, in the Coimbatore Taluk and the village of Nanthipuram, in the Satyamangalam Taluk, which now form part of the District of Coimbatore, to the Nilgiri District for Civil and Revenue as well as for Magisterial purposes and all persons affected by the proposed transfer have been called upon to present objections, if any, before the 30th June to the Divisional Officer, Coimbatore.

His Highness the Maharaja Col. Sir Pratap Singh, G.C.S.I., K.C.B., of Idar arrived at Lahore by the Bombay mail at 10-30 a.m. on Saturday. There were over two thousand people at the station to welcome him. Immediately after alighting from the train His Highness was garlanded and greeted by the audience. His Highness then accompanied by the Principal, D.A.V. College, and some other members of the Managing Committee, drove to the Kapurthala house. Where he took up his residence.

Mr. A. W. L. Vennedé, the Commercial Agent at Travancore, who has been asked to suggest measures for the reorganisation of the Travancore Excise Department having visited all the salt and tobacco bakhshas and chowkeys, or Custom Houses, and other institutions in the State from which such revenue is derived, has prepared a memorandum. His scheme of reform is on the lines of the Excise Administration in the Madras Presidency. The whole State will be divided into Ranges, Circles, etc., and there will be Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors, and Range Officers who will all be subordinate to the Excise Commissioner, who will be directly responsible to Government for the administration of the Department, which yields an annual revenue of Rs. 50 lakhs. As, under the present arrangement, the administration of Separate Revenue is in the hands of the four Dewan Peishcars, the scheme drawn up by Mr. Vennedé has been forwarded to them for an expression of their views and opinions on the measures proposed.

Mr. H. Nowroji, Acting Municipal Engineer, Madras, writes to a Madras contemporary:—"With reference to the complaints periodically reiterated in the local papers regarding the repugnant smell emitted by open water in certain parts of Madras during the hot weather, permit me to inform the public that the water can be deprived of the smell by the simple means of storing in bath tubs or country pots for twelve hours or less according to the intensity of the smell. I know of a house tap which is most violently in this respect, yet the water if drawn and stored overnight is perfectly odourless the following morning. The emission of bad smells from pipes is a common phenomenon in the tropics. This is the subject of a paper read before the Institution of Civil Engineers some two years ago, and it was followed by an illuminating discussion. The conclusion arrived at with much accord, was that the best of curing pipe water of bad smell was to let it stand, and doubtless aeration is the best which takes place when water is left for some time in wide-mouthed

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The Protest Meeting at Lahore

The following is the full text of the speech of Rai Bahadur Lala Muri Dhar at the protest meeting held at Lahore on the 21st April:—

Gentlemen,—I had always cherished the hope that in my declining years, I would draw myself apart from the turmoil and strife of political agitation and confine whatever energies remain in me to work in the field of the internal improvement of my countrymen. Of late, therefore, I had not taken any active part in politics, but on an occasion like this I cannot help adding my voice to the universal chorus of protest that has been elicited by Lord Curzon's unjustifiable remarks in his never-to-be-forgotten Convocation Speech. Is it not sad that at this time of great tribulation when some of the mighty forces of nature seem to have conspired to wage a long and relentless war against us, when the germs of pestilential diseases have been sucking the life-blood of our people, when the clouds either withhold rain in season, or pour down in torrents to destroy even the least vestige of vegetation when even our kind mother Earth opens her jaws to swallow her own children, Lord Curzon should have added to our distractions by denouncing our moral ideals. Is it not a matter of extreme regret to us that now when every minute of our time and all our energies such as they are should have been devoted to the alleviation of the sufferings of our fellow-men we should be driven by duty to hold a meeting to criticise the sayings and doings of the representative of our august Sovereign. The hand from which we looked for bread has given us stones. From what he has always declared to be his attitude towards the East, an attitude of sympathy, appreciation and even of admiration, one never expected that he would indulge in a Jeremiad, denouncing, oriental character in all its aspects. If the speech of His Excellency were only an abstract exhortation no fair and impartial mind could perhaps take exception to His Lordship's observations. To look at a thing in its proper light and not through a magnifying and distorting medium; to shun the habit of Sycophancy; to impute motives to no one; to cultivate the spirit of toleration and liberality of sentiment, to value honest work and not sounding words; to be respectful towards those in authority this, in short, outwardly viewed, formed the pith of His Lordship's discourse. How the whole Indian nation would have blessed his Lordship with one voice had he confined himself to advice of this kind, aiming at giving tone and stimulus to the moral fibre of the future hopes of the country. But alas! His Lordship let himself go in such an unrestrained manner as not only to brand the whole Indian community but all the races of the East with the character of liars, prevaricators, flatterers, exaggerators, mere nest hunters and practicers of all the wiles and subterfuges by which the dishonest seek to delude and deceive the straightforward strong. Gentlemen, even this denunciation, lacerating as it is, we would have borne, with patient equanimity. For a weak subject people as we are, we have cultivated the virtue of meek forbearance. We are accustomed to bear any amount of depreciation as to our mental, moral and intellectual powers, and even as to our character. Are we not told in so many words, in official reports and pronouncements, that we are unfit to be trusted with tasks of responsibility, that we are unfit to be entrusted with duties de-

manding a high degree of probity, that we are unfit to look after our own concerns, in short, that we are grown up babies, incapable of standing on our own feet. In fact, our sense of self-respect has become so attenuated, that we hear and bear all this every day and we would have borne without complaining Lord Curzon's academical lashes. But gentlemen, there is a limit to patience and forbearance, even to the patience and forbearance of Indians. And our patience is exhausted when His Lordship goes beyond and declares in effect that even our sacred Oriental literature extolled successful deception. Mark His Lordship's words. "In your epics," he says, "very often praise is given to successful deception." Lord Curzon translates from memory the following paragraph from some obscure Indian print to strengthen his position: "there is not a question but that lying is looked upon with much more disfavour by Europeans than by native society." The English opinions on this subject are strong, distinct and uncompromising, in the abstract Hindu and Mohammedan opinions are fluctuating, vague to a great extent, and dependent upon time, places and persons.

We can bear denunciations levelled at us but we cannot bear to see the mud of prejudice and misrepresentation thrown at our sacred literature on which the fabric of our ethics is based in a great measure. Men abler than myself have shown again and again with an authority that even Lord Curzon cannot challenge that our Shastras have set up an ideal for all of absolute loyalty to truth from which there was to be no deviation under any condition. Gentlemen, it might be said that it matters little whether even a Viceroy has a poor opinion of our national character. I must say, Gentlemen, that what from a private individual would have passed unnoticed or at the most with a word of mild protest becomes a thing of national concern when coming from one in the position of the representative of our Gracious Sovereign (long may he live) cheers. He is in a manner the arbiter of our destinies and enjoying as he does the confidence of a great majority of the British public, he is in a position to exercise vast influence over our present condition and our future in many useful directions. That one in his position should entertain such a poor opinion about the character of our sacred literature is not only a thing profoundly to be deplored but the misconception on which it is based needs to be fully exposed and the outrageous misrepresentation it conveys to be most strongly protested against.

The spirit displayed in the Convocation Speech is specially noticeable as it furnishes a key to the policy in which the chief measures marking His Lordship's regime have originated. When the Universities Act, the virtual destruction of Local Self-Government in Calcutta, and the Official Secretariat Act were characterized by the unanimous opinion of our countrymen as retrograde and reactionary, they were told that they could not conceive the depth of wisdom and breadth of liberality embodied in these momentous measures. The Convocation Speech indicates what His Excellency's views are as regards the capacity and character of our countrymen, and why His Lordship has set himself to officialize the Universities, knock on the head of Local Self-Government, and curtail the freedom of the Press. No one admires more than myself the brilliant abilities and indefatigable industry characterizing Lord Curzon. It is with deep sorrow, therefore, that I join my voice to that of my countrymen in all parts of India in protest against His Lordship's unjustifiable denunciation.

THE CEYLON PEARL FISHERY.

Brief references in certain London papers to the Syndicate's offer to lease the pearl fisheries from the Ceylon Government have created an impression locally, says the "Ceylon Observer," that more was known publicly at home concerning the proposal than in Ceylon. This is evidently not so for had any agreement been arrived at the local representative of the Syndicate, Lieutenant-Colonel Mackenzie Foss, would have been immediately informed by cable, and he has informed us that he has received no news at all.

Lieutenant-Colonel Foss has full powers to make an arrangement, if possible, with the Ceylon Government; but whether the agreement would be in reality with the local Government or the Colonial Office he is uncertain. It seems that the Ceylon authorities are unwilling to make a decision one way or another, until the present fishery is terminated. Colonel Foss, meanwhile, is waiting in Ceylon, like Mr. Micawber, "for something to turn up" and the enforced idleness is not to his liking. "I have important mining interests," he says, "which in my absence are possibly all going to pot."

The Syndicate's original offer was made some time ago, and they offered to take it up from this year; that was before the present fishing was decided upon, and they were willing to take their chance of there being any oysters, or not. "Our position now," says Colonel Foss, "is altered considerably. The Government has lifted some 50,000,000 oysters and pocketed say £150,000, and that means £150,000 less on the banks." Whether the Syndicate's offer would now be modified or not he was unable to say. "I have had no communications beyond a few cables, and not a single letter on the subject for a month."

PROBABLE METHODS OF THE SYNDICATE.

On being asked how the Syndicate would probably run the show, Colonel Foss said:—The fishery will probably be run at first on much the same lines as at present; that is as regards the disposal of the oysters to the merchants. But our methods of cultivation would be different. For one thing no oysters under 4½ years old would be taken. At the present fishery, I believe, they are selling 3½-year-old oysters, or even below this. Each year that you live the oysters, the pearls—provided they contain any—get bigger, naturally. A year would make a considerable difference; and the more valuable pearls would be much increased in size in one year.

AN OYSTER-WASHING MACHINE.

Colonel Mackenzie Foss believes in Mr. Dixon's big washing machine, at any rate as a stand-by. As he says, with a machine like that they could break any ring made by the buyers to keep prices too low. If the merchants refused to go beyond a certain price for the oysters they could then refuse to sell and say "Well wash them ourselves and get the pearls." The pearls could then be auctioned to the merchants.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Mr. W. C. M. Abeysekere, an astrologer of Colombo, writes as follows to the "Times of Ceylon":—"I see there is a great boast in the Baltic Fleet. It will give some trouble to the Japanese, but it will suffer much and will be disappointed, for there is a certain female planet to work against it, who can throw it into any way, as she has influence over the ocean, and that the Baltic Fleet by proceeding as she is just doing is causing her great annoyance."

A correspondent writes from Bellary underdate 20th instant:—"Last night at about 10-50, a huge brilliant star, shooting forth from the northern direction took a North-easterly course and ran over a space covering about half-a-mile. The brilliancy of the star which was mistaken for lightning by a few, exceeded that of 20 or 25 'bouts' put together though it was of short duration. The few that enjoyed the pleasant spectacle were, to speak the truth, actually electrified. "Madras Standard."

In the Madras Police Court Bombay, before Mr. P. H. Dastur, Second Presidency Magistrate, on Saturday, Superintendent Grennan prosecuted Sharif Danji, a Mahomedan, with selling obscene pictures in Queen's Road, on Wednesday evening. The defence was that the pictures were not obscene. Accused had been selling them for the last six months, and the Government had passed them. The Magistrate said that the accused should have proved that the pictures had been passed by the Government authorities; his mere assertion to this effect could not be accepted by the Court. He was fined Rs. 20.

A Palitana correspondent writes to the "Advocate of India" under date the 21st:—"Dr. Sir Bhalchandra Krishna, accompanied by the Magistrate of Palitana, paid a visit, to-day, to the sacred temples of the Jains on the Sotrunga Hills. While entering the 'tunk', the visitor was asked by the Jain 'tunk' inspector at the temple, who is also a pleader, to remove his shoes. Sir Bhalchandra refused to do so, saying that he was instructed by the Thakore Sahab not to do so, and he, being a guest of his Highness, would not go against his wishes. 'Walking with shoes on in the 'tunk' being repugnant to the religious feelings of the Jains, the inspector ordered the 'tunk' to be closed, and Sir Bhalchandra had to return without seeing them."

Before Mr. P. H. Dastur, at Mazagon, Bombay, Inspector Paterson charged Mullia Kolia and three other Hindus with burglary and theft of ornaments and embroidery of the collective value of Rs. 3,149, belonging to one Moreswar Hari Shunker, also a Hindu, residing at Girgaum. The evidence showed that about three months ago the complainant locked his house on account of plague and went to reside at Andheri. On Thursday last, at about 1 p.m., complainant's neighbour, a woman, saw the accused in the house, ransacking the boxes and cupboards, and raised an alarm. This brought other neighbours on the scene, who arrested the first accused. His accomplices made good their escape, but were subsequently identified and arrested. The whole of the property was recovered. His wife convicted the first three accused and sentenced each of them to undergo nine months' rigorous imprisonment. The fourth accused, against whom there was no evidence, was discharged.

Part of the report of the Committee of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine regarding the researches of the last expedition to Sierra Leone reads: Greater care should be taken to instruct merchants' assistants proceeding to the coast how malaria is conveyed by certain mosquitoes, and by them only. The rigorous use of mosquito nets is urged, and a point is made of the necessity for the European Community to live away from the native quarters until malaria in the native population is substantially reduced from its present exceedingly high percentage. Drinking-water, it is advocated, should be under public control and private wells rigorously abolished, and drainage should be carried out in a comprehensive manner. It is also urged that the grant for sanitary administration should be increased; that a pathological observatory should be established in each of the principal coast towns; that greater attention should be devoted to the study and prevention of diseases in domestic and transport animals, and to the cultivation of vegetables; that the health statistics of the European population should be made complete in order to measure the results of sanitation and anti-mosquito measures, and that fuller information should be furnished in the annual colonial reports.

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INDIAN NOTES.

JAMNAGAR OUTLAW KILLED.

Charama Raide Bhaya Bhuchad, a notorious outlaw, who had looted several villages and committed several other atrocities some sixteen years ago, was killed by the Jamnagar State Police on the 21st, after two successive engagements within an interval of forty-eight hours. He had six associates in the fight, of whom three were wounded. Bhuchad was a life convict undergoing punishment in the Surat Jail, whence he managed to escape more than two years ago and had lately formed himself the leader of a gang of twenty "badmashes," who committed several dacoities since the beginning of March within Jamnagar, Junagadh, Jeypur and Gondal territories. The property looted in these dacoities with the arms of the dacoits was also recovered. On a former occasion Bhuchad was arrested after much trouble by the late Colonel Humphrey, the special officer appointed by the Government for his arrest. The police casualties in the present encounter were one killed and three wounded.

A NEW VOLCANO.

The rumours that have been current in various parts of the Punjab that an active volcano had sprung into existence coincident with the earthquake cannot, of course, be traced to their source, but there seems no reason to suppose that they have any foundation in fact. In the Kangra Valley itself the report presents itself in the shape of a story that somewhere away to the north there is a mountain "on fire." In the Simla district the locality is given as Bashahr; but we should certainly have heard by this time from Kulu if any volcanic eruption had taken place in the quarter indicated. Moreover, Mr. Calvert, Assistant Commissioner, was actually in the neighbourhood of Rampur in Bashahr on the 4th instant and had therefore opportunities of learning of any extraordinary phenomenon. The little State is seldom visited by Europeans, save when travellers go to Chini, which is within its borders. It lies south-east of the Kulu Valley and due north of Garhwal and is thus somewhat isolated, though the Hindustan-Tibet grand trunk road from Simla passes through it. There has been time also for traders coming down through Rampur and Kotgarh to give news, but they have not stated that anything out of the common has happened.—"Pioneer."

EARTHQUAKE AT DHARMSALA AND KANGRA.

The truth seems to be that the earthquake was so appalling that in their alarm the people believed any story which was set afloat. At Dharmasala and in the Kangra Valley there was undoubtedly a terrifying noise accompanying the shocks, and it was this as much as the rocking of the earth and the collapse of buildings which drove those who escaped with their lives to flee into the open country. They dreaded something even more awful; and, as many survivors have said, they feared that the solid ground might open and swallow them up. The snow on the high Dhauladhar Range was said to be brown with dust; the Beas River was described as running black; and these portents were taken as implying that worse was to come. But the brown appearance of the snow had been noted by Europeans at Dharmasala before the earthquake, and it was possibly due to the curious dust-haze which hung over the Punjab and even the United Provinces for several days before the 4th instant. As to the colour of the waters in the Beas, if the black tinge was even visible it might have resulted from a landslide. Of a volcanic eruption there is absolutely no evidence up to the present and it is unlikely that any will be forthcoming when news comes in from the mountainous region to the north of Lahoul and Spiti. We know that the earthquake extended to Lahoul, and it will probably be found that it reached Spiti also. It will be interesting to learn whether it extended to Western Tibet, but weeks must pass before any report can be received from Gartok.

RUBBER CULTIVATION IN BORNEO.

The capitalists who are exploiting Borneo are alive to the commercial possibilities of rubber. Thousand of acres have been found entirely suitable to the cultivation of the rubber plant, and it is likely that Borneo will soon rank with the Straits and Ceylon, while its wider territory gives finer opportunities for future expansion. At a meeting held in London to consider the prospects of rubber cultivation in Borneo the usual objection was raised that the extension of rubber growing would lead to competition and a consequent killing of prices. Last year plantation rubber reached 6s. 9d. per lb. and it was pointed out that if the price even fell to 2s. a lb. there would still be a good margin of profit. But there is no possibility of the demand for rubber falling off. Every day its utility is being more fully realised and when the supply is sufficient rubber must largely be used in road construction. In time the carriage will come to be looked upon as something very out of date, and the public will insist on even the commonest trolleys being fitted with these tyres. In Bombay it is the exception to find a gharry without rubber tyre is gradually coming into use. Brazil at present is the chief provider of "wild" rubber, but as the Government expect a ten per cent export duty the plantation rubber of the colonies will have a decided advantage. At present however there should be little hesitation in planting rubber, as the supply of plantation rubber now represents only 1 per cent of the total output. The fact that it takes five years for rubber trees to reach the money earning stage will in itself prove a sufficient check to wholesale and indiscriminate competition.

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FOREST ADMINISTRATION IN THE PUNJAB.

The Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Punjab for the year 1903-04 shows a marked increase in forest crime. The total number of offences is six hundred above those recorded during the preceding year and nearly five hundred in excess of the average for the previous triennium. The increase does not occur under the head of fires, which, on the contrary, have slightly diminished. But this diminution seems to be due to enhanced vigilance and to some accidental causes. Advantage has been taken of the amended law to close certain areas in the Hamirpur protected forests of the Kangra Division against private rights as a punishment for this offence. The department has also been assisted in its endeavours to prevent the spread of fires by the favourable rains which further reduced the temptation to trespass in search of grazing, and the number of cattle impounded during the year sensibly diminished. The sentences awarded by the Courts for forest crime are generally adequate, but in the absence of explanation, the fine of Rs. 50 with three months' imprisonment inflicted in Rawalpindi in a case of malicious firing does not appear to the Government a sufficient punishment. The financial results of the year's working were, on the other hand, most satisfactory. The gross income increased, and the expenditure decreased, so that the net profit of close on seven lakhs of rupees is the largest on record. The causes principally contributing to this favourable result were enhanced prices due to an increased demand for timber and the substitution in the Upper Ravi Forests of exploitation by purchasers for departmental timber operations. The favourable rains of the year also caused a rise in the income to the department from price of grass and fees for grazing. The year, however, was an unfavourable one for natural reproduction, and the artificial reproduction of the period is only reported as being fairly successful. It is, therefore, not surprising to hear that the experiments of the year in raising and acclimatising exotic species were not attended with success.

HIGH PRICE OF RICE IN CHINGLEPUT.

The average price of rice during the week ending the 15th instant was 10-2 seers in Chingleput, while the average for ten normal years previous to Fasil 1309 is 15-5 seers. At the beginning of the current Fasil i.e., in June last, rice sold at 14-4 and ragi at 23-6 seers. Since then the prices have been steadily going up, and in November last the rice became sharp. The Board of Revenue expressed the opinion that the sudden and general rise of prices was "due to the unfavourable character of the north-east monsoon and the manipulation of the grain market by speculative traders." They held the view that the existing stocks of grain in the district were considerable. How they came to this conclusion we were not told. They anticipated that as soon as the grain in stock was placed upon the market prices must fall. Mr. Danes was the Collector of the District in December. He reported that a look at the table of prices since Fasil 1312 would not justify the anticipation of a heavy fall. The Tahsildars of the several Taluqs reported that there were no stock of grain in their Taluqs and that what could be sold had been sold already. Some of them reported that while the richer landowners had stocks, grain was being largely imported from outside. It has to be remembered that the normal prices of rice and ragi are 14-9 seers and 25-6 seers, respectively. The "warning" rates as laid down in the Famine Code are 11-2 and 18-0. These warning rates were reached by the end of November, and since then the price of rice has gone up. The Board derives a comfortable consolation from the fact that since December last the prices have been stationary. They little take into their consideration that the prices have been abnormally high for a series of years. Notwithstanding the report of the Collector, they lay stress on their original conclusion that no apprehension need be felt in regard to the sufficiency of local stocks. We should like to know on what authority the Board believe in local stocks. If the opinion of those who are on the spot is disbelieved, it must be on unimpeachable authority. All that the Board have got to say is that there is considerable stock in the district. But famine in this country is not a famine of food, but a famine of money.—"Hindu."

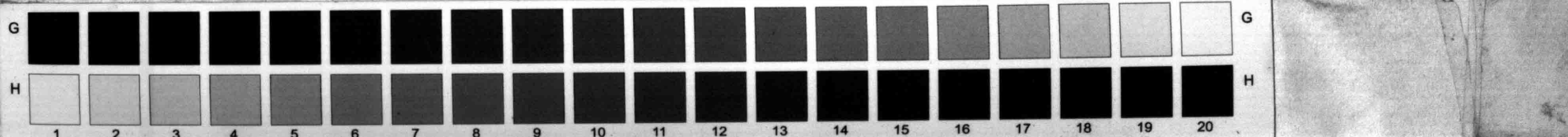
A MALDA SENSATION.

(From our own correspondent.)

Malda, April 26.
On the 19th April, a scene was enacted in the court of Babu B. D. Bose, a local Deputy Magistrate. Babu Bepin Behari Bose, B.L., a leading pleader, appeared in the court of the Deputy Magistrate and was addressing him in connection with a case, when the latter is alleged to have used certain remarks, which the former considered as insulting and defamatory. On the 25th instant, Babu Bepin Behari filed a complaint against the Deputy Magistrate charging him under Secs. 500 and 504 I.P.O. Mr. B. De, the District Magistrate after finishing the examination of the complainant, has sent the petition to the accused Deputy Magistrate for stating what he has to say in the matter. The regrettable incident has created quite a sensation in this quiet and out of the way station.

That the German chemical industry had a prosperous year in 1904 will be interesting, if not particularly gratifying news to the Indian indigo-planter, and others in this country. The Bremen Chemical Works paid a dividend of 23 per cent, as against 22 per cent. in 1903; the Verein Chemischer Fabriken 19 per cent. instead of 16 per cent., and all the other principal companies made an enhanced return to their shareholders.

The long-discussed project of an arts and industries exhibition hall in Madras, in connection with the Victoria Technical Institute, seems at last within measurable distance of being put in hand, and it is probable that the Prince of Wales will be asked to lay the foundation-stone during his visit to Madras next February. The proposed hall will be situated by the side of the present Government Central Museum and the Connemara Library. The Institute Council will have about 2½ lakhs at its disposal after the new building has been paid for. In addition to its present excellent library, the Council is taking action in other directions. In the meantime the formation of a central agricultural committee for the Presidency has been approved, and it is proposed to form other committees for special local industries such as weaving.



Quetta, April 24.

Mr. A. Williams, I.C.S., Revenue and Judicial Commissioner in Beluchistan, has been appointed Resident in Mysore, in succession to Sir James Bourdillon, Major Archer, Political Agent, Quetta-Peshin district, will again fill up the interregnum, Captain Dew, Assistant Political Agent, who has been re-posted here from Sibi district, acting once more for the latter. These continual changes of officers militate against the proper administration of these territories and are a cause of feeling of uncertainty as regards the public thereof.

A case of alleged maltreatment of a hackney driver, by some British soldiers of the garrison, occurred recently. Magisterial enquiry is being held, and every effort to bring the offenders to justice is being made.

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A sam Gaze te

Mr. P. G. Rogers, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, Gauhati, is appointed Personal Assistant to the Chief Commissioner.

Mr. J. G. Arbuthnot, C.I.E., I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, on return from leave, is posted to Aijal as Superintendent, Lushai Hills.

With effect from the 5th September 1904 and in supersession of Notification No. 10753G, dated the 23rd December 1904:—
Captain A. Playfair, I.A., Assistant Commissioner, second grade, and Mr. J. Donald, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, third grade, to be Assistant Commissioners, first grade, sub "pro tem," but to continue to officiate as Deputy Commissioners, third grade. Mr. P. E. Cammiade, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, first grade, sub "pro tem," to officiate as Assistant Commissioner, first grade, but to be sub "pro tem," in the second grade of Assistant Commissioners. Messrs H. L. Salkeld, I.C.S., and F. W. Strong, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioners, second grade, sub "pro tem," but to continue to officiate as Assistant Commissioners, first grade. Mrs. McSwiney, I.C.S., and J. G. Dunlop, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioners, second grade, sub "pro tem," to officiate as Assistant Commissioners, first grade.

With effect from the 17th November 1904, vice Mr. J. Johnston, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, first grade, sub "pro tem," transferred to Bengal:—Mr. P. E. Cammiade, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, second grade, sub "pro tem," and Officiating Assistant Commissioner, first grade, sub "pro tem." Mr. A. Majid, Assistant Commissioner, third grade, to be Assistant Commissioner, second grade, sub "pro tem," but to continue to officiate as Assistant Commissioner, first grade. Mr. J. G. Dunlop, I.C.S., Asst. Comr. second grade to officiate as Asst. Comr. first grade.

With effect from the 21st December 1904, vice Mr. J. Donald, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, first grade, sub "pro tem," transferred to Bengal:—Mr. H. L. Salkeld, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, second grade, sub "pro tem," and Officiating Assistant Commissioner, first grade, sub "pro tem." Mr. A. R. Edwards, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, third grade, to be Assistant Commissioner, second grade, sub "pro tem," but to continue to officiate as Assistant Commissioner, first grade.

With effect from the 3rd January 1905, the date on which Mr. H. A. C. Colquhoun, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, second grade, returned from leave:—Mr. H. A. C. Colquhoun, I.C.S., to be Assistant Commissioner, first grade, sub "pro tem," and to officiate as Judge, Assam Valley Districts, grade, vice Mr. F. E. Jackson, appointed to officiate as Judge, Assam Valley Districts. Mr. H. L. Salkeld, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, first grade, sub "pro tem," to be Assistant Commissioner, second grade, sub "pro tem," and to officiate as Assistant Commissioner, first grade. Mr. A. R. Edwards, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, second grade, sub "pro tem," to cease to be sub "pro tem," in that grade, but to continue to officiate as Assistant Commissioner, first grade.

With effect from the 15th February 1905 the date on which Major A. E. Woods, I.A., Deputy Commissioner, second grade, returned to duty from leave:—Mr. W. J. Reid, I.C.S., Officiating Deputy Commissioner, second grade, to revert to his substantive appointment of Deputy Commissioner, third grade. Mr. H. A. C. Colquhoun, I.C.S., Officiating Deputy Commissioner, third grade, to revert to Assistant Commissioner, first grade sub "pro tem." Mr. J. G. Dunlop, I.C.S., Officiating Assistant Commissioner, first grade, to officiate as Assistant Commissioner, second grade. Mr. A. J. Lane, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, third grade to officiate as Assistant Commissioner, second grade.

Mr. E. G. Hart, Assistant Superintendent of the Police, received executive charge of the Garo Hills Treasury from Mr. R. A. Boermel, on the 14th March 1905. Captain A. Playfair, Officiating Deputy Commissioner, received executive charge of the Garo Hills Treasury from Mr. E. G. Hart, Assistant Superintendent of Police, on the 23rd March 1905.

The marriage of His Highness the Maharaj Rana of Dholpur and the Princess of Nabha has been fixed for the 8th June.

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.

It may be noticed, as one of the vagaries of the earthquake of the 4th instant, that it brought down the tower of the notorious Mulla Porida, which was being built at Kanigram, but did no other damage in Waziristan.

Sir Denzil Ibbetson after assuming officiating charge of the Lieutenant-Governorship of the Punjab, will probably remain in Lahore until the end of the second week of May, and will then proceed to Simla.

A Commercial Academy under Indian auspices has been established at Lahore in order to provide facilities for training to young men anxious to secure billets in mercantile offices and business houses. The formal opening ceremony of the institution took place on Monday last.

A Bangalore correspondent writes:—I mentioned in these columns some little time back that it was probable the Government would arrange for some Khedda operations, in view to affording the Royal visitors an opportunity of witnessing an elephant catch. I now understand that the Conservator of Forests has been directed to begin operations in the summer, and arrangements are also to be made for some big game shooting in the Mysore jungles for the Royal party.

THE C. P. AND BERARS PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.

Nagpur, April 22.

As announced the first Session of the Central Provinces and Berars Provincial Conference met at the MacDonnell Town Hall this afternoon. Mr. G. M. Chitnavis, C.I.E., President to the Reception Committee made the following speech:—

The duty I have to perform on this occasion is to receive you, gentlemen, who have come from the various parts of the two Provinces to take part in this conference. I need hardly assure you that this to me is an honour and a privilege to be called upon to discharge it. In the name of my colleagues who have organized this conference and of the citizens of this historic town I beg to tender you our most cordial greetings and our equally cordial thanks for the hearty response you have been pleased to give to our invitation. We meet here many valued friends, renew many old acquaintances, and let us hope and trust, will form many new ones. Apart from the general interest and the varied importance of a gathering like this, this assemblage possesses a value and a significance of its own. As you all know, Nagpur and Berar once formed parts of, and owed allegiance to, a common Government. Time and circumstances severed this tie of fellowship and now it is our peculiar privilege and special good fortune to rejoice at the return of our long-separated brethren and to extend to them the right-hand of fellowship. It is only fitting that this reunion should be signalized and emphasised by a gathering like this. It is a happy augury for the future and cannot but fail to exercise a potent influence for good on our life and destiny. Welded together as a compact whole under a common administration, the two provinces will in future merge their individualities in one common existence, be animated by common aims and aspirations, and be subject to common joys and sorrows. We therefore join hands with our brethren in the Berar and we hope that we shall in future march hand in hand on the path of progress, helping one another in our efforts to better our condition and thereby adding to the momentum and accelerating the pace of progress. Gentlemen, if this meeting serves no other purpose than to enable the scattered units of our community to come together and coalesce, I venture to think we shall not have met in vain; nor is this an occasion for mere private or provincial rejoicing. We join in the general chorus of congratulations which has signalled the presentation of the Imperial Budget and we take this opportunity of expressing our heart-felt gratitude to the Government for the wise and generous manner in which the year's surplus has been dealt with. We thus meet at a time, when, owing to the great improvement in the finances of the Empire and the generous spirit which has inspired the Government to utilize the surplus for the advancement of the country, we may with every hope of our prayer being favourably considered, suggest plans of improvements in communication, education, sanitation and such other matters as at present occupy the public mind. Our meeting at this time will have this additional advantage that it will enable us to submit our conclusions before the administration whose members usually meet in conference at Pachmarhi at this time of the year.

***PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.**

Mr. G. S. Khaparde B.A. LL.B., High Court Pleader, Amraoti, as President, after expressing gratitude to Government for its attitude of toleration and neutrality towards national movements, among other things, said:—

We established our congress over twenty years ago and from experience of its actual working, know that it focuses public opinion on all subjects dealt with by it. From the nature of its constitution, it does not seek to create public opinion. It merely collects into a volume the opinions already formed by the public at large, and gives expression to them by its resolutions. To bring these prominently to the notice of the Government of India in India and the Government of India in England the Committees of the congress both in India and England submit memorials embodying the said resolutions. The work done by it, and the mode followed in doing it, have been very thoroughly criticized both by friends and opponents and if in the multiplicity of counsels there is wisdom, it is in this instance somewhat bewildering and difficult to grasp. We have been assured on the one hand that our modes are offensive and irritating, on the other hand we have been solemnly told that we are begging and cringing. Some blame us for doing nothing beyond passing resolutions while others think that by holding our sessions in different parts of the country, we attempt the impossible and are, therefore, doomed to failure. In its earlier stages the charge of disloyalty was hurled against our heads, and now though it has not been formally withdrawn, we are confronted with another, viz. of impracticability and of entertaining European ideals. I do not propose to deal with all the aspersions or with any of them for the obvious reason that the Congress is a large institution and has many stalwart friends. They know how to take care of it and the occasion for defending its actions are numerous. The body which we have met to inaugurate may be likened to the tributary of a mighty river. It has an independent origin and a double function to perform, viz. to fertilize its own valley and to add volume and force to the current of the main river. Like the Congress we also do not seek to create opinion, the opinion exists in the country, but for want of organization it is not articulated and we only seek to voice it. It is a mistake to suppose that the intellectual races inhabiting this large continent of India do not think and form opinions about their political environments; and we in this province, have in common with others strong convictions on many matters, which have not yet and will never reach the Congress because of their local as opposed to imperial character.

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CURIOUS CUSTOMS OF THE GREEN-LANDER.**DANISH RESEARCHES.**

Berlin, Tuesday, Mar. 23.

Professor Mylius Eriksen, in the course of a lecture at the Altona Museum gave a graphic description of his recent expedition to Greenland. Professor Eriksen's main purpose in exploring Greenland was to study from an ethnological point of view not only those natives who have become converted to Christianity, but also the natives living round Cape York who still adhere to their heathen belief. Over two and a half years were devoted to this purpose, and the whole of the west coast of Greenland was thoroughly explored. The delicacies, as well as the staple articles of food, of the Esquimaux—such as blubber, tallow, and various kinds of grease—were all tried by the different explorers before starting, in order gradually to overcome, if possible, the disgust first experienced on adopting this diet.

FORMER ARCTIC INHABITANTS.

From Upernivik, the most northern colony in the world where Europeans are permanently settled, the expedition, accompanied by three Greenlanders, journeyed to Holm Island, and in April, 1903, Cape York was reached.

Great cold was experienced, from which the different members of the expedition suffered severely. They rubbed their skin with vaseline and never thought of washing, firstly, because water was scarce, and secondly, because the accumulated crust of dirt formed a good protection against the cold. On the journey to Melville Bay the expedition discovered numerous remains of houses and stone towers and other indications that these regions must have been permanently inhabited in former times. Wandering tribes from America must have lived there, as the Esquimaux live only in snow huts. On April 17th the Danish flag was hoisted at Cape York and possession taken of the country for the King of Denmark.

No one was found at Cape York, where the huts were deserted, but traces of sledges leading towards the north were still visible. Three days later heathen inhabitants were found on the Sander Islands, and as Count Moltke had fallen ill and required careful nursing it was decided to make a halt there. Soon after his arrival Professor Eriksen paid a visit to the natives. Their stone huts were smeared all over with blood and pieces of flesh, and entrails were lying scattered about the floors. In the huts snow was being melted in tin cans by means of blubber lamps in order to provide drinking water.

HEATHEN CUSTOMS.

Manslaughter is by no means uncommon among the heathen natives, but invariably leads to a kind of vendetta between the relatives of the murderer and those of the murdered person. If a young married man or his wife dies the surviving party has the right to kill the small children should he or she not be in a position to guarantee their maintenance. Aged persons, on the other hand, are willingly supported by their relatives. Children are never beaten or punished, no matter how badly they behave. The Esquimaux explain this custom by saying that the children have no power of understanding, and therefore have no idea of wrong and punishment. The age of childhood ceases at the fourteenth year, after which boys are exercised in hunting. Girls are considered suitable for marriage at the age of twelve or thirteen.

Polygamy seldom occurs, as there is a scarcity of Esquimaux women. In spite of this, however, the Professor met several men who had two wives. The exchange of wives is very frequent, and is considered to be a kind of luxury. Wives must obey their husbands, otherwise they are beaten. Husbands maintain that their wives must be beaten several times annually to prevent their desire for supremacy to the household from becoming too persistent.

Only the spirit conjurers (angakoks) occupy an exalted position, being regarded as priests and doctors. Their task is to establish a connection between the visible world and the hidden spirits, and in this way they obtain a certain influence over their neighbours. The angakok asks his spirit for advice, and then informs the invalid that his illness has been sent by the spirits as punishment for certain deeds.

THE ESQUIMAUX STORY-TELLER.

The heathen Esquimaux lacks imagination, but his powers of observation are very acute. In spite of the fact that his life is an uninterrupted struggle for existence the Greenlanders are always in a good humour, and his boisterous laugh can be heard sounding far over ice and snow-fields. His way of telling stories is short and abrupt, but comical features are strongly emphasised. His stories consist generally of his own adventures, old legends about fights with neighbours and wild animals, about severe winters and great famines, about the creation of the world, and about supernatural beings. It is considered highly creditable to be able to tell stories so long that the audience is lulled to sleep. An orator who achieves this feat is solemnly welcomed on the next morning, and everyone thanks him profusely for the pleasure which he accorded the night before.

The idea of beauty is peculiarly developed in the heathen Esquimaux. He regards beauty solely from the standpoint of utility. For instance, a rock projecting out of water only appears beautiful to him when it is visited in summer by water birds who breed there. A foaming torrent is only beautiful if it contains many salmon. Clothes are not put together with any idea of regularity of colour; only their practical utility being considered. Huts are made of snow and stones, with domed tops, but without any architectural design.

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