







ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH

PLAIN SPEAKING FROM INDIANS TO THEIR RULERS.

TOPICS

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, April 14.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

The whole high scheme in which we move and melt... Hence the true faith—to the uttermost to be Thyself—to follow up that ecstasy...

MR. C. J. O'DONNELL'S TRUMPET

Before an audience of South London working men—with a sprinkling of women and children—at the Liberal and Radical Association of North Lambeth, Mr. C. J. O'Donnell gave on Tuesday last his forcible lecture on Famines and Taxation in India.

THE HAPPY BALFOUR-CHAMBERLAIN FAMILY.

Once again, according to speeches, resolutions, and decisions of Tariff Reformers, Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain are marching hand in hand, supporting each other, and neither of them, protectionists.

Yesterday a curious sight was witnessed in London; an Indian gentleman addressed some stern remarks to British officials with regard to their neglect of the Indian vernaculars, especially of Hindustani, and the consequent want of touch with the people...

The full report of the lecture will reach you in due course, so I need only indicate here the very able manner in which the learned Shaikh showed how Hindustani was expanding, how it could now be heard north, south, east, and west beyond the frontiers of India...

As to the plain speaking of the Shaikh to British administrators, I will quote a few sentences from his lecture. He began this part of his subject by a most appreciative and affectionate reference to Queen Victoria's determination to understand the language of so many of her Indian subjects...

"Instead of reading the periodical literature through the translations of their subordinates, who have it in their power to suppress whatever they like and set forth whatever they desire, let the officials be able to read it in the original, and they will find themselves immensely well informed on matters that now escape their notice."

"Whenever they hear of a book that has stirred the very soul of the people, let them take hold of it and read it, and try to find out the secret of its strength. They may study some specimens of the works of popular poets, and they will know the beat of the pulse of the people. With this never-failing source of information at their service nothing will remain secret, nothing impenetrable."

"On the contrary it is likely to increase with the increased influence of literature which the future promises to bring with it."

Not only was the lecturer an Indian gentleman of distinction, but he had as chairman one of the most learned Indians of our day, Syed Amir Ali. It is only occasionally that he is persuaded to leave his rural surroundings in Berkshire and appear on a public platform in London...

tion of Hindustani into Roman characters. In spite of plain speaking and a frank recognition of the language laid at their door, it required some courage on the part of Mr. Parneshwar Lal to get up and say that the future of the people was the first important matter...

THE AUTHOR OF THE BOER WAR

LORD MILNER.

In the current number of the "Review of Reviews" Mr. W. T. Stead writes a character sketch of Lord Milner which is of special interest, for it deals in a masterly manner with the events that led up to Britain's declaration of war against the Dutch Republics, with Lord Milner's action, with his failure and home-coming, with Lord Selborne's appointment, and with what will be expected of the new Liberal Government.

It is impossible here to do more than convey a mere outline of the exceedingly able and interesting article written by Mr. Stead, but I do not hesitate to refer to it because it is believed in certain quarters that one day Lord Milner will find himself Viceroy of India.

To one cause Mr. Stead attributes Lord Milner's relentless policy in South Africa, and that is that in temperament, as in birth, he is a German. His father was German; he was born in Germany, in spite of his English training, which followed after the foundations of his education had been laid in Germany.

Mr. Stead goes on to show that the Milner policy met with serious obstacles; Mr. Chamberlain gave him no support. But Lord Milner set himself to silence the doubters, and the press, he captured Mr. Chamberlain, and got his own way. He asked for a solid front against the Boer Republics, and he got it; Parliament, Ministers, press and public gave him that combined support which he maintained would enable him to answer for peace but the result was an ultimatum and a devastating war.

As to Lord Selborne, Mr. Stead considers him good enough as a stop-gap; with a Liberal Government in power he will have to be recalled; but meanwhile he observes, it will be interesting to see how he vindicates before his fellow countrymen the pledge of the British Government to make its name respected, and especially, too, the strong words he spoke recently as to the treatment of the Indians in the Transvaal—a treatment which belies the gracious proclamation of Queen Victoria.

One word more. As to the future, I quote Mr. Stead's weighty words: "If the Empire is to be saved in South Africa it will be saved by the advent of the Liberals, who, if they have any of the instinct of statesmanship left in them, will spare no effort to convince the Dutch South Africans that the new Government utterly and with a whole heart detests and abhors the infamies by which its predecessors supplied the British flag during the war."

FATHER GAPON'S ALLEGORY CONCERNING THE GRAND DUKE SERGIUS.

The American papers do not hesitate to deal with men and matters in a striking manner, and the "New York American" publishes what it calls a stern, yet touching allegory by Father Gapon in condemnation

of the murdered Grand Duke Sergius. A picture of the Grand Duke mounting up the steps to Heaven's Gate accompanies the allegory. I give you the substance of the story for what it may be worth. Two Russian soldiers in the far-away place where heaven meets earth, are discussing their long journey to heaven and the possibilities of admission. They are accompanied by a long procession of men who have been killed on the battlefields of Manchuria.

"When the last echo of the sufferings that thou hast caused thy fellow men has died away," said Peter impressively, "when all the wounds inflicted by thee upon the bodies and souls of men; when all the widows that denounce thee for robbing them of loving husbands; when all the women and girls that thou didst cause to be knouted have lived down and forgotten the wrong thou didst them; when every tear shed on account of thy crimes is dried and turned into a rose; when men, women, and children no longer go about shuddering at the name of Serge, then the Lord, in His infinite grace and kindness, will set thy name upon my lists, then thou wilt be permitted to enter the hall of glory; not before."

SCRAPS

The death of Raja Jai Kissen Das, C.S.I., removes a prominent figure in the United Provinces from the stage of the world's affairs. He was for many years the foremost member of the Subordinate Executive Service of the U. P. His loyal services to the Government were conspicuous and were rewarded, not only by the titles conferred upon him but by substantial grants of land.

The current number of the "Indian Sociologist" publishes the names of the successful candidates for the Indian Travelling Fellowships founded by Pandit Shyamaji Krishna Varma; they are as follows:—The Herbert Spencer Indian Fellowship is awarded to Abdullah Al-Mamun Sunnawady, M.A., First Class; Gold Medalist (Calcutta), and M.A., (London).

The Swami Dayananda Saraswati Fellowship is awarded to Sarat Chandra Mukerji, M.A. (First Class; Gold Medalist, Calcutta), formerly on the staff of the Dayananda Anglo-Vedic College, Lahore.

What pleases us most in this connection is that though the founder of the Fellowships is a Hindu, yet three of the beneficiaries are Mohammedan youths. This unmistakably shows that the enlightened and patriotic Indian of to-day is far above to stop to recognise any distinction between the two races; for racial differences and sectarian jealousies have been the ruin of India and the sooner we get rid of them the better.

Pundit Shyamaji Krishna Varma has undoubtedly done a commendable act and deserves thanks of his countrymen for founding the Richard Congre Indian Fellowship in honour of the memory of the famous scholar and friend of India. In view of the persecutions and the pecuniary loss Dr. Congre suffered after the publication of his work on India, it is but meet and proper that India should try to commemorate the memory of the late Dr. Congre by the establishment of this Fellowship is most opportune. It is nothing but the truth that those who had the courage to take the first steps towards justice to India ought not to be forgotten; and that it behoves all on whose behalf such sacrifices have been made to recognise the claims to gratitude such philanthropic services demand.

Babu Shyama Charan Ganguly has issued an ably-written Note on some points in the Government Resolution No. 658, dated the 7th February 1905, on the establishment of Rural Primary schools in Bengal. The writer fully admits that the remark in the Government Resolution that the "prescribed text books at present in use in lower primary schools in this Province are not written in simple language used by the people" but "are for the most part written in more or less Sanskritised language," asserts that provincial Bengali does not, at any rate, diverge more from the colloquial Calcutta Bengali than do the English dialects from literary English which is of course based on the English of London. The Bengali dialects can not be said to pass the limits of mutual intelligibility; and thus Babu Shyama Charan rightly observes that all interests will be reconciled if Bengali text-books for the primary stage be written in the current Calcutta or Central Bengali and if the well-marked local divergences, vocabulary or grammatical, are given in footnotes for the benefit of local pupils. It is certain that books written in pure and simple Bengali will be easily understood by the rural population of Bengal. The writer makes one more suggestion. He says the extension of popular education be made the occasion for the inauguration of phonetic writing for Bengali. We invite the attention of the authorities to Babu Shyama Charan's Note.

THE EARTHQUAKE.

AN OFFICIAL REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Simla, May 2

A. H. Diack, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab and its dependencies, addressed the following letter to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Lahore 27th April 1905:—

"Before proceeding on leave, Sir Charles Rivis desires to place before the Government of India a succinct account of the measures taken up to the date of his departure to alleviate the effects of the recent disastrous earthquake in the Kangra district, regarding which all the information that has been received from time to time has been reported to you by telegram. It will be impossible, for some time to come to ascertain the full extent of the damage done by the earthquake for owing to the mountainous nature and the remoteness of many portions of the tract affected by it and the interruption of communications by the collapse of bridges and built-up roads. Detailed reports regarding many localities in the Kangra district have still to be awaited. It appears certain, however, that the area in which the shock was felt most severely was the portion of the Kangra valley lying between the Beas river on the South and Dhaola Dhar Mountain range on the north and between the fort of Rihlu on the West and the village of Baij Nath with its famous temples on the East. In this area were included the civil station of Dharmasala which was the headquarters of the district and the adjoining cantonment, the town tahsil and the fort of Kangra, the small station of Palampur which was the centre of the tea industry of the valley and the headquarters of the tahsil of that name, the town and shrine of Jawalamukhi, the large and wealthy village of Magrota and Bhawarna and an immense number of small hamlets. The phenomena connected with the earthquake are now being scientifically investigated by officers of the Geological Survey of India and it will be sufficient to state here that within the area above described which may be estimated to have contained a population of about 250,000 and to be about 700 square miles in extent the sensation experienced shortly after 6 a.m. on the 4th of April appears from the descriptions given by survivors to have been a preliminary tremor of brief duration followed immediately by first a violent shock from north to south, then an equally violent counter shock in the opposite direction and finally a third shock like a downward sinking. The instant effect in Dharmasala Kangra and Palampur was to reduce every single habitation with the rarest exceptions to a flattened heap of ruins. Most of the hamlets in the above area suffered a similar experience in a greater or lesser degree. The early hours found most of the population still in their houses, the majority probably asleep. A certain number felt the preliminary tremor and succeeded in effecting their escape from the falling houses before the complete collapse. A very large number were killed outright and the remainder, some wounded and some injured were buried in the ruins, until help came to extricate them. All supplies of food of all descriptions were buried in the same way, and could only be got at by excavation. Medicines and medical appliances met with the same fate and the only clothes the survivors had to wear were those in which they were clad at the moment of the earthquake. The nature of the climate in these hills necessitates the cattle and even a certain number of sheep and goats being kept under roofs and consequently in addition to the loss of human life there was very great mortality among domestic animals. It is quite impossible at present to give any accurate estimate of the number even of human lives lost. The first tendency was to exaggerate the loss for all who could not be accounted for were assumed to be dead, whereas it is now known that from Kangra town at any rate a large number died away panic-stricken to the plains probably, however, within the area dealt with in this paragraph. Not less than 15,000 souls were lost eastward of that tract. Although the shock appears to have been less severe, it caused great damage both to the Upper Beas Valley which is comprised partly in the Kulu tahsil where the river rises and partly in the Mandi state of the pargana of Lahul which is north of the Kulu tahsil and contains the head water of the Chenab, and to the country between the Beas and the Sutlej including the Saraj Tahsil which is the southern portion of the Kulu sub-division, the state of Suket and the southern half of Mandi. In this large area the only towns are Mandi which is the capital of the state of the same name and Sialtanpur in Kulu. In both of these large numbers of houses collapsed but the destruction was much less complete than in Kangra or Palampur, the rough estimate of deaths being about 200 in each. Similarly estimated at 750 in Mandi State and at a slightly higher figure in the Kulu sub-division. The mortality in cattle has probably been very great because in the higher hills in this tract the houses are generally three storied and the cattle are kept in the lowest storey. The Kangra district is a con-nested with railway by a cart road which starting from Pathankoti, the terminus of the Amritsar-Pathankoti Railway proceeds by Nampur (15 miles), Kotla (28 miles) and Shahpur (40 miles) to Palampur (72 miles). About 12 miles from Shahpur it passes within 2 miles of Kangra town from Shahpur, a branch cart road 13 miles long ascends to Dharmasala. The only other cart road leading into the district is that connecting Hoshiarpur on the south with Kangra town on the north. The Road from Palampur eastward through Baij Nath to Mandi and Kulu was formerly a mule road only but had recently been made passable for carts as far as Mandi town. The main road to Kulu which is still a mule road. Road only leaves this cart road a stage short of Mandi and crossing by the Dulchi pass the main range forming the western boundary of the Kulu Valley descends to the village of Bajaura on the bank of the Beas in Kulu. Thence the main road passes through Kulu leads northwards through Sutanpur one stage distant and southwards through the Jalon Pass and across the Sutlej by the Luri Bridge to Narkanda and Simla. The only remaining road that need be referred to is that which connects Mandi on the north with Suket on the south and which proceeds southward across the Sutlej towards Simla. All these roads cross numerous large streams and torrents by means of substantial bridges and in many cases are

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they are built up against the hillsides by massive retaining walls. The earthquake shock which was so destructive to life and property... The shock also caused much damage to the water channels called Kuls which have been laboriously constructed by the people to bring water from the Hill torrents...

there with full powers as a civil and medical officer and also despatched Captain McKechnie to give medical relief at Palampur. At Lahore on the 8th a call for more military labour became apparent. The Lieutenant-Governor arranged with the general officer commanding the Lahore Division for the despatch of two more companies of the 34th pioneers from Meerut in addition to the first two companies which had started on the morning of the 7th and also for two companies of the 22nd pioneers to be sent from Ambala via Hoshiarpur to Kangra...

appliance to Dharmasala, and they had everything in working order there early on the 7th. On the day following a second party of the civil medical officer was sent from Dharmasala one to Kangra, and the other to Palampur on the 10th medical relief centres being established in Dharmasala, civil and in the cantonment and in Palampur Kangra and Jowalia Mukhi from the south. Dr. Dutta Civil Surgeon of Hoshiarpur on the 8th started from that station with four hospital assistants and with medical stores he arrived at Jowalia Mukhi on the 9th...

Dharmasala have been considered. The bill has to be made out of the financial law caused to Government by the destruction of public buildings and communications and by the cost of the relief measures already taken and now in contemplation. But the stage which has now been reached when the first shock of the calamity is over and the immediate wants of the sufferers have been met and the circumstances of the district can therefore be examined thoroughly in detail by the officer on the spot is one at which progress may conveniently be reported apart from its being the time when Sir Charles Rivaz hands over temporarily the administration of the Province to Sir Denzil Ibbetson and this preliminary report is therefore submitted for the information of the Government of India.

TELEGRAMS. REUTER'S TELEGRAMS. THE UNREST IN RUSSIA. London, May 1. Easter Day passed quite quietly at St. Petersburg. No reports of disorders have been received from the Provinces. London, May 1. The Russian toleration decree does not provide for the relaxation of anti-Jewish restrictions. London, May 1. The Ukase establishing the practically complete religious freedom of all creeds has been received with enthusiasm throughout Russia, and hailed as the greatest concession to Liberal thought yet granted. It is regarded as the precursor of political freedom.

THE UNIFIED STAMP.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) Allahabad, May 2. The introduction of the unified stamp for postal and revenue purposes will shortly take place in accordance with the official announcement made during the Budget discussion.

HEAVY TAX IN TURKISTAN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) Allahabad, May 2. News which has been received through Kabul states that the Russians have imposed a house tax in Turkistan at a rate equivalent in Indian money to twelve annas per house. The financial pressure on account of war seems thus to have been felt even in Central Asia.

TRANSMISSION OF WEATHER.

REPORTS BY WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY. (From Our Own Correspondent.) Allahabad, May 2. Arrangements have been made for daily transmission by wireless telegraph of weather reports from Port Blair and the Sliper Island to the north of Andamans. Readings from Port Blair will appear at once in daily weather reports published at Simla, Calcutta, Madras, and those from the Sliper Island as soon as the Observatory there has been completed. This arrangement especially during monsoon season will enable warnings to be given well in advance of cyclonic storms in the Bay of Bengal.

THE AMIR'S PROCLAMATION.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) Allahabad, May 2. The Amir of Kabul has issued a proclamation to all his Governors of provinces notifying that the British Mission has returned to India and thanking all the officers who were concerned in the arrangements for its return journey. His Highness at the same time has directed that his subjects generally should be informed that the interests of Afghanistan were safeguarded during the negotiations at Kabul and that conclusions arrived at were on the lines laid down by the late Amir for regulating their relations with the British Government.

LORD KITCHENER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) Simla, May 1. Lord Kitchener, accompanied by his Military Secretary, Colonel Hubert Hamilton, and Captain Willy, A.-D.-C., has arrived at Simla.

WARSAW FIGHTING.

RETURN OF MAHARAJA SURJA KANT. (From a Correspondent.) Mymensing, May 2. Maharaja Surja Kant and party returned from shooting, he being frequently indisposed. The shoot was not so successful as desired. The party bagged six tigers, four leopards, ten buffaloes and twenty-two pairs of stamper and swamp deer horns.

THE MAIL FORECAST.

Bombay, May 1. The "Peninsular" with the Outward mail is expected at 9 a.m. on Friday.

THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT.

Lahore, May 1. The headquarters offices of the Government of the Punjab will close at Lahore on Wednesday, 10th May, and re-open at Simla on Monday, 15th May.

Mr. Holland, Director of Geological Survey, has arrived at Lahore to confer with the Punjab Government about the earthquake and also regarding the future of Dharmasala and Kangra. A preliminary report on the earthquake from the Punjab Government is already in the hands of the Government of India.

Rainfall during the week was general, and heavy in parts of Bengal Proper. Agricultural operations are being pushed on. Prospects generally good. Cattle-disease is reported from 8 districts. Fodder and water are sufficient. The price of common rice has an upward tendency, but there is nothing abnormal in the figures.

It is not very generally known that for the last two years there has been attached to the School of Arts in Madras a department for experimental weaving, the object being to work out, if possible, improvements in the present method of weaving. Till now, the work of the department has been confined to the manufacture of Madras handkerchiefs. We learn that with skilled weavers and exceptionally good wraps, very satisfactory results have been obtained, but the average rate of production has not been much greater than with the ordinary loom. We further understand that when Mr. Chatterton was in England, he arranged with a well-known firm of textile machinery-makers the details of the design of a sizing and wringing plant, the first experiment of which will be made in the Madras School of Arts.







