













THE DALBHUM RAJA'S CASE.

A correspondent writes to the "Englishman" from Ranchi:— Mr. H. N. Morison, Barrister-at-Law appeared before Mr. Sacke, Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division, on behalf of the Raja of Dalbhum to show cause why the Government should not take charge of the Raja's estate.

The pleader for the alleged heir expressed his consent to settle definitely the grounds upon which it was alleged the Government could claim to take over the estates, but the Commissioner said he refused to be bound by any issues.

The case having been adjourned till Monday Mr. Morison said that the Government claimed to deprive the ruling Raja of his estate, which comprised over 300 square miles of territory under Act VI of 1876. That was an Act passed to meet exceptional circumstances which then existed and as the preamble showed, was an Act for the protection of holders of property in Chota Nagpur.

His predecessor in title had run into extravagant debts and had been deprived of his estates. When he died the present Raja was a disputed heir. The Encumbered Estates Department who held the estates refused him any help. He was a poor man. To maintain his title he had to borrow money at ruinous rates because he could not show title.

The Commissioner in reply said he could take the estate over even if it took sixty years to pay off the debts. He added that he repudiated the estimates of the Deputy Commissioner.

Mr. Morison said that from this assertion and from the declaration of the Commissioner that he refused to be bound by any issues the attitude of the Government was this: "We do not care what our grounds are we shall take over the estate."

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ments by the pleader for the petitioner said he would write his report to the Board of Revenue who would pass orders.

Mr. Morison asked to be supplied with a copy of the report which was refused. In conclusion Mr. Morison said that the country was rich in minerals and capitalists were ready to sink money in it so as to develop its natural resources.

TRANSVAAL CONSTITUTION.

The new Constitution for the Transvaal provides for the creation of a Legislative Assembly consisting of from thirty to thirty-five elected members, and from six to nine official members, those latter being executive officers. It is to meet at Pretoria, and its maximum duration is four years.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MANUAL TRAINING.

A Trevaandrum correspondent writes under date May 9:—In August of last year the Maharaja's Government sanctioned the award of scholarships for enabling two young men to undergo manual training in America, and to organise and work out a system of Primary Education in Travancore.

I TALKED WITH THE CREATOR, SAYS EVANGELIST.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE AMERICAN.

London April 15.—"For four hours I was privileged to speak face to face with the Creator, a man speaks with a friend. Then it seemed as if I again returned to earth."

Thus Evi Roberts, a young collier who has evangelized Wales so completely as to effect a moral and religious revolution, spoke to W. T. Sad, the London editor. Mr. Stead made trip to South Wales to interview him.

Tells Remarkable Vision. When the journal editor asked him how he began his work, he said: "For a long time I was much troubled in my heart and my soul, by thinking over the failure of my mission. Oh! It seemed such a failure—oh a failure, and I prayed and prayed, but nothing seemed to give me relief."

But one night after I had been in great distress about it I went to sleep, and at 1 o'clock in the morning, suddenly I was waked up out of sleep, and I found myself, with unspeakable joy and awe, in the very presence of Almighty God.

Speaks Four Hours. "And for the space of four hours I was privileged to speak face to face with Him, as a man speaks face to face with a friend. At 5 o'clock it seemed to me as if I again returned to earth."

"Were you not dreaming?" "No, it was wide awake. And it was not only that morning, but every morning for three or four months. Always I enjoyed four hours of that wonderful communion with God. I cannot describe it. I felt it, and it seemed to change all my nature. I saw things in a different light. I knew that God was going to work in the land, and not only this land, but the world."

POSTAL ACCOUNTS.

(Communicated.)

After the enactment of the Indian Post Office Act and with the formation of Post Offices their accounts were necessarily required to be checked, and consolidated. With a view to do the above, Examiners of Accounts were appointed in each of the several postal circles.

At last with the gradual development of postal work, the introduction of Post Office Savings Bank as well as Postal Money Order system and the establishment of combined Post and Telegraph Offices, the work of the office was increased to a great extent.

From the above it will be seen that the work in connection with the Postal accounts have not only greatly increased but were found important, and the revenue of the Government has risen from an insignificant figure to a really appreciable sum.

Mr. K. J. Badshah was the third officer occupying the chair. Although he was like his predecessors an independent man, but being theretofore experienced in the executive branch of the Postal Department, did not attach more value to the account work.

Mr. Anthony, the next incumbent, was always guided by any one having access in his room, and to the misfortune of the poor subordinates they were placed virtually under the control of a number of men who delighted to oppress them in every possible way.

The penalty for late attendance now in force is to deduct a day's casual leave in 4 days' attendance after 10-30 but before 10-40. Two days' attendance after 10-40 but before 11 a.m. and a day's attendance after 11. The attendance is strictly at 10-30 without any grace, while that in the offices under the Deputy Comptroller is 10-35.

Now that Mr. L. E. Pritchard has been appointed, and as he has the reputation of being an able and experienced officer of the Civil Account Office, and as he is reputed to be a kind and liberal man, it is hoped that the status of the office will be materially improved.

A DARING DACOITY.

(From a Correspondent.)

Camp Mohoda, May 13.

A daring dacoity with attempted murder, occurred last night at 2-30 a.m., in our Railway Camp at Mohoda, District Manbhum, resulting in our night Chowkidar being dangerously wounded and one of the dacoits being captured.

The particulars are as follow: The Chowkidar, Mthaber by name, while taking his usual round, round the camp espied about 8 men standing near a house and digging their entrance through the wall.

Alone as he was, his presence of mind did not forsake him. He rushed towards them with a lathi and gave the foremost three successive blows who reeled back a few paces and fell. The Chowkidar was on him in an instant regardless of the presence of the other seven, who meanwhile having desisted from their nefarious attempts were standing close by, electrified, at his bold and sudden action.

The "Novoe Vremya" attributes the reported movement of Chinese troops to Kulja and the military preparations in Afghanistan to British restlessness in India.

BUXAR NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Buxar, May 13.

THE HONY. MAGISTRATE'S CASE.

The case of Haji Shah Mohamad Yasin, Honorary Magistrate of Buxar Independent Bench, against Sridaar Prosad and others of Chausa, came on for hearing on the 2nd instant before the Senior Deputy Magistrate of Arrah, Babu Satish Chandra Bose. It will be remembered that in this case, which was first filed before Mr. F. M. Luce, the late S. D. O. of Buxar, the accused Sridaar Prosad and others of Chausa were charged with attempting to bribe the complainant, who is a Honorary Magistrate in a certain case which was in his hands for enquiry.

PRESENT STATE OF BUXAR TOWN.

The people of Buxar are very glad to have Mr. Williams as their Sub-divisional officer. Mr. Luce who left Buxar on 13th April for home on seven months' leave was often led by his subordinates and thus he was often misled into acts of serious consequences. Unlike his predecessor, Mr. C. T. Williams has, by his intelligent understanding of the facts, sound judgments and impartial administration of justice, has pleased the people during the short time of his arrival here.

THE POSTAL THEFTS AT ALLAHABAD.

Mr. Burkitt, Officiating Sessions Judge of Allahabad, was occupied on Saturday morning the 13th instant, with the case of the chaukidar Malabar accused of being in possession of stolen property belonging to the Post Office. The three principal witnesses for the prosecution, Mr. Douglas Straight, the D. S. P., who was responsible for the recovery of the lost articles; Mr. J. B. Barker, Postmaster at Allahabad; and Mr. Gill, the addressee of one of the stolen letters gave evidence similar in substance to that given before the Joint Magistrate earlier in the month.

Mr. Douglas Straight, the D. S. P., who was responsible for the recovery of the lost articles; Mr. J. B. Barker, Postmaster at Allahabad; and Mr. Gill, the addressee of one of the stolen letters gave evidence similar in substance to that given before the Joint Magistrate earlier in the month. The accused's statements, however, differed very considerably. When his previous depositions were read out to him by the clerk, he denied all knowledge of them, but later retracted, though withdrawing the plea of guilty, maintaining now that he was the victim of a conspiracy, that a constable with whom he had quarrelled had schemed to get him into trouble by having the stolen property placed in his house, and that he had been beaten by the police in order to make him confess to crimes which he had never committed.

Now that Mr. L. E. Pritchard has been appointed, and as he has the reputation of being an able and experienced officer of the Civil Account Office, and as he is reputed to be a kind and liberal man, it is hoped that the status of the office will be materially improved. The Government Pleader elicited from this witness that he was standing in front of the Police Station at the time of the chaukidar's arrest, and overheard one of the constables say to the accused that if he would disclose the names of his accomplices they would let him go. Witness was unable to say how far off he was from the Police Station. The line of defence taken up by the learned gentleman appearing on behalf of the accused was that the stolen goods had been placed in his client's house. He also endeavoured to discredit the evidence of Mr. Douglas Straight by referring to an alleged discrepancy between it and that of Mr. Barker. Another point which he sought to prove was that the word "secretion" in one of the two sections of the Penal Code under which the accused was charged, meant—it was not quite clear what, but anything other than that conferred upon it by derivation, and ascribed to it by common usage. This knotty question was eventually solved with the aid of a dictionary, and the case for the defence forthwith closed. The Government Pleader then addressed the jury of five. He pointed out that what they had to decide was whether the chaukidar knew that the articles "secreted" in his house were stolen property—and as to that there was undeniable proof. The Judge, having summed up, placing the whole facts of the case and the sections of the Penal Code involved clearly before the jurors, asked for their verdict. The first two unhesitatingly answered "Not Guilty," on the ground that there was not sufficient evidence to prove that the accused stole the articles. The sections being again elaborately explained to them and being told that whether or not the accused stole anything was quite irrelevant to the case, they reconsidered their opinions; and eventually all agreed as to Mahabir's guilt. Judgment was reserved.

A license has been granted to Messrs. J. W. Darwood for the supply of electric energy for electric traction in the Rangoon Cantonment.

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INDIAN NOTES.

A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION.

On Tuesday evening last H. M. S. "Sealark" left Colombo on her scientific expedition. She proceeds first to the Chagos Archipelago, which will probably be reached in about a month's time. The last survey in the group of islands having been made 70 years ago, it is more than probable that considerable changes will have taken place owing to the growth of the reefs. Careful biological investigations will also be made in this locality. From Chagos the "Sealark" will go to Mauritius, which she expects to reach in August. A survey of Cargados, a surface reef to the south of the submerged Nazareth bank, will next be made, and the vessel will continue straight on to the Seychelles group. From there the "Sealark" will return to Colombo and is expected to arrive there in January next.

A TIGER SHOOT.

The Bombay correspondent of the "Indian Field" writes:—News has been received in Bombay that a tiger has been troubling the neighbourhood of a village below the Ghats ten miles from Karjat Station on the G.I.P. Railway line. At present this tiger is confining itself to the villagers' cattle, of which it has killed over a dozen, but I hope it will not become a man-eater, if allowed by local sportsmen to live, like the Mumbra tiger, which is still at large. Three splendid opportunities now offer themselves to young local sportsmen who are longing to kill a tiger, as besides the Mumbra and Karjat animals, there is one at Wassind or Khardi close to Igatpuri: I shall be surprised if all these animals are not accounted for very shortly. The Mumbra tiger which Captain Hutchinson, I.M.S., and Colonel Dimmock, I.M.S., spent two days in trying to bag five weeks ago, is a most mysterious beast and has since eluded the guns of two other local sportsmen who went after it during the Easter holidays.

GREAT DISCOVERY AT PATIALA.

Since Rai Bahadur Gangaram, O. I. E. has been at the head of the Public Works Department at Patiala, he has initiated many a scheme by which the State is now reaping advantages. We cannot go into all these projects, but at the present moment will confine ourselves to the great find of marble in the district of Narnaul. While going through the districts, the Rai Sahib found that a very superior description of lime was obtainable in large quantities from Narnaul. He journeyed there and among other things found that marble was being excavated and sold in small quantities also. Further investigation has revealed that there are no less than sixteen quarries containing from pure white to jet black marble. The black is perfect, and some of the shades of grey are beautifully marked. Slabs from each of these sixteen quarries are being polished and sent to Government for His Excellency the Viceroy to see. We are sorry to read in the home journals that the official interested with the construction of the Victoria Memorial at Calcutta has imbibed a prejudice against India marble, and has decided to use Italian stone in his work.—The "News of India."

EARTHQUAKES AT KULU.

A Kulu correspondent writing on the 5th instant to the "Civil and Military Gazette," says:—"There were two slight shocks on the night of the 25th followed by a very stormy day on the 26th with high wind, heavy rain and thunder. There were two more slight shocks during the night, but they seem to be growing fainter and fainter. The 27th was a fine clear day 81deg. in the shade. An earth tremor occurred at 2 p. m. and two more during the night and another at 5-30 a. m., on the 28th which was also fine with 82deg. in the shade. The curious part of it is that where I live the tremors seem to be getting fainter, whilst at Bajaura, one and-a-half miles north, the people declare that they are getting sharper. There were five tremors between midnight and 2 a. m. on the 29th and another at 7 p. m. I do not find it very hard to get the Zemindars to believe that these tremors are really good signs; the poor fellows, who were expecting some fresh catastrophe seem only too glad to catch at any crumb of comfort. Dr. Farmer, who has been inspecting the damage in the hill States, left for Simla on the 28th. I hear that the water is running freely over the dam in the Tirtham in Chata river, and that there is some chance of its cutting down and running gradually without any heavy flood."

Babu Nerode Chunder Chatterjee then addressed the Court on behalf of the Crown. He contended that the charges referred to the same transaction and said that Section 239, Criminal Procedure Code, read with section 235, Criminal Procedure Code, showed that such a charge was a perfectly legitimate one. In support of his contention he cited a case reported in 31 Calcutta Law Reports, page 1007, and said that the whole law on the subject had been fully explained and supported in 15 Bombay Law Reports. He referred briefly to the facts of the case and said: "Raza was anxious to assault Captain Romayne because the latter had not paid his fare."

Of late the Travancore Government have been showing a decided tendency in the direction of encouraging the manufacture of salt in the State. The first step taken to attain this object was the permission given to a contractor (from Madras) during the last administration. Since coming to Travancore the present Dewan, too, has been continuing the same policy. At a Conference held by him with the officers of the Salt Department, the question was discussed, and it was resolved to eventually stop the importation of foreign salt by the encouragement of locally made salt; to resuscitate and work the salt pans in and around Colachel, in South Travancore, and in course of time to leave the sale of salt to private enterprise. These resolutions of the Conference are being slowly and steadily carried out. The "Travancore Times" says that practical steps have been taken in that a firm of contractors has already started work and it is said that 100 pans are shortly to be worked. The prospect of getting good salt is assured and the enterprise gives every promise of success.

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