

THE CASE OF RAJA SARADA NARAIN SINGH.

Here are the details of the medical officer's interview with the Raja referred to in our leading article:—

REPORT ON THE MENTAL CONDITION AND CAPACITY OF RAJA SARADA NARAIN SINGH OF SERAMPUR.

"I visited the Raja by appointment on June 6th 1905 at 6-30 p.m. and had an interview with him at 6-15 p.m. for nearly two hours. On June 7th he wrote by his manager that he was indisposed and unable to see me I did not go out. On June 8th he again wrote to the same effect. I went out and was informed, the Raja was asleep. After an hour or more he awoke and after some delay consented to an interview which lasted from 9-0 to 10-0 p.m. Asst. Surgeon Sarasi Lal Sarkar, whose report of a previous interview is appended, accompanied me on both these occasions as interpreter as the Raja spoke in Bengali and I English.

"Before leaving Hazaribagh I was informed by the manager Enod. Estates and C. Wards and the Government pleader, that the Raja had for some 5 or 6 years led the life of a recluse tended only by one or two confidential servants. That during this time he rarely appeared in public, on the last occasion 2 years or more ago. That he exhibited an abhorrence of being seen by strangers and that he rarely saw his female relations including his mother. That his conduct with regard to the postponement of his daughter's marriage was contrary to Hindu custom. That he persistently declined to see his legal advisers and his manager. That he neither replied to or took any action on telegrams and letters sent to him on urgent business matters, and that in particular his action in this respect had occasioned the loss to him of nearly two lakhs in a case known as the Gadi-Gande case, in which he held a mortgage on the property in security of a loan. A previous mortgage claim was set up and as the Raja did not make any representations this claim was finally admitted. It was represented to the Raja that he could buy out this claim, a petition against it, but he took no action in any way. In a second suit instituted by him against the Bengal Colliery Company, he was not represented and the case was settled against him by default. On an appeal to the High Court it was reopened on the condition he paid the costs and that being done he took no further steps and this second case also was given against him by default. That these actions pointed to the fact that he was of unsound mind and incapable of managing his own affairs.

In appearance I found the Raja to be a middle aged man, in apparently good health. His manners were timid and slightly reserved. His expression sad and at times slightly vacant. He admitted his health was not good. He had not any definite complaint, but he slept poorly and at times fell languid and disinclined for work or exertion. At my second interview he also stated that he occasionally suffered from spermatorrhoea, which he thought weakened him, and depressed him. He appeared to be slightly but not markedly hypochondriacal. His memory was good both for recent and distant events. He was acquainted with minor details of business e.g. the number of horses he had and when they were purchased. He said he managed his own affairs himself and did not hand over responsibility for his legal affairs to anybody. He admitted that he did not always feel equal to conducting his estate, and at times was disinclined and incapable of work of any kind. He had no particular objection to his estate being placed under the Court of Wards, provided that this was not a permanent arrangement as he would like a good manager to relieve him of all responsibility. Our conversation covered a fairly wide range of subjects and to all questions he returned intelligent answers. He said that in the Gadi Gande case he took no further action, because he believed the prior mortgage was a fabrication and could not be upheld. He had spent a great deal of money on it and did not see why he should spend more. Asked why he did not represent his belief in court, he said, he had wired to the Commissioner of R. Division, but gave no further reasons than this alone for dropping it.

"In the B. colliery case he said that his mind was distracted, and his attention taken up by the prevalence of plague at the time, and he had no one to entrust the case to and therefore dropped it.

"In the case of marriage of his daughter he said negotiations were begun but were broken off by the opposite party, the intended bridegroom being bribed to marry somebody else.

"He spoke with some interest of Theosophy and Mesmerism about which he had read in the papers. He understood that the former conferred the power of summoning up spirits. He had not practised it nor knew any one who did. He once only thought he heard a voice whispering and speaking to him.

"Some six years ago, when ill, he became unconscious perhaps for half an hour. It was suggested to him by some one that he had been mesmerised. There were two Brahmins present saying Montras. He fully believed he had been mesmerised, he did not know by whom. He admitted he rarely went out. He was afraid to do so. He did not know why, but he was afraid that something might happen to him. He could not say what. He was afraid he might be mesmerised. At my second interview I particularly questioned him on this point. He freely admitted he was afraid of being mesmerised by whom he could not say. He volunteered the statement that he thought this could be done at a distance. This I consider a definite delusion. The direct result of which is his secluded manner of life. Beyond this fact I could find nothing in his conduct that may not be considered or accounted for as eccentricities. He gave intelligible explanations of his actions. They are not convincing to an ordinary man of business or sufficient, but there is nothing actually unreasonable in them. Though his acts are strange they do not appear to me insane actions. I believe that his judgment is waited and his business capacities weakened by the manner and mode of his life. From being so long in a secluded manner he had lost touch with practical affairs.

"Finally I am of opinion that Raja Sarada Narain Singh is of unsound mind and by reason of this is incapable of conducting his own affairs.

(Sd) E. H. R. Newman, M. D.

Off: Civil Surgeon."

APPENDIX A.

"The Raja was told that I was very happy to meet the most enlightened Zemindar of the Sub-Division. To this the Raja made no reply.

"Then he was told that his stables which were situated close by were very splendid and he was asked how many horses he had in these stables. To this the Raja replied that he was unable to give information on this point as he had not been out for a long time.

"Then the Raja was told that it is a matter of regret that an enlightened Raja like him did not care to leave the house to meet the outside public and which caused so much sinister rumours. It was suggested that inasmuch as the coaches and horses could be made ready within a short time and as the evening was very pleasant, he might take a drive. To this the Raja said that he felt very nervous in driving in coaches lest he fall from it or get any injury. He suggested as a reason that the horses were not used for a long time. He gets palpitation of heart and feels trembling. It was suggested that we might drive with him and other people may go on in the same coach. So there is no probability of getting an accident. To this he declined.

"Then he was told inasmuch as many people raised doubts as to his capacity of managing his estate, he should one day meet the Sub-Divisional Officer which would clear such doubts and it was suggested that this might be done the coming day. To this he replied that inasmuch as he was not sure whether he could be able to go to Giridih to-morrow he could not make the promise.

"Then he was told, as the Civil Surgeon and probably the Deputy Commissioner would come to meet him at Serampur it might cause him inconvenience which he would easily avoid by having a visit with the S. D. O. To this he suggested that he might engage a Bungalow at Giridih for a few days and at a convenient moment might meet the S. D. O.

"Then he was told that this was an excellent proposal. He should pass definite orders on the subject and should ask one of his officers to try to find out a house for him at Giridih to-morrow. To this he replied "yes." Then he was asked whether he is satisfied that all his officers are doing their work properly and honestly and are not defrauding him. To this he replied he did not know anything relating to the matter, as he had not been out to supervise the working of officers for a long time.

"Then he was asked whether his inability to do the supervision is due to any disease or disability. To this he replied that this was to a great extent due to debility as on account of lazy feeling he was unable to take his daily bath till 2 p.m. His daily meal was taken about evening. He was in the habit of taking one meal daily. This generally consists of luchi, fish and meat. He was not in the habit of taking much rice.

"Then he was told that good Zemindars are managed in three ways, (1) by reliable manager, (2) by personal supervision, (3) by means of Government supervision through the Court of Wards.

"Then he was asked whether he had a reliable manager at present amongst his officers or not. To this he replied that he had a reliable manager in Tinkari, Babu. But there was agreement with Tinkari Babu to serve for 10 years. When the period expired Tinkari Babu left the service of the Estate. Gopi Babu is not at present at Serampur. So he could not say that he had a reliable manager.

"Then he was asked inasmuch as he had no reliable manager in his estate and he was unable to supervise his officers personally whether he would not like that his estate should go to the Court of Wards. To this he replied that as he was unable to do the work of the Estate personally owing to his ill-health, he sees no objection about his estate being managed by the Court of Wards temporarily for a period till he is in a position to manage it himself.

"Then he was asked what were his ailments. To this he replied that he was suffering from hydrocele, indigestion, debility, feeling of heat in the head. Regarding his head system, he said that this was not constantly present but it increased at times.

"Then it was asked that inasmuch as every one should try to get rid of his diseases by proper treatment, why he did not follow that usual practice. To this he replied "that he did not know who was the reliable man to whom he could entrust the treatment of his bodily complaints.

"Then he was told that there are eminent men in every branches of medical science. If he would like to have his diseases treated by Kabiraj he would surely get eminent one (Kabiraj) from Calcutta. If he would like that his diseases would be treated by doctors, surely he could get eminent doctors. To this he said that mesmerism has something to do with his diseases. He suspected that somebody was trying to do injury to him by mesmerism and the also said that there is a class of men known as Theosophists. These have power over ghosts. These may also do him injury. These Theosophists have the power of reading one's thought by means of their ghosts. He has heard about this from a Brahman. He has also read about Theosophists in a Hindi newspaper named "Bharat Mitra" subscribed by him. Then he was asked whether he suspected any one having inimical feeling to him and was likely to do him injury. To this he replied that he did not suspect anybody in the matter. But as people as a rule, get advantage by injuring a rich person, so they are liable to do this.

"Then he was asked whether he has ever practised mesmerism himself or had come in contact with persons dealing with them. To this he replied that he had heard about this from a student at Giridih and from some persons at Hazaribagh.

"Then he was told inasmuch as confinement in a room or in a lonely place tend to cause brooding which produce a bad effect on the mind, and as for mesmerism and devils they are not likely to frequent populous localities like Giridih, whether it is not better under the circumstances for him to pass his time in the company of people

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instead of being confined in a solitary place. He seemed to be much impressed by my suggestions.

"Then I told him that I had been very glad to meet him. Whether he would like to see me now and then. As for example twice a week. He told me that he would be very glad to see me about the evening which was the most (convenient?) time for him.

"Then he asked me to be introduced to two of my friends who accompanied me from Giridih, and asked some details about them.

(Sd) Sarasi Lal Sarkar, Asst. Surgeon. Giridih, Hazaribagh, May 9, 1905.

"E. H. R. Newman M. D. "Capt.—I. M. S. "Civil Surgeon, "Hazaribagh.

No. 120.

"To the Court of Munsiff, Giridih.

"I went to see the Raja of Serampur, on the 13th, 14th and 25th and 26th of the last month. I was able to have an interview with the Raja only on the 14th May 1905. A full report relating to this visit with the Raja has been already submitted to the Civil Surgeon, Hazaribagh. The Court, if it likes, may act the report from the Civil Surgeon, Hazaribagh. I also accompanied the Civil Surgeon, Hazaribagh, at the time of his visits to the Raja on 6-6-05 and 8-6-05. I acted as the interpreter during these visits. I do not submit the reports of these visits as these will be done by the Civil Surgeon, Hazaribagh. As regards the mental capacity and condition of the Raja I have noticed the following facts:

"(1) The Raja is under the delusion that he may be injured by mesmerism or by Theosophists who may bring down spirits.

"(2) This delusion prevents him from coming out of his house to mix with other people and to supervise the affairs of his estate.

"(3) He admitted that his habits were not previously so. Formerly he went out and mixed with people, but since an attack of unconsciousness which occurred in accordance with his statement about 6 years ago and lasted about half an hour, which attack of unconsciousness is ascribed by him to the fact of his being mesmerised. The change of habits I as come upon him.

"(4) He himself admitted that inasmuch as he was not able to supervise personally the workings of his officers, he has not seen whether the affairs of his estate are being efficiently managed or not. He admitted that the management appeared sometimes too heavy for him.

"(5) No other delusion, except the one mentioned above was noticed in the Raja. The Raja appears to be sane in other respects. Considering all these facts I am of opinion that the Raja of Serampur is suffering from insanity by reason of which he is incapable at present of properly managing his estate.

(Sd) Sarasi Lal Sarkar, Asst. Surgeon."

June 9, 1905.

CALCUTTA ORPHANAGE

Alleged Kidnapping.

On Thursday, before Moulvi Bazlal Karim, third Presidency Magistrate, a mason, named Yacoub, one Kunja Bhatary Bose, Ashu Toshi Ghose and a woman of the town, named Giribala were re-arraigned on a charge of having kidnapped three girls from the Calcutta Orphanage.

Mr. Hume conducted the prosecution. Mr. Khoda Bux, barrister-at-law, Mr. Manuel, Babus Jotindra Mohan Ghose, vakil, Gonesh Chandra Mukerjee, Suresh Chunder Mitter and Shib Chander Ghose, appeared for the defence.

As the case was resumed, Mr. Khoda Bux addressed the court on behalf of the second and third defendants. The learned Counsel submitted that the accused did not actually take the girls from the orphanage. From the evidence it appeared that they had no knowledge that the girls had come out of the orphanage. The girls came by chance to the "kat gola" and the accused had no knowledge of the taking out of the girls from the school. The girls came to the "kat gola" and said that they wanted to go to Goalundo. What crime the accused had committed by giving shelter to these girls? The accused did not keep it secret. They informed the Police and enquired whether it was proper for them to give shelter to the girls. They took shelter and the next morning, Kunja Babu came and he enquired, "who these girls are?" These clearly showed that Kunja had no knowledge whence the girls came. Counsel went on and said that Mr. Hume called a number of prostitutes who said in their evidence that they saw Kunja Babu only for that day. To this the Counsel said that the court would attach little or no importance to their evidence. The evidence of the girls showed beyond the shadow of a doubt that the second and third accused took no part in taking away the girls. The evidence of the girls showed that they were not at all molested nor any improper suggestion was made to them. The evidence of the girls, the counsel said, fully justified the conduct of the accused in giving shelter. The evidence further showed that the girls did not go to the "kat gola" by any previous arrangement and so the case of kidnapping could be sustained. The Counsel here cited a ruling from Cox's Report Page 402 (Regina vs. Oliver) and Main's Indian Penal Code page 692. The learned counsel then said, "if a girl is once taken out of custody and if she goes to any body he can't be charged with kidnapping, because the statute doesn't say that the person should restore but only that the person should not take the girl away from personal custody." The counsel also urged, If a girl voluntarily leaves her house and to all appearance she is a free agent then charge of kidnapping can lie." The counsel said after reading Main that in order to bring home a charge under section 372 I. P. Code there must be an intention that the girl so taken away was for the purpose of continuous immoral acts and in support of this he cited 4 Sutherland's High Court Rulings page 6.

After him, Babu Shib Chander Ghose addressed on behalf of Giribala and cited a ruling of the Madras High Court (Dowlat Beebi vs. Shaik Ali.)

The court promised to deliver judgment on the 29th inst.

The Railway Administration Report 1904.

The Railway Administration Report for the past twelve months just submitted by the Railway Board, is, as was expected a most business-like one. The greatest difficulties that the Railways of the present day have to struggle with is the want of sufficient number of rolling stock to cope with the rapidly increasing traffic on Indian Railways and we are glad to find that no less than 4868 wagons have been added during the year under review and 4376 more are under supply. The coal traffic had increased to the extent of a million tons more during the last twelve months than that of the previous year. There was also a general increase in other traffic, resulting in a surplus profit of nearly two hundred and sixty-three lakhs of rupees, after meeting all working expenses and interest charges besides annuity payments for the railways purchased by the state. The surveys in progress include the following:—(1) by Bengal Nagpur Railway for narrow gauge lines, from Purlia to Ranchi, also of Gondichonda railway with branch to Nagpur; (2) by Bombay Baroda Railway for metre gauge line from Harist to Jalhwa; and on narrow gauge extension of Eastern Bengal State Railway from Lalga to the mouth of the Bhagirathi River near Gheria; (3) the final location of metre gauge line from Purbhani to Tatur, connection with Nizam's State Railway, (5) by the North-West Railway broad gauge lines (a) from that to Parachinar; (b) from Charkhania via Mansuwa, Nankana, Bulchiana, Baral and Samunri to the shortest road; and (c) by Rohilkhand and Kumaon railway metre gauge line from Sonaripur to Ramnagar Ghat.

It will be seen that a good deal of attention is now being paid to metre gauge extensions with a view to effect a through connection with the several metre gauge systems which are now lying isolated in different parts of the country. This will give a greater scope for through carriage of traffic on metre gauge railways, which are now merely serving as feeder lines to the broad gauge tractions. That the Railway Board is very anxious to effect this happy connection, will appear from the recent announcement of the departure of its members for Southern India for the purpose. Several other important schemes have also been taken up by the Board of which the one for the extension of the South Indian Railway to Rameswaram, just sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India, is most important. We need hardly say that the line when opened will prove a most successful enterprise, not only on account of the temple of Siva, said to have been erected there by Ram Chandra himself, which every Hindu considers to be a most sacred place for pilgrimage, but also because it will be a most interesting and pleasing trip for the amateur tourists.

The Government of India have approved of the proposals of the Kianna District Board for financing the Bezwada-Masulipatam Railway. A concession has been granted for construction by a company of a broad gauge line from Amritsar to Patti (Punjab). A promoter of the Rawalpindi-Murree Railway has been offered a concession for the construction of this line on a narrow gauge. A proposal for the construction of a metre gauge line from Sarai Kala via Abbottabad to Kashmir frontier is still before the Government of India.

Fresh proposals for the construction by private enterprise of extensions of the Decca State Railway (a) from Mymensingh via Netobona to Bura Ari with a branch to Gauripur, and (b) from Singurani via Sherpur to Nalitabari are under consideration.

Projects are also under consideration for (1) a steam tramway from Cawnpore to the left bank of the Jumna, opposite Hamirpur; (2) broad gauge line from Panchkura to Luff Point; (3) extension of Ahmedabad-Dholka Railway from Dholka to Dhamdhuka; (4) steam tramway from Dhamdhuka to Ranpur (Bombay).

The announcement that the Luff point scheme has not altogether been abandoned shows a very striking determination of the Government to carry out the project and this has, there is no doubt, induced the E. I. Ry. to come to an amicable settlement with the Bengal Nagpur Railways in regard to the distribution of coal traffic of the Jharia and Sanctoria fields.

The value of the feeder railways have also not been lost sight of. We are glad to find that an offer has been extended to all District Boards in India for Government to advance a limited amount towards the construction of feeder railways under specific conditions.

The report is accompanied by a very interesting diagram showing the statistical position of Indian Railways at a glance and the usual map illustrating the Indian Railway system up to the end of April 1905.

We however keep back our comments on other important matters till the receipt of the detailed report in the usual course.

The Comptroller-General has intimated that a provision of Rs. 5,00,000 has been made in the Budget Estimate of 1905-06 under Imperial Loans and Advances for the issue of a loan to the Madras Municipality.

The Madras Government have just issued in the form an Order a revised list of institutions libraries, and persons in India, Europe and America interested in Sanskrit learning. There are 147 of them in Europe and America, and 173 in India.

The "Rangoon Times" is informed that Mr. Geo. A. Stone, M. I. C. E., F. G. S. I., M. I. M., and M. A. R. S. M., and late Chief Inspector of Mines to the Government of India, has accepted a seat on the London Board of Directors of the Burma Mines Development and Agency, Limited, and is taking an active part in the technical and general management of the company. Mr. Stone knows Burma from a mining point of view well, having spent about a year in a protracted tour whilst holding his late position of Chief Inspector of Mines for India.

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CHANGES IN THE HUGHLI.

EROSION AT SAUGOR ISLAND.

The Note by Captain E. W. Petty R. N., Deputy Conservator on changes in the bed of the Hugly at the northern end of Saugor Island since 1885 is published by the Calcutta Port Commissioners:—

The changes in the bed of the river are attracting more attention each year, and the plans of the river which were laid down on a scientific basis, now more than twenty years ago, are beginning to bear fruit, that is, they enable us to make accurate comparisons of the changes that are occurring in any part of the river between Calcutta and the sea, the soundings being referred to Bench Marks whose values are all referred to one point, and the land mathematically laid down and mapped with precision on both banks of the river.

2. As it has been stated before, the configuration of the river proper, which flows down to Diamond Harbour between well defined and established banks, undergoes alterations which are almost imperceptible even in periods of 20 or 30 years and although the bed of the channel is subject to successive shoalings and deepenings, its general character and position is preserved practically unaltered. Five miles below Diamond Harbour the river expands into its estuary, the channel loses its definiteness and wanders in three or four branches through numerous, over-shifting sandbanks to the sea, and in this place changes of great magnitude and importance to navigation are constantly occurring, and it is in this section of the river that as Surveyors we have so much anxiety.

3. A striking illustration of the great changes wrought in the lower reaches of the river in the comparatively short period of twenty years by the processes ever at work, modelling and remodelling the river bed and banks, is afforded by two charts of the locality, one executed in 1885 and the other of this year, and these I submit for the Commissioners examination.

4. Saugor Island as will be seen in the earlier plan, was shaped roughly like a champagne bottle, the head, Mud Point, being separated from the body of the Island by a neck of land 2.80 feet wide at its narrowest part, about 3 miles south of old Mud Point Telegraph Office. In the western hollow of the neck divided from Saugor Island by a deep though narrow channel, were cradled two smaller islands—Korapara and Gabtola—rising from the northern and southern ends of a large sandbank four miles long. Stretching from Mud Point, south-westwards towards the Jellingham Anchorage in mid river, a deep pool, about half a mile broad, separated Saugor and the Gabtola group from Lash's Sand and this pool, called the Mud Point Channel, continuing north eastwards issued eventually into Channal Creek—which river serves Saugor Island from the mainland.

5. The narrow passage, about 700 feet wide, between the Gabtola Islands and Saugor was one of the chief outlets for the flood water of the broad Bedford Channel, and as the relieving channel which the flood current had forced through the sandbanks to the westwards into the Jellingham Anchorage from below the Gabtola Islands, was shoal, it is not surprising to find evidences of great erosion in the direct path of this flood water, which had as its "head," practically the whole expanse of the Eastern Channel. The current impinged first on the base of Gabtola Island, cutting it away rapidly, and as at the same time the northern edge was growing other hand, the earlier arrival of the flood tide on the Channal Creek side has sufficient influence to guide the flow through the passage from Channal Creek into the Hugly during the flood, another re-distribution of the group of islands will take place and Channal Creek will suffer. The latter alternative, is, however, improbable, as the water will certainly follow the line of east resistance which in this case appears fortunately to lie in the direction in which its flow will be most beneficial to navigational interests. The next freshets will be carefully watched, and I will keep the Commissioners informed of what occurs from time to time.

It is announced that Rajah Rangayya Apparow has consented to present a public library at a cost of Rs. 6,000, to the Victoria Memorial Town Hall, Masulipatam—which is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 20,000—raised by public subscriptions—to comprise the local vernacular, classical and English literature. This is in addition to a liberal donation towards the construction of the Hall.

Death has been busy among the Rothschilds. It is less than three weeks since Baron Alphonse de Rothschild, the head of the French branch of the family, died in Paris, and now we have the announcement of the death of Baron Nathaniel Rothschild in Vienna. The coincidence illustrates in a forcible manner the cosmopolitan range of this great family.

A clerk in the Huzur Secretariat, and his accomplice were severely punished by the second class Magistrate of Travancore for alleged incendiarism. The party appeared to the District Magistrate who, on calling for the records of the case, was surprised to find them missing. The judgment of the lower Court was quashed, and the next day the District Magistrate received a packet from the anhel officer sent bearing. On opening it he was surprised to find all the missing records. It is hoped that the matter will not be dropped considering the seriousness of the affair.

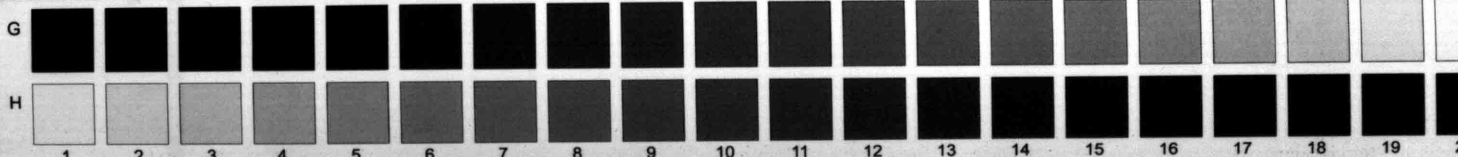
The following is from the final report on the wheat crop of the Punjab for the year 1904-05:—The total return is estimated at 2855353 tons compared with 3,076,161 tons in 1903-04,—a decrease of 220,808, or 7.1 per cent. This is attributable to the frost. The gross yield is however 37 per cent above the quinquennial and 44 per cent above the decennial average. It also exceeds the yield of 2,636,683 tons in 1900-01. After making full allowance for extensions of irrigation, the crop is decidedly a satisfactory one. Taking area and yield together it may be classed as almost 18 annas. In consequence of the bumper harvest of 1904 and favourable rates in Europe there was an unprecedented export of 11,188,169 tons during the year, the previous highest being 790,028 tons in 1903 and 576,383 tons in 1902.

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THE Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, JUNE 18, 1905.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

It was in 1879 that the Government of India in a Circular acknowledged the fitness of the Indians to hold higher appointments in the Police Department. This is what the Government of Lord Lytton then remarked:—

"The annual police reports for the various Provinces show that the Native Police Officers, when advanced to positions of trust, do their work zealously and honestly."

And the Government Circular concludes with these words:—

"And the Governor-General in Council hopes that it must be possible to appoint Natives of India more and more freely to the higher offices in these departments."

Lord Lytton then never dreamt that a Police Commission would arise, a quarter of a century after this declaration, to undo what he had done! This injunction was promulgated in 1879. In the meantime what the Indian authorities did was to promote a few Indian Police Inspectors as District Police Superintendents or as Assistant Police Superintendents and they gave every satisfaction. In Bengal most of the Police Inspectors were made over to the natives of the soil; but, as they had little or no chance of getting a District Police Superintendency, very few really educated men willingly entered the Police force as Inspectors. There was thus no fair trial as regards the fitness of the Indians to hold such posts as Police Superintendents and Assistant Police Superintendents.

But then, when it was found that, even a half-educated Police Inspector, promoted to a Police Superintendency, could perform his duties as efficiently as a European Superintendent, it left no room for doubt that really educated men, belonging to respectable families, were just the men fit for taking charge of the District Police. The above sentiments are not our own but practically those of the Police Commission. The Commission had the fairness to admit in its report that the Indians got no fair trial, and in spite of the shabby treatment the Police Inspectors received, they proved that they were fit to hold higher posts.

Nearly a quarter of a century afterwards, a Police Commission set under the President, Sir Andrew Fraser, and great hopes were entertained regarding the future prospects of the Indians in the Police Department for various reasons. First, the Government of Lord Lytton had given the solemn promise that, Natives of India would be "more and more freely" employed in the Police and other special departments. Secondly, the people of India had made vast progress in education since the Circular of 1879 had been promulgated; and thirdly, the President of the Police Commission was a Good-fellowing Christian, who professed ardent love for the educated classes in India.

But the recommendations of the Commission, which have been bodily accepted by the Government of India with a few modifications for the worse, have placed the people of India in the position of the sick man who wanted to eat such a rich food as "pooree", but whom his physician would keep fasting. Teased by his patient the physician at last yielded to the pressure. "But," added the physician, "you must know that 'ghes' (clarified butter which is an essential ingredient of the 'pooree') is very bad for you. The upper layer of the 'pooree' is saturated with that deleterious substance, and so is the lower. You must therefore avoid them both, but take only the layer in the middle or the kernel!" Delighted at this permission, the patient prepared a large quantity of that favourite food of the Hindus to find to his chagrin and disappointment that, when the "pooree" is dished of its upper and lower layers, there remains nothing! One seeks in vain for anything particular in the recommendations of the Police Commission.

The upper layer—the highest offices in the Police Department, such as the Police Inspector Generalship, Dy. Police Inspector Generalships etc.—is saturated with 'ghes', and is very bad for the Indians. As for the lower layer, consisting of Police Superintendency and Assistant Police Superintendency, it was laid down in 1879 that Indians should be "freely and more freely" appointed to these posts. The people had thus the privilege of, at least partially, enjoying the lower layer. But, the recommendation of the Commission was that, Police Superintendents and Assistant Police Superintendents should be recruited from English youths of 18, and its other recommendation, in a half-hearted language, was that a few Indians, if fit, might now and then be appointed as such. The Government of India has accepted the first recommendation, and of course rejected the other. So the Indians have been deprived of the other layer also.

As for the newly-created, Deputy Police Superintendents and the old Police Inspectors, it was hoped that, at least these would be solely reserved for the children of the soil; but no, they are to be divided between them and the Europeans and Eurasians. In what proportion has this to be done is not yet made quite clear; but, judging from a recent incident, it seems, with regard to them also the lion's share is likely to fall to the lot of the Europeans and Eurasians.

Some weeks ago a notification was published by the Inspector-General of Police on the appointment of a number of Police Inspectors under the new scheme. More than two hundred graduates applied for these posts. How these applications have been disposed of is not yet precisely known. According to the "Hindu Patriot", however, fifty-seven Inspectors have already been appointed, of which 34 have been recruited from the Indian, and 23 from the European and Eurasian community! The monstrousness of the proportion will be realized from the fact that, among the entire population of Bengal which is 78 millions, the number of Europeans and Eurasians is not even one lakh. It should also be remembered that, in point of education the "Poor Whites" are nowhere compared with the educated Bengalees. As a matter of fact, though hundreds of graduates, many of whom are M.A.s and B.L.s, applied for the Police Inspectors, only five of them, we are told, have been appointed by direct selection, and the remaining 29 have been promoted

from the grade of Sub-Inspectors. This is justice and this is unexampled liberality! As regards the 23 white and semi-white Inspectors they are called Drill Inspectors, and we shall discuss their position in future.

HOW EUROPEANS HAVE BENEFITED BY POLICE COMMISSION.

The appointment of 23 Europeans as Drill Police Inspectors, noticed by us yesterday, makes it abundantly clear now the last Police Commission did not fail to take advantage of their position for furthering the interests of the "Whites" and the "semi-Whites," rich and poor. For the English youths at home the Commission provided that they should be placed at the head of the District Police as Superintendents. It is no doubt astounding that a body of intelligent and fair-minded Anglo-Indian officials and non-officials could propose such a fearfully unjust arrangement. There is no question about the fitness of educated Indians to hold the post of Police Superintendents in India. Neither is there any doubt that India is the country of the Indians, where English youths have no right to occupy offices in public services for which educated men on the spot are available. Why is then this unjust arrangement? Besides, is an English youth, even when competent, able to carry on police administration in India?

Even a child can see that raw English youths, utter strangers in India, not knowing the language, manners and customs of the people, are absolutely unfit to perform police duties here, which consist, among other things, the detection of crime. Is it possible for an English youth to catch a thief in India or unravel a mystery surrounding an intricate criminal case? Can he move one step without being led, like a child or a blind man, by the Sub-Inspector or the Head Constable? Possibly a strong patriotic impulse or clanish feeling deadened all sense of justice of the Commissioners and moved them to provide employments for the surplus population of the United Kingdom. All the same the arrangement, we must say, is shamefully unjustifiable whereby Police Superintendents and Assistant Police Superintendents for Indian districts are to be recruited from the middle classes in England.

The recommendation is not even coupled with the condition that, if an Indian youth could go all the way to England at immense sacrifice and pass successfully the competitive Police Examination, he should at least be allowed to enter the Police department in his own country as an Assistant Superintendent. He has the privilege of competing for the Indian Civil Service, but the good Commission would not allow him the same privilege for an inferior service! How reasonable, how fair! It is thus evident that, if the members of the Commission did not quite hear the voice of justice, they paid every heed to that of interest.

Apparently they thought that if Indians were permitted to compete with English youths, they would beat down the latter wholesale and pocket all the Police Superintendencies. Was not a cry of distress raised in England to the effect that all Civil Service appointments would be snatched away by the Indians, when the Parliamentary vote for holding a Civil Service Examination in India was secured by Mr. Herbert Paul? Possibly another fact also influenced the Commissioners to close the door of the Police Examination in England against the people of this country. It is only the best English youths who compete for the Indian Civil Service, but the Police appointments will be competed for, if not by dunces exactly, but very inferior mediocres. What chances have they against bright Indian youths?

Here we shall digress a little. We owe this arrangement of recruiting Police Superintendents for India in England to the President of the Police Commission, our Governor-elect at the time, and Sir Andrew Fraser has taken credit for it. The reader may remember how glad the people of Bengal were when Sir Andrew's appointment as Lieutenant-Governor was announced, and how the Indian papers stood by him when the Anglo-Indian press showered abuse upon him. There was special reason why Sir Andrew was welcomed with such warmth. His good father, Dr. Fraser, was an Indian by choice, that is to say, though a Scotchman, he never failed to declare that, India, where he had passed the best part of his life, was his real home, and, therefore, he loved it better than even his mother-land, Scotland.

This excellent and worthy Doctor was a true Christian. Sir Andrew Fraser is the worthy son of a worthy father, whom he regarded with the reverence of a Hindu son. The good Doctor vividly realized and said so to many that he had good cause to be grateful to India whose salt he had eaten. Naturally, therefore, there was joy in Bengal when Sir Andrew's appointment as Lieutenant-Governor was announced; for the people thought that, he, like his father, also held the view that no country in the world had to much claim upon him as India—no, not even Scotland—India which has always treated him generously. And this blow comes from the hand of one who was regarded as one of our best friends, and from whom so much was expected.

To return to the case of 23 European Drill Inspectors. Having provided for the surplus manhood in the United Kingdom, the Commission naturally next directed their attention to their kinsmen in India. Poor fellows! they too are hungry and have to be provided for. It was of course understood that a large number of Anglo-Indians would be appointed as Deputy Police Superintendents, Police Inspectors, may, even as Police Sub-Inspectors; but, then, it was also necessary to create a class of subordinate appointments which, like the Police Superintendents and other higher offices, should be reserved exclusively for the Poor Whites. The problem was rather a difficult one; for, without some decent education, it is not possible for even Europeans to hold responsible posts. What was, therefore, needed was to create berths for which educational qualification was not essential, but which should at the same time carry respectable salaries. And the post of the Drill Inspector served the purpose wonderfully well, as his duty is only to teach drilling to the members of the Police.

This is how the idea occurred to the Commission. In 1886 certain religious disturbances in Northern India led Lord Dufferin's Government to consider the question of police reserves. In addressing local Governments on the subject they called attention to the principles laid down by the Police Commission

of 1860. These principles were to the effect that, the police should be so far drilled and disciplined as to enable them to put down all riots and local disturbances. The Government of Lord Lansdowne took up the matter and decided that the principles laid down in 1860 should be adhered to, and that a sufficient reserve police force should be maintained, if possible, in every district. The matter was, however, pigeon-holed, and no succeeding Government took any notice of it.

The late Police Commission, however, revived the subject and examined witnesses on the necessity of armed police and military Police in British India. In Bengal such men as Mr. R. C. Dutt, Rajah Peary Mohun Mukerjee, Rai Bahadur Atul Chunder Chatterjee, when examined by the Commission, objected to armed police in Bengal, mainly on the ground, if we remember aright, that Bengal having been thoroughly pacified, no military or armed police was needed in the Province. As a matter of fact Bengal never required the services of such a police, even when it was in a turbulent state. The Province is now free from religious or any other kind of riot. And hence there is absolutely no need for armed police in Bengal.

But what of that? The Commission suggested that armed Police reserves were absolutely needed; that they should be taught the use of arms and instructed in drill; and that there should be at the head-quarters of each district a body of armed Police called head-quarters Police. The Commission next made a suggestion which was never contemplated by any previous Government, namely, that the charge of this armed Police should be given to a European Inspector, assisted by one or more European Sergeants, and that through all the members of the force should periodically pass for courses of training of suitable duration. Why a European, enjoying the salary of a Police Inspector, was needed for drilling purposes which an Indian Subhedar can perform efficiently, was not explained by the Commission.

It was in this clever way that the Commission served their purpose of creating a preserve for a class of Europeans who, without any educational test, are privileged to enter the Police force on respectable pay, and whose only duties would be to drill the force. Was then the main object of the Police Commission to provide berths for Englishmen at home, and Europeans and Eurasians in India, and was Sir Andrew Fraser specially selected for this purpose?

THE CASE OF RAJA SARADA NARAYAN SING.

The readers of this journal are already aware that, a Commission has been appointed, at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh, Mr. Radice, to enquire into the mental condition of Raja Sarada Narayan Sing, the sole proprietor of Gadi Sarapur, Giridih, who, it is alleged, has become of unsound mind and incapable of managing his affairs. In his application to the Judicial Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner mentions two instances of alleged insanity on the part of the Raja which are published below in the language of Mr. Radice:—

"(a) The Raja advanced more than a lac of rupees on the mortgage of Gadi Gauday. Babu Gusto Behari Kundo who was a prior mortgagee of that Gadi brought a suit for recovery of his mortgage money and made Raja Sarada Narayan Sing a defendant in the case. Babu Gusto Behari Kundo obtained a decree for the sale of the Gadi and in execution of the decree, which was for Rs. 2977-15-0 only, had the property sold on 3rd October last. Raja Sarada Narayan Sing was advised and repeatedly asked by his pleaders to pay up the decretal amount but he did not do anything whatever in the matter. After the sale he was advised to apply for having the same set aside but again he did nothing in spite of a telegram having been sent to him by the Commissioner of the Division."

"The sale proceeds after satisfying the claims of previous mortgages will leave nothing for Raja Sarada Narayan Sing. This conduct of the Raja has caused a loss of more than a lac of rupees to him."

"(b) Raja Sarada Narayan Sing sued the Bengal Coal Company Limited for recovery of nearly Rs. 58,000 in 1899, the suit being No. 33 of 1899 of the special Sub-Judge's Court. After the decision of the case by the Special Sub-Judge appeal was preferred to the High Court. The High Court remanded the case last year and the 3rd of this month was fixed for the further hearing of the case by the Special Sub-Judge. The Raja took no step for the examination of the most important witnesses residing in the Manbhum district although repeatedly advised and urged by his pleaders to do so. He also failed to send any instructions to his pleaders or to send a man to look after the cases. His pleaders applied for postponement of the case stating the circumstances fully but the application was refused and the suit was dismissed."

Another charge against the Raja is that he is delaying the marriage of his daughter. In order to examine him privately, the Civil Surgeon of Hazaribagh and the Assistant Surgeon of Giridih were deputed to see the Raja at his house and submit their reports as regards his mental condition. Accordingly they visited the Raja, and the details of their interview are published elsewhere, which, we doubt not, will be read with amusing interest. For the medical officers have submitted a curious report. Their premises and conclusions do not agree! Indeed, it is most extraordinary that though the replies of the Raja to the questions of the Civil Surgeon and did not show the least trace of insanity, yet this was admitted both by the Civil Surgeon and his Assistant, yet they concluded their reports with the astounding remark that, the Raja was insane and of unsound mind!

By what process of reasoning the two medical officers came to this conclusion, in spite of their own admissions that the Raja talked intelligently and rationally, is not apparent to people possessing sound mind. It will be seen that the Raja gave an intelligent explanation of the two instances of alleged insanity in which the Deputy Commissioner has brought against him. True the explanation shows that the Raja has no clear conception of the way cases are conducted in our courts of law, but how many of our big people are it? They leave these things, as a rule, to their managers. His explanation about the delay in marrying his daughter is quite satisfactory.

What seems to be the case is that the Raja labours under a hallucination that he may be injured by some unknown mesmerist. It was the result of a serious illness from which he suffered a few years ago. Haunted by this idea he shunned society and lived in seclusion, and thereby lost touch with

the management of his property. So the duty of the authorities, who are showing such ardent solicitude for the Raja's welfare, if they really mean well which we think they do, is to cure the Raja of his delusion, and make him fit to take charge of his property in his own hands.

The Civil Surgeon himself testifies to the fact that, the Raja was very much impressed when he suggested to him that he might free himself of his fear of being mesmerised if he would only go out and mix with people. From this it is clear that there is nothing serious with the Raja. He is neither violent maniac nor a stupid imbecile. On the other hand, he had previously managed his property with efficiency and had the reputation of being the most enlightened Zemindar in his quarter. Above all, why his talk of dragging his estate under the Court Wards? If he is not competent to manage his property himself, surely, a good manager is all that is necessary to secure the safety of his estates.

We are sorry that the Deputy Commissioner, without more substantial proofs in his hands should have applied for a Commission for establishing the insanity of a big and respectable Zemindar which, if he fails to do, is bound to disgrace the Raja in the eyes of the public. Mr. Radice himself, will, in that case, also find himself in a most awkward position. Is there no getting out of this mess?

Surely, it would not popularize the administration if the owners of large estates, even with the best of motives, were put on their trial as insane or incompetent men, with a view to place their property under the management of Europeans. For, be it remembered there is scarcely a private estate under the control of the Court of Wards which is not managed by a white man. A greater scandal than this cannot be conceived, specially as thousands of educated Indians, on lesser pay, are available for the purpose.

As regards the case of Raja Sarada Narayan, we trust, the Government will see its way to do him real service by advising him to associate with himself an honest and able Manager and get rid of his nervousness by proper medical treatment. Every Hindu believes in mesmerism or if the Raja entertains the belief that he may be injured by mesmerism, it is no sign of insanity at all. It may be due to superstition; it may be due to ignorance; but it is not necessarily the result of a disordered state of brains. It should also be remembered that many illustrious scientists of the West have recognised the good and evil influence of mesmerism.

Well, Babu Badri Persad, who, it will be remembered, was sentenced to 10 days rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100, feeling himself aggrieved preferred an appeal with the result that the Sessions Judge upheld the conviction, but reduced 10 days' rigorous imprisonment to one day's simple imprisonment. The appellate court was of opinion that the sentence of rigorous imprisonment was uncalled for. Yet he begins with the assumption in his judgment that "There can be no question that the charge is established."

And pray, how did he come to the conclusion? Did he hear all that the accused had to say in his defence? A gentlemanly who was present in court, when the case was being heard in appeal thus writes to us on the point:—

"When the Counsel for the appellant Badri Persad commenced commenting adversely on the only evidence in the case, viz., that of the complainant, the Judge stopped all arguments by saying that there could be no doubt of the truth of the case and that he would uphold the conviction. Counsel was laying stress upon the fact that if the complainant's story was believed, the case was one of insult, without any the least motive, whereon the Judge said from the Bench, that the accused's motive was that he was enraged by a loss of his property. As the Judge was about to be reminded that this position was inconsistent with the complainant's case, that it was agreed that he (the complainant) was to have credit, he perhaps felt the weakness of his position, and, as it seems to the public, in order to avoid public discussion of the deposition of Lieut. Ford, which would not bear scrutiny, he made short work of the business by saying that he would uphold the conviction. And in his judgment he has studiously avoided, judiciously considering, the question of the accused's guilt as disclosed from the evidence on the record."

This is a very safe way of disposing of a disagreeable case. The High Court ought to have been moved on the subject.

A COINAGE case was disposed of the other day by the Allahabad High Court, which has its instructive and interesting features. The District Magistrate of Ghazipur got an anonymous letter, and, acting upon the information embodied therein, sent up two Sonars for trial. In due course they were committed to the sessions, resulting in their acquittal. In other civilized countries, the matter would have ended here and nobody would have heard of the case again. But, in India the Government has the extraordinary privilege of appealing against acquittals; neither is it at all slow to take advantage of it. Thus, when the Sonars were acquitted the Government preferred an appeal against the decision of the Sessions Judge. But this did not improve matters, for the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court considered it "wholly unsafe" to convict them. By the way, it will be seen that Indian Magistrates are empowered by law to take criminal action even on anonymous information. But, Mr. Lea did not institute criminal proceedings against Mr. Roit, neither did he recommend for the same, though the materials before him were more than enough to justify the prosecution of the late Manager of the Khagra estate. Yet the Anglo-Indian papers have not a word against the Magistrate of Ghazipur, but they have not language strong enough for Mr. Lea. This we do not consider fair.

ANOTHER noticeable feature of the case is the way in which the N. W. P. High Court is looked upon by some of its subordinate Judges. The District Judge of Ghazipur during the course of the trial of the case observed that the subordinate courts were not to follow a ruling of the High Court blindly. Referring to this, the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court read him a homily, as to the duty of the subordinate Courts in regard to the decision to superior courts:

"We cannot conclude our judgment without expressing our surprise that the learned Sessions Judge refused to follow the ruling of a Bench of the High Court. He says that

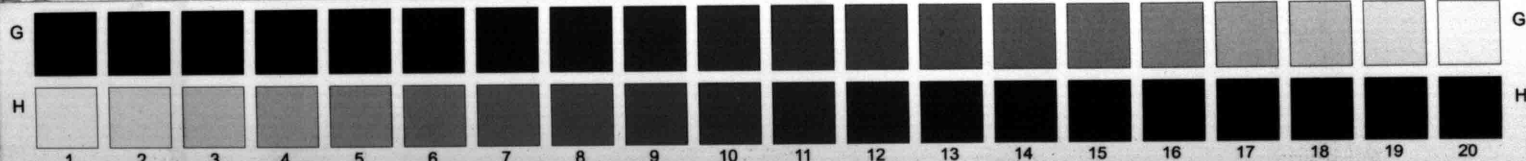
the learned Government Pleader has not shown him "any provision of law directing that rulings of a High Court (whether by one or more Hon'ble Judges or by a Full Bench) have the force of law," and then he afterwards remarks that Courts are not to follow "a ruling blindly even when applicable, if such ruling appears to conflict with the existing law or to make new law." We presume that the learned Sessions Judge means by this that it rests with a Subordinate Judge to decide whether or not a ruling of the High Court conflicts with the existing law or makes new law. We should have thought that it did not require any authority for the proposition that Subordinate Courts must abide by and follow loyally the rulings of the High Court to which it is subordinate."

It is a question of discipline versus conscience. If the subordinate Judge does not obey the rulings of the High Court and not independently, there may be confusion all along the line and the administration of justice becomes difficult. At the same time, how can an honest Judge be expected to do violence to his conscience if he feels that the ruling of the High Court, according to his light, is wrong. The decision of the Allahabad High Court is that, discipline is before conscience, so the subordinate Judge must sacrifice his conscience, if necessary, and obey orders of his superiors like a blind machine. In Bengal, disobedience of the orders of the High Court is not a rare spectacle, but then it is Magistrates, and not Judges, who generally show their intolerance of the control of the superior court. It was the late Mr. Phillips, who perhaps first showed the way. The case of Mr. Foster, Dy. Commissioner of Hazaribagh is the latest instance, illustrating the length to which magisterial contempt for the High Court can be carried. Indeed, his defiant attitude led the High Court to go out of its way and pass severe strictures upon his conduct.

The claims of the Indians to the chief appointments in the Post Office are even greater than in the Police. The Post Office being a purely non-political department, it was practically made over to the Indians. The Post Master Generalship of the N. W. Provinces was specially reserved for the pure Indians; some of the superior appointments were made over to them; and the bulk of the Postal Superintendencies and Post Masterships were in their possession. All this has now been changed. The Indians are being rapidly expelled and replaced by Europeans and Eurasians. Thus, in the Bengal circle, there are 10 appointments on Rs. 200 to Rs. 450, and all of them are held by white men except two in the lowest grade (Rs. 150-200), which are yet filled by children of the soil. Of these two, one has taken furlough preparatory to retirement, and a European has been appointed in his place. Neither are Indians better off in other circles. Our Nagpur correspondent writes us to say that when Babu Bipin Bihari Mukerjee, Post Master of Nagpur, retired on 1st July next, Mr. N. W. Vaughan will be appointed in his place. If Mr. Vaughan is actually appointed as Post Master of Nagpur, a great injustice will be done to Babu Devendra Nath Bhattacherjee, Post Master of Mymensingh, who entered the service in 14-1-81, and was in the grade of Rs. 250 in 23-6-02, while Mr. Vaughan entered the department on 20-7-85 and was in the grade of Rs. 250 in 21-4-04, that is to say, he is junior to Devendra Babu by two years. So times are fast approaching when the educated Indians will be practically nowhere in the public services of their own country.

In India such is the constitution of society that the real facts of an important criminal case can never be kept concealed from the population of the locality where it occurs. If a murder is committed, several important facts in connection with the crime speedily come to the knowledge of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. The matter is, however, quite different with the official. From his position, which is that of utter exclusiveness, it is impossible for him to know anything of even a campaign against Government, if one is planned by a dozen men sitting near the compound of his house. We admit that he is kept tolerably informed of incidents that occur in his neighbourhood, but that is entirely due to the fact that he is in some touch with his Mohur or Court Sub-Inspector. Some officials keep themselves utterly beyond this touch, and they know nothing. A few, though they do not cut off all connection with their subordinates, yet know very little, because their informants are not trusted and avoided by the people. A Sub-Inspector would be very glad to entertain the Magistrate with local gips but he himself is never taken into confidence. Here is again another fact. If the people will talk among themselves about the facts of an important event, their mouths are shut as soon as they find a Shahab's man in their midst. If the old Panchait system prevailed in India, no criminal could have, speaking generally, escaped detection. The officials, who administer criminal justice, commit serious mistakes frequently and sometimes men are hanged who are absolutely innocent. Under British rule in India there is an open hostility between the Police and the people, and the latter, therefore, do not trust the former. Hence the information supplied to the Government by the Police ought to be and is taken by the authorities with great reservation. Just see how there are various versions about the Roit case, and how they differ materially from one another. The local population have a view of the case derived from local sources, which is beyond the reach of the official. The local officials have a view of their own which is beyond the knowledge of those who control the officials from Calcutta of Darjeeling; and the non-official Anglo-Indians and their organs in the press have a view which is based upon the information supplied to them either by Mr. Roit himself or his friends.

The Sensational Moustache Cutting Case in which the defendant was no less a personage than Mr. Scott, the Collector of Anantpur, has at last come to a close, the trying court having passed a decree in favour of the plaintiff. In this case, it may be in the recollection of the reader, the plaintiff, a barber by name Mian Alah Rāmāda, sued Mr. Scott, claiming Rs. 100 from the latter for cutting one side of his moustache. The defendant did not deny the act but pleaded that he did so "to be social" with the barber. The suit came on for hearing on the 10th June, when the Vakil for the defendant made a statement withdrawing from the contest of the suit. Thereupon the court, as stated, gave a decree for the amount claimed with costs.



A case like the one which occurred at Agra and which we noticed the other day in some detail in these columns, is possible only in India. Cases between an Indian and a European almost invariably result in this way. If the former is in the position of an accused he is sent to jail with hard labour; if he is a complainant, his case is dismissed, and oftentimes he is prosecuted for perjury. And this is done on the mere assumption that a "Native" is a liar, and a European is incapable of telling an untruth! All these elements are to be found in the Agra case, and something more. Well, in this case, Badri Persad, a respectable picture-seller, was charged with having abused and insulted Lient. Ford, and the official superior of the latter felt no hesitation in writing to the trying Magistrate to teach the accused a good lesson for his impertinent conduct! This was gross contempt of court; but, neither was the military officer aware of it nor did the Magistrate resent this attempt to prostitute Justice. They all, including the trying Magistrate, felt in one and the same way, namely, an impudent "native" had the effrontery to quarrel with a European, and he should be taught a lesson. That was the feeling, and hence no one among the Europeans who took part in this affair realized that there was such a thing as honour or justice. The military officer wrote to the Magistrate to punish the man severely, and he punished him automatically. The exercise of irresponsible power is thus deadening the moral perceptions of good many Englishmen in this country.

The other day we gave a history of the newly-created Drill Inspectors, 23 of whom have just been fastened upon the Police Department of Bengal. We are told that they were already in the service of the Military Department and are transferred from there to the Bengal Police; they are thus no outsiders. Does the reader understand what this means? It means that they were hitherto paid by the Government of India, but now they will be a burden upon the people of Bengal! And the posts vacated by them will, we fancy, be filled up by other 23 Europeans and Eurasians! By this clever device a number of berths have been thus created for the "Poor Whites." Similarly a number of Public Works Department Engineers were thrown upon the shoulders of the District Boards of Bengal in the eighties to make room for the "White Hill College" men who were too many for the Government of India and who must yet be employed. The Road Cess payers of Bengal have since then been maintaining these useless burdens—for they are not wanted for village roads—by starving various works of utility in which they are vitally interested.

It was never expected that when the children of the soil were proposed to have been so ruthlessly expelled from the higher grades in the Police Department, the subordinate posts would also be divided between the people, and the Europeans and Eurasians. It is the subordinate posts under the Government which now maintain a large number of our educated men. But they must die of starvation and disappear if thirty per cent appointments in the Board of Revenue and Police Inspectorships and similar other posts, which had hitherto been in the almost sole possession of the children of the soil, were distributed in a liberal manner to the Europeans and Eurasians. It will take some time for the people to realize the nature of the gigantic wrong which has resulted from the recommendations of the Police Commission.

There was a time when, if the rulers of India threatened the people with the loss of their liberty of speech, they got frightened. But now the latter know better; necessarily, the threat is not heeded so frequently as before. If the Indian papers were gagged, the aliens, who rule the country, would find themselves immersed in utter darkness. They would, in short, get so nervous and demoralized as to lose all the over-weening confidence they now possess in their own high administrative qualities, which make them suppose that they are "the ablest public servants in the world." Their exclusiveness is making them more and more estranged from the people, and a time may arrive when the newspaper will possibly be the only medium of communication between the ruled and the rulers. Mr. Bonham-Carter is not only the Magistrate of the district of Chupra, but he is also the Chairman of the local Municipality. This Municipality has its Commissioners who have to sit quiet and ditto all what the Magistrate-Chairman says. This is, however, the condition of things everywhere in British India, and the Chupra Commissioners have no grievance on that score. Yet they think that they have a right to understand what the Magistrate-Chairman is pleased to dictate to them. "He proposes all the resolutions himself," but the Commissioners, at least many of them, "fail to catch his words," so they feel that their presence at the meetings is a mere redundancy, nay, it is also not edifying and, what is worse, humiliating to self-respecting Commissioners. This is the complaint of our Chupra Correspondent. The Commissioners know that their votes do not carry any weight, but yet they contend that they must understand what the resolutions are, and what are the Magistrate's arguments in support of his contention. Our correspondent does not mention why they fail to catch the words of Mr. Bonham-Carter; it may be due to many causes, perhaps he speaks too fast or with a brogue, or perhaps some Commissioners do not know English; anyhow they do not follow what he says and they beg to submit to the Magistrate-Chairman, through our columns, to remove this grievance of theirs. Of course it is in their power to submit the matter directly to the Magistrate, but they have not the necessary courage to be able to do it. The audacity of the man, they think, who would venture to tell the Magistrate to his face that they fail to catch his words, may perhaps prove disastrous to him. Hence they have chosen our columns to let the Chairman-Magistrate know their grievance. We dare say he will remove the grievance as soon as he comes to know the nature of the complaint of the Commissioners; but see, how essential are newspapers becoming in India daily; and, further, what a wide gap usually separates the ruled from the rulers.

The story is, though we cannot vouch for its truth, that when Lady Curzon recovered from her serious illness, a deputation of the representatives of the middle-classes in England waited upon her Ladyship's august husband to congratulate him on her recovery, and also to pray to his Lordship to provide for their children in India. Lord Curzon thanked them for their kind wishes, and, at the same time, requested them to bear in mind that it would be manifestly unjust to make India employ English youths when competent Indians were available; "nay," continued his Lordship, "in my Jeypore speech I have let the world know that my view is that Englishmen should not suck the moisture of the soil which should sustain its own children." The leader of the deputation reminded Lord Curzon that, though his Lordship was speaking from a high standpoint, yet his Lordship himself was breaking his own precept.

Lord Curzon.—That is because there is no Indian competent enough to be able to occupy the post of the Viceroy. Leader of the Deputation.—But there are thousands and tens of thousands of Europeans who occupy positions in India which can be very well filled by the natives of the soil.

Lord Curzon.—That is quite true, but they are all fools. You have no idea of the heat of the country. Why should you submit yourself to be roasted for the sake of lucre?

L. D.—But your Lordship does it!

L. Curzon.—I do so such thing. I run to the hills as soon as the thermometer begins to rise.

L. D.—And who else fly to the hills? Lord Curzon.—Why, all the Provincial Governors imitate my example. Nay, my ablest Lieutenant, Sir A. Fraser, has gone a step further and initiated an excellent innovation. Not only does he enjoy the cool breeze of Darjeeling during the hot months, but keeps himself surrounded by the Members of the Board and the Commissioners of the Divisions.

L. D.—But are not the Judges of the High Court considered a very useful class of public servants? At least, did not Lord Lytton speak of them in following terms when addressing them at the Delhi Durbar of 1877: "Valuable is the strength of grip with which the British Generals wield their swords; yet not upon them, but upon the vigilance, the independence, and the fearlessness conscientiousness of thought and utterance of Her Majesty's Judges do the safety and glory of the British Empire in India depend." How is it that they are permitted to be roasted in the plains when the thermometer indicates more than 100 degrees in the shade.

Lord Curzon.—They were necessary evils in days gone by. The purpose for which they were needed, however, no longer exists; for the safety of the British Empire in India has been thoroughly secured. Perhaps their occupation would be gone, at least in Bengal, if that Province could be divided. And you know, a project for the dismemberment of Bengal is now before the Government. If Bengal were divided, a Judicial Commissioner would then take the place of the present fourteen High Court Judges, and the question of allowing them the privilege of residing at the hills would not arise at all.

L. D.—But is the heat really very severe?

L. Curzon.—Severe? The Englishman in the plains during the hot season is the most miserable creature in the world. I fancy that the heat that scorches Europeans in India, during the hot season, is an adequate punishment, for the wrong that they do to the Indians by ostracizing them from the public services of their own country, and themselves filling them up from almost top to bottom.

L. D.—If the heat is so oppressive, why do not all Englishmen in India go up to the hills during the hot season?

Lord Curzon.—That would mean cost.

L. D.—The cost, I understand, is not to be paid by England but the "Natives."

Lord Curzon.—But if all Englishmen in the public service fly to the hills, who will do their work in the plain?

L. D.—Why, as usual, the "Natives" will do it. Certainly the Englishmen in public service in India cannot do their legitimate work without native help; for they are ignorant of the country, and the language and manners of the people. In short every European official has his "Babu" without whom he cannot proceed a step. Why not all the officials go up to the hills leaving their Babus to do their work?

Lord Curzon, it is said, dismissed the deputation with the remark that he would do what he could to provide English youths with employment in India, though his Lordship did not think it possible to send all officials from the plain to the hill.

Now, we do not vouch for the truth of the story, probably it is a myth. But we do not think that, if the officials spend the hot season on the top of the hills, the administration will in any way suffer thereby. The "Babus" will do all the work in their absence. The most important official in the plains is the Commissioner of the Division. But all the Commissioners were kept at Darjeeling last year by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for several weeks without any administrative breakdown. This year also the Commissioners have gone up to Darjeeling. As for the cost, the "Natives" will pay it most gladly, if they are relieved of the presence of the officials for three or four months, and allowed to breathe a little more freely.

Now that Norway has broken loose the Swedes are apparently inclined to follow the lead of their King and get angry about it. We are informed that "Sweden has instructed the consuls to continue to act as Norwegian as well as Swedish consuls, but they must ignore the illegal Norwegian Government." And as the said illegal Government is pretty certain to return the compliment this instruction will in practice amount to not much more than the retention of the old combined title and the old flag. Formerly King Oscar remains the King of Sweden and Norway, and as such he has just been created an Admiral in the British Navy; but this means no more than the title "King of France" which was kept up for centuries by the Tudors, the Stuarts and the Georges. The only pity about it is that it displays a tendency to ill-feeling at the outset of the separation which bodes ill for the future relations between the two peoples.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

London, May 26.

THE REVOLT OF THE OPPOSITION.

The extraordinary scene which was witnessed last Monday evening in the House of Commons was painful in the extreme. That the whole House should be sent home like a number of naughty schoolboys who could not be tamed into submission to rule, and sent to ponder over their misconduct until the next day is a fact that no Englishman cares to contemplate. Fortunately it is of rare occurrence at Westminster. I have seen in the Chamber of Deputies in Paris when the noise and conflicting shouts of the various parties have completely put an end to business for the time; also in Rome I remember a special sitting of the Camera at which divergent opinions on some question of national policy quite drowned the tinkling bell which should have been a call to order, and the President's voice requesting silence. But that the Mother of Parliaments should give way to a scene of this kind is humiliating, and the real cause of the disaster was none other than the Prime Minister himself. It reminded one of the celebrated Jackdaw of Rheims in the Ingoldsby Legends who, discovered to be the thief of "my Lord Cardinal's ring," was pointed at by all who had been searching for the lost treasure, and, as the poet remarks, "Headless of grammar, they all cried, 'That's him!'" The shiftness of Mr. Balfour on the question of changes in the nation's fiscal policy has led him into many awkward places; he is playing a difficult game; he wants to keep in office but he does not want to entirely repudiate the ex-Colonial Secretary, who, every time the Premier shows signs of too great independence on fiscal matters, administers a sharp thrust which brings the Leader of the House to a more reasonable attitude—reasonable to the fiscal reformers. For some weeks, the Chamberlains have been awaiting Mr. Balfour's reply to their mysterious communication to him as to a mutual agreement. No answer was forthcoming and they grew restive, especially as pure Balfourians, Mr. Brodick among the number, talked about the Birmingham policy being consigned to the Limbo of forgotten things. Last week we heard of daily conferences between the Prime Minister and Mr. Chamberlain, and in due course the essence of the supposed compact between them became apparent. Mr. Balfour had given way on the question of the Colonial, or rather Imperial, Conference. He had always declared that before the question of fiscal reform could become practical politics, there should be two conferences; at the next general election the country should be asked to authorise the discussion of the matter, but the deliberations of the conference were not to be binding on the country until after a second election, when electors would be at liberty to pronounce upon the important question. This arrangement was acclaimed by all but Mr. Chamberlain's party, who saw in it an indefinite postponement of their plans for saving the Empire. Now, Mr. Balfour, explaining that he had forgotten that next year would bring the Colonial Conference, supposed in 1902 to be held every four years, states that he cannot impose restrictions against the discussion of tariff reform, and, in consequence, if the Conference is held before a dissolution of the present Parliament, the conclusions reached will afford an election cry that will be as delusive as that of the Khaki election. "Every vote given to the Liberals will be a vote given to the Boers, the enemies of the country!" will be changed into "Every vote given to the Liberals will be a vote against the Colonies!"

Sternly, on Monday last, did the Leader of the Opposition protest against the Prime Minister's broken pledge, against his subtleties about "a" conference and "the" conference, and asked for an explanation. On a matter of personal honour, it is an unwritten law of the House of Commons that the Prime Minister shall at once reply; in fact, Mr. Balfour has done so more than once during his term of office. But, instead of rising, Mr. Lytton was put up to deal with the matter—the Colonial Conference being in his department. This exasperated the Opposition beyond endurance, and the House rang with cries of "Balfour! Balfour!" The tumult grew beyond bounds; the Colonial Secretary for the space of fifty minutes tried to speak; the Opposition would not hear him. I knew from past experience that Mr. Lytton would divert the question from its plain issue, and that Mr. Balfour, in the long run, would escape on a side issue. Of course all the Tory papers are strong in their denunciation of the scandalous conduct of the Opposition, and Mr. Balfour yesterday wanted Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman to pledge a fair debate for the Vote of Censure which has arisen out of the incident and is to come on next Tuesday. The Premier, naturally, declines to see in himself the cause of all the trouble; but many of his own party are growing tired of his evasions and have expressed sympathy with the Opposition in trying to get a plain statement. Running with the hare and hunting with the hounds is no easy task; and the time is growing nearer when Mr. Balfour will be driven into either an open acknowledgment of Mr. Chamberlain's policy or an entire repudiation of it. One hears rumours from time to time of Mr. Chamberlain's failing health; it is certain that, wanting his leadership, the tariff reformers would make a poor show.

At Mazagon, Bombay before Mr. J. W. S. Draxton, Inspector Patterson charged Ambia Ganoo, a Hindu, with attempting to rescue one Shivshunker Gopalji from lawful custody. The evidence showed that on Sunday morning last, at about eight o'clock, J. P. Fonseca, a bailiff of the Small Causes Court, arrested Shivshunker on a warrant at Girgaum Back Road. Shivshunker tried to get away, but he was secured by the bailiff with the assistance of a police sepoy. The accused then came up, and, seizing the bailiff by his hand, tried to make him let the prisoner go. A Marwari remonstrated with the accused, when the latter let the bailiff go but turned upon the Marwari and assaulted him. Another policeman came up and arrested the accused. It was ascertained that the accused was at the time under the influence of liquor, and his worship taking into consideration that fact, fined the accused Rs. 30 with the alternative of fifteen days' rigorous imprisonment.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Bank Rate.—The Bank of Bengal rate for demand loans is 4 per cent.

Leave.—Mr. A. G. S. Shuttleworth, Assistant Opium Agent, attached to the Benares Opium Agency, is granted privilege leave for one month and one day.

A New Punkah System.—A Calcutta invention figuring in the last list of the Government Patents Office is an automatic punkah working apparatus to be called "The Lambert Punkah System."

Official.—Mr. J. B. Brunyate O.S., will relieve Mr. Mant as Officiating Deputy Secretary, Finance Department, on the 3rd July. Mr. W. S. Morris, O.S., will on return from leave, rejoin the Home Office about the same time.

Plague.—There were four cases and the same number of deaths from plague in the city on Thursday, the 15th instant, when the total mortality from all causes was 46 i.e. 12 less than the average of the previous five years.

Sugarcane Crop.—Operations in connection with the next sugarcane crop in Bengal—where its cultivation is steadily extending and where in Bihar at any rate European enterprise is taking up the industry—are proceeding satisfactorily according to the latest official reports.

Teachers' Examination.—An examination in the knowledge of English idiom and in pronunciation for teachers of English in Native schools will be held at the office of the Inspector of European Schools 12, Dalhousie Square, East, on Tuesday, the 4th July 1905, at 11 a.m.

Suit Against an Attorney.—At the High Court before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sale an Attorney applied for the admission of a plaint on behalf of Kedar Nath Shaw for the recovery of Rs. 2400 from Babu Kamani Kumar Guha. The amount was due on a promissory note. His Lordship admitted the plaint and ordered written statements to be filed.

River Levels.—The first river level table for the year published by the Irrigation Department of the Bengal Government shows that the heavy rains of the earlier part of the year are having a marked effect upon the Ganges. The levels generally are higher than the figures both for 1904 and 1903. At Gohatty in the Brahmaputra, on the contrary, the level is lower than 1904, but higher than 1903.

Lunacy in India.—Ganja smoking in Bengal is said to take the place of alcohol in England as a cause of lunacy, but the official returns show that it must be very much less potent. In his Report for last year on the lunatic asylums in this province, Colonel S. H. Browne, I.M.S., points out that whereas there are in England some thirty-four lunatics to every ten thousand of the inhabitants, in Bengal there are less than three. Bengal is not alone in this respect. The Madras Lunatic Asylums Report for last year, which has also been issued recently, shows that the ratio of lunatics to sane in the general population in South India is about five per ten thousand. Colonel Browne is a strong advocate for moving the Bhowanipore Asylums, Calcutta, to some healthier site.

Defamation.—At the Sudder Police Court a case came on for hearing on Thursday before the Hon'ble Bench in which Mr. Miller, employed in the Bengal Secretariat Press, charged Mr. Graham with having defamed him by making several insinuations against his character. One Mr. Payne, of Simla, who was on friendly terms with the complainant, came down to Calcutta during the winter season of 1904-05 with his wife and children. In April, 1905, Mrs. Payne died and the children with the father's permission were placed in the Buntally Convent by the complainant. The accused, who was in no way interested in the family, addressed a letter to Mr. Payne's daughter, Miss Marie Payne, in which he described the complainant as a dishonest man and a liar. The letter eventually came into the possession of the complainant, resulting in the institution of these proceedings. Babu Suresh Chunder Mitter appeared for the prosecution and examined the complainant, after which the accused tendered an unqualified apology to the complainant who, in consequence, withdrew the case.

The Judges of the High Court.—Apropos of the refusal of the Chief Justice of Bengal to close the High Court on account of the heat—for which display of public spirit the public is heartily grateful to him—a correspondent has sent us a letter from which we feel sorrowfully constrained to take the following extracts, if only to show how very odious some comparisons can be made. "Our correspondent sends us an extract from the Charter of the old Supreme Court, dated 1774, which provides that not less than four terms shall be appointed in the year, each term consisting of four weeks at the least, and sittings after each term, each sitting to consist of 14 days. His comment is as follows:—'I am entirely with the Chief myself, but my humble stoicism is bare'—'precipitated by the bulk of the legal profession. Obviously Calcutta 131 years ago was very different to what it is now; there were no electric fans and there was no public opinion; and the H. E. L. Co., ran its business as it pleased without a Chamber of Commerce and a Trades Association to nag a provocative of its use, and the ability to flee to the Hills, which we possess, is an acquisition which dates back but a few decades. It, however, is the Government which has succeeded to the old H. E. L. Co., which has the heat of the plains; and not the judges who have succeeded to the old bewigged and begowned worthies, between whom and the company's magnates there was a perpetual war. Moreover the office of a judge more than that of a Secretary to Government demands absolute physical and mental fitness and readiness for the discharge of his duties.'"

A Secretary's work may be less and less; the judge in his Court, be the thermometer 72 degrees or 105 degrees, has to be equally temper, prompt in grasping facts, and the bearing of facts; prompt too in resisting the fallacy which one or other side, perhaps both, are waiting to impose on him. Counsel themselves have to be mentally wide awake; and the witness under examination has to be clear-headed. And yet the work of the Courts can and does proceed with the thermometer at 100 degrees, and the atmosphere so vapour-laden that there is less oxygen in it than ordinary respiration can cope with. And it is the Secretaries who shirk the heat; and the Courts that cope with it. Under the old Supreme Court Charter, the judges need not have sat for more than 168 days inclusive of Sundays during the whole year; for 197 days there was no Court sitting. And this is the Court whose influence the Government is striving to weaken. "Englishman."

Water-rate Rules.—The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal proposes to make several alterations and additions in rules 5, 6, 9, 15, 47 and 48 of the Water-rate Rules for the Orissa Canals and in Appendices III and VII thereto.

Art of Teaching.—The half-yearly Examination of teachers of the Chota Nagpur Division, who teach through the medium of English, in the art of teaching, will be held in the Purulia Zilla School on the 7th August 1905, and the half-yearly examination of teachers of Vernacular subjects who have at least passed the Middle Vernacular Standard Examination, will be held in the first grade Training School at Ranchi on the 30th August 1905.

P.W.D. Promotions.—The following promotions are made in the Upper Subordinate Establishment:—Mookerjee, Khirde Chandra, Supervisor, 2nd grade is promoted to be Supervisor, 1st grade and is posted to Chota Nagpur; and Roy, Jotindra Nath, Overseer, 1st grade to Supervisor, 2nd grade and is posted to Darjeeling.—Babu Bidhu Bhushan Tribedy, Overseer, 1st grade, and Toll-collector, Hanskhali, Nadia Rivers Division, is granted privilege leave for three months combined with furlough for 21 months.

Assam Crops.—For the week ending the 6th June, 1905, the weather was seasonable; wet in the hill districts. Rain in all districts. Planting of sugarcane in progress. Plucking and manufacture of tea continuing; prospects good in Darrang, below normal in Lakhimpur, improving in Kamrup, and fair in other districts. Ploughing for, and sowing of late rice in progress. Sowing of early rice finished in Goalpara, Nowgong, and Dibrugarh, retarded in Sylhet for want of sufficient rain, and in progress in other districts. Prospects of early rice good in Goalpara and Garo Hills and generally fair in other places. Prospects of jute good. Reaping of early transplanted rice in Sylhet finished; outturn good. Cattle-disease prevalent in five districts. Prices of common rice—Silchar 18 to 19, Sylhet 16½, Gauhati, Nowgong, and Sibsagar 16, Dhubri 15, Tezpur 14, and Dibrugarh 13 seers per rupee.

Civil Medical Department.—Third-grade Assistant Surgeon Sureswar Sarkar is appointed as a House Physician, Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, vice third-grade Assistant Surgeon Devendra Nath Ghosh. Third-grade Assistant Surgeon Devendra Nath Ghosh is appointed to do supernumerary duty at the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta. Third-grade Assistant Surgeon Khetra Gopal Mukherjee is appointed to do supernumerary duty at the Cuttack General Hospital. Senior Assistant Surgeon Kasi Nath Ghosh is appointed to the Arambagh subdivision and Dispensary in the Hughli district, vice third-grade Assistant Surgeon Premananda Das, transferred. Third-grade Assistant Surgeon Premananda Das is appointed to do supernumerary duty at the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta.

Hony. Magistrates.—The gentlemen named below are either appointed or re-appointed to be Honorary Magistrates of the Benches opposite their names:—Babu Ramesh Chandra Ray, and Babu Hriday Govinda Chowdhury, Sadar Ind. Bench, Patna; Babu Ghansham Das and Maulvi Syed Waris Ali, the Gaya Independent Bench; Maulvi Khajee Mohammad Reza; the Bankipore Independent Bench, in the district of Patna.—The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the resignation tendered by Babu Moti Lal Roy of his appointment as an Honorary Magistrate of the Kaima Independent Bench, in the district of Burdwan, by Rai Subeh Bankim Chandra Mazumdar of his appointment as an Honorary Magistrate of the Sadar Independent Bench, in the district of Khulna, and by Babu Hari Kishore Roy of his appointment as an Honorary Magistrate of the Dumka Independent Bench, in the district of the Sonthal Parganas.

Subordinate Educational Service.—Babu Adhar Lal Datta, Head Draftsman and Estimator, Civil Engineering College, Sibpur is allowed leave of absence for one month. The following reversions are sanctioned on request on the return to duty of Babu Dwarka Nath Das, Head Clerk, office of Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi Division, on the forenoon of the 24th May 1905:—(1) Maulvi Muhammad Irfan, M.A., Assistant Master, Anglo-Persian Department, Calcutta Madrasah, from class VII to class VIII. (2) Babu Sarat Chandra Chakravarti a Clerk in the office of the Inspectors of Schools Rajshahi Division, from class VIII to Rs. 40 a month. Babu Ram Prasad, B.A., an Assistant in the office of Director of Public Instruction, and now Officiating Assistant Head Master in the Patna Training School is appointed to be an Assistant Master in the Patna Training School, vice Babu Basanta Kumar Mitra, transferred, but he will continue to act as Assistant Head Master of that institution, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Sarat Chandra Brahmachari.

A new rat-theory.—Now that the connection between rats and the spread of plague has been definitely demonstrated, the suggestion has occasionally been made that some natural means should be devised of killing off the rats and so preventing the extension of the pest. In this connection it is worth while drawing attention to an article in Colonel Bruce Skinner, "R.A.M.C.," in the British Medical Journal, where the rat theory is carried to extreme, if not ridiculous lengths. Colonel Skinner has been at the pains of comparing the geographical distribution of plague with the geographical distribution of the rat species. He has also collected some facts with regard to the history of the pest and compared the results with what is known regarding the invasion of Europe by the rodent styled the Norway rat, the two other species being the long-tailed rat and the brown rat. Colonel Skinner seems to have gathered enough information to end colour to the theory that the Norway rat is probably immune from plague. Not only that but the Norway rat is the deadly enemy of the two other species, and wherever he has appeared he has driven them out, particularly in the case of the long-tailed kind. The writer comes to the conclusion that by the destruction of the long-tailed species the Norway rat has been instrumental in saving Europe from the establishment and spread of epidemics carried to ports by man as well as by beast. The theory, of course, need further investigation, but Colonel Skinner has made out a very good prima facie case for his suggestion that the Norway rat should be deliberately imported in numbers to places where the plague exists in the hope that he will destroy the other two species and so remove the prevailing cause of the epidemic. Poor India! "Englishman."



TELEGRAMS.

REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, June 13. An official despatch published at Tokio shows that the Japanese ousted the Russians from various positions on the 10th instant. A telegram from Washington says that the place of meeting has not yet been settled. Neither Washington nor Manchuria are considered satisfactory. President Roosevelt may act as arbiter. M. Takahira has expressed the view that the situation may be solved satisfactorily in due time.

An important council took place at the Palace Tokio, yesterday, at which the Emperor, Princes, Generals, Admirals, and Minister's were present.

President Roosevelt has had fresh conferences with Counts Cassini and Akahira. Semi-official communications from St. Petersburg on the suggestion that Russia is merely prepared to appoint delegates to receive the Japanese conditions are regarded as intended to impress the Russian public. It is not taken seriously abroad and perfectly understood that Japan will only enter into negotiations on equal terms.

London, June 13. A despatch from Washington says that the Russian reply has been received officially. It is announced that it agrees with Count Cassini's notification yesterday, but publication is withheld, both belligerents deeming it undesirable.

London, June 13. A telegram from Singapore states that the Dnieper, late St. Petersburg, has transferred to the Dutch steamer, Flores, in Malacca Straits, forty-one of the Chinese crew and the mails from the British steamer Saint Kilda, captured and sunk in the China Sea with contraband. The Saint Kilda's Europeans have been retained on board the Dnieper.

Linievitch reports that the Japanese advanced forces began an attack on the 9th on Colong and are advancing on the Mandarin road and another to eastward of it. The latter occupied on the 10th the height northward of Kuoko. An official despatch published at Tokio says that the Russian columns attacked three points of the Japanese front on Sunday and were repulsed.

London, June 14. General Linievitch reports a number of small encounters on the 4th on which the Russians were the assailants in some cases and the Japanese in others.

The "Saint Kilda's" cargo was chiefly jute, rice, and cotton. The "Dnieper" is taking "Saint Kilda's" Europeans to Port Said.

London, June 14. Count Lamsdorff, replying to President Roosevelt's proposal, said that the "Tsar" rejected that President Roosevelt was completely in accord with his views regarding the general appeasement so essential to the welfare and progress of all mankind, and adds that the Russian Government in no wise objects in principle to the meeting of plenipotentiaries if Japan expresses a desire for the same.

The text of the Russian reply published at St. Petersburg has evoked general disappointment. It contains the pacific expressions which this morning, but in dealing with the main question it says, as regards the eventual meeting of the plenipotentiaries, to consider how far it would be possible for two Powers to elaborate conditions of peace, that Russia has nothing to object to in the principle of such an attempt, provided Japan desires it.

London, June 15. It is officially stated that the peace plenipotentiaries meet at Washington. "Englishman."

London, June 15. The question of peace is stationary. The "Tsar" is persistently mentioned as the probable seat of the negotiations.

London, June 15. A telegram from Washington declares that it is officially stated that Washington is to be selected for the conference of plenipotentiaries.

London, June 16. The Russian auxiliary steamer "Don" sank the German steamer "Letartos" on the 15th ultimo between Japan and Tientsin. The crew was landed at Batavia.

London, June 16. Mr. Takahira, the Japanese Minister at Washington, has notified President Roosevelt of Japan's refusal to go to Europe. Russia has acquiesced and joined Japan in requesting the meeting to be held at Washington.

London, June 16. At a conference of Engineers at Moscow they decided to join the general political strike. This is the first signal for the purpose of entirely stopping the economic life of the country.

London, June 16. The St. Petersburg Press continues to comment arrogantly on the peace suggestions declaring that Japan needs peace more than Russia.

London, June 16. The Tsar having notified that he would receive messes but not the whole of the delegates of the Moscow Zemstvos Congress the delegates have decided to decline the audience.

London, June 16. The announcement that Washington has been accepted as the meeting place, appears to imply progress making for peace, otherwise nothing whatsoever is known about parleying.

London, June 16. Sweden has instructed the Consuls to continue to act as Norwegian as well as Swedish Consuls, but they must ignore the illegal Norwegian Government.

London, June 16. The Greek Premier, M. Delyannis, has been stabbed in the abdomen outside the Chamber. The assailant was arrested. The wound is most serious.

London, June 14. It is officially announced that King Edward has appointed the King of Sweden and Norway a British Admiral.

London, June 14. General Sir William Butler in his report on the war stores scandal in South Africa which is now published says it constitutes a grave record of irregularities whereby the country was seriously defrauded.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

GENERAL.

London, June 14. M. Delyannis is dead, and his State funeral takes place on Friday. His murderer approached as if to greet M. Delyannis and kissed his hand and simultaneously plunged a dagger into his stomach. Death speedily followed from internal hemorrhage. The assassin, whose name is Sherakaris declared that his object in killing Delyannis was in revenge for his rigorous measures in closing the gambling establishments.

London, June 14. It is reported that the Sultan of Morocco has sent a peremptory note to France, asserting that France is supplying arms and ammunition to the insurgents.

M. Rouvier is encountering unexpected difficulties in selecting a Foreign Minister and a new Ambassador at Berlin, meanwhile M. Tattenbach is strengthening the German position and has obtained valuable concessions, including the construction of a new port at Tangier.

It is understood France is turning the screw in Southern Morocco and stopping arms and munitions for the Sultan's troops and winking at similar importations for the Pretender's.

London, June 15. The British battleship, Magnificent, while practising off Tetnam, had a six-inch shell explode inside a gun. Eighteen men, including a Gunner Lieutenant, were wounded.

London, June 15. An enquiry into the accident on board the "Magnificent" shows that a cartridge shell missed fire, whereupon the breech was opened and an instantaneous explosion followed. Lieutenant Kenneth Stobart and three men have died.

London, June 15. Prince Gustavas and Princess Margaret Victoria were married at St. George's, Windsor, to-day in magnificent weather. The King and Queen, the Khedive, the Crown Prince of Sweden, and other Royalties and notabilities were present. The Duke of Connaught gave the bride away. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Oxford officiated. The President of the Storting and the Premier telegraphed their heartfelt congratulations. The bride and bridegroom were also congratulated by King Oscar. Christianity was beflagged.

London, June 15. Fears of panic in the Greek Bourse have subsided. All the Deputies went to the residence of M. Delyannis to-day and escorted the remains to the Chamber which has converted into a "Chapel Ardent."

London, June 15. M. Rouvier's has decided to retain the Portfolio of Foreign Affairs for the present.

London, June 16. It is reported that cholera has appeared at Tomsk on the Siberian Railway.

London, June 16. The Tsar has accepted the resignation of the Grand Duke Alexis as the Supreme Chief of the Fleet, and Navy Department, but he retains the dignities of Grand Admiral and Aide-de-Camp to the Tsar.

London, June 16. Austria, Italy and America have intimated they are prepared to join the Conference regarding Morocco, provided always that the Powers chiefly concerned accept the invitation.

London, June 16. A death from plague has taken place at Manchester, the victim being a sea cook from Buenos Ayres via Hamburg.

London, June 16. M. Delyannis died in absolute poverty. The two nieces with whom he lived will receive a pension.

London, June 15. The death of M. Delyannis is regarded in Greece as a national calamity, causing serious political confusion. Greek funds are generally lower, and the Bourse is closed till after the funeral in order to avert a panic.

London, June 15. Reuter wires from Fez that Mr. Louthon on the 8th instant presented the categorical refusal of Great Britain to join an International Conference. Count Tattenbach on the 9th conveyed Germany's acceptance of the Conference.

London, June 16. The report of the Zionist Commission has been published, and Messrs. Kaiser and Wildbusch are not in favour of the scheme for the colonization of East Africa.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

GAZETTE OF INDIA.

Simla, June 16. Mr. J. Macfarlane remains in charge of Record Office of the Government of India, in addition to his own duties.

The services of Mr. Balak Ram C. S. is placed at the disposal of the Finance Dept. Captain Garrett R. E. Assistant Engineer is posted to the Central Provinces.

Mr. Ingram is promoted to be Deputy Examiner, second class, temporary rank. Messrs. Mayne, Hild and Patel are gazetted as Principal Vice-Principal and Assistant Master, Raj Kumar College, Rajkot.

Messrs. Leslie Jones, Kelly and Pandit Lakshmi Chandra are notified as Principal, Assistant Master and Assistant Master Aitchison College Lahore.

Messrs. Sherring, Madden, Poonasker and Lala Sangam Lal are appointed Vice-Principal and Assistant Masters respectively of the Mayo College Ameer.

Mr. Smith is gazetted as Principal, Daly College, Indore.

Major McElhinny R. E. is confirmed as Deputy Traffic Supdt. Eastern Bengal State Railway and given a step promotion.

Mr. Baxter, Superintending Engineer, retires from service.

Mr. Watson R. E. becomes Assistant Traffic Supdt. North West Railway.

ELECTION OF DELEGATE. Bhagalpur, June 14. The Bhagalpur District Board have unanimously elected. Babu Pran Mohan Thakur their delegate to vote for Rajas Shih Chandra Bannerjee for the Bengal Council seat.

A GERMAN VESSEL SUNK BY THE RUSSIANS. Allahabad, June 16. The "Pioneer's" London correspondent wires under date the 15th inst.:—The Russian auxiliary steamer "Don" sank the German steamer "Letartos" on the 30th ultimo between Japan and Tientsin. The crew were landed at Batavia.

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS.

Simla, June 16.

The Government of India in its Commerce and Industry Department has issued a circular letter, dated 20th May, to the local Governments drawing attention to the existing conditions regarding storage of dangerous petroleum otherwise than in bulk. These conditions on which applications for licenses are granted have not been suitable and the Government of India have in consequence drawn up revised regulations for the possession of dangerous petroleum otherwise than in bulk for purposes of sale and the local governments have been invited to incorporate them in the provincial petroleum rules. The revised regulations deal with the nature of the draws and receptacles for storage precaution against accident in the filling or replenishing of any vessels with dangerous petroleum. The letter then deals with important questions relating to transport of petroleum, prevailing rates of fees for licenses and petroleum for motorists. In dealing with these Mr. Harvey writes:—

"It has also been pointed out that the existing rules make no provision for the grant to dealers in dangerous petroleum of a general license for its transport. The arrangement now obtaining which requires a special license for each consignment is evidently unsuited to the circumstances of the present day owing to the greatly extended use of petrol. The Government of India are therefore, prepared to agree to the transport of dangerous petroleum by dealers under a general license a pass being issued by them with each consignment as is done at present in the case of ordinary petroleum and if the Government agree steps may at once be taken to make the necessary changes in the rules."

"Considerable dissatisfaction has been expressed with the prevailing rates of fees for the possession of dangerous petroleum and it seems to the Government of India that in view of the more general use of this commodity the fees for the possession of dangerous oil in quantities exceeding 500 gallons may unobjectionably be reduced to the scale of those for non-dangerous oil. I am to suggest for the acceptance of the Government the following as a suitable scale for quantities not exceeding 40 gallons Rs. 3, for quantities exceeding 40 but not exceeding 500 gallons Rs. 8, for quantities exceeding 500 but not exceeding 1000 gallons Rs. 12, for quantities exceeding 1000 but not exceeding 5000 gallons Rs. 12 plus Rs. 2 extra for every 1000 gallons or part thereof in excess of 1000 gallons, for quantities exceeding 5000 gallons and upwards to 50,000 gallons Rs. 20 plus Rs. 4 for every 1000 gallons or fraction thereof in excess of 50,000 gallons 250. Under the above scale no person would ever be required to pay a higher fee than Rs. 250 which would fall as a rule only on the large firms and the Government of India do not think that this fee could be described as excessive for a license to possess an unlimited quantity of dangerous petroleum."

There are two cognate questions relating to the special rules for motorists which may be dealt with conveniently in this letter. Under existing rules the owners of motor vehicles are granted special free licenses to possess and to transport on their vehicles petrol up to a maximum of 60 gallons, provided that it is contained in vessels of a capacity not exceeding two gallons and it has been proposed that the holders of such licenses should also be granted general licenses to transport a similar quantity of petrol otherwise than on their vehicles on payment of an annual fee of rupees 10. Objection has been taken to these arrangements on the ground (1) that the 6 gallon limit for the capacity of the vessels is too small and (2) that the fee of Rs. 10 is too high. As regards the second objection I am to say that the Government of India see no objection to the fee being reduced from Rs. 10 to Rs. 5. With reference to the first point the objection that the maximum capacity of the receptacles to be permitted for use by private motorists (who are it is believed the principal users of petrol) a size which should be large enough to suit the dealers requirements and yet not too large to be handled with safety by a private user. It has been suggested that the 10 gallon drum in which at present petrol is largely imported and stored by dealers should be adopted as the unit and that the 2 gallon limit at present imposed on motorists holding the special free license just referred to should be raised accordingly. With reference to this suggestion I am to say that the Government of India are advised that to permit the handling of dangerous petroleum by private users in receptacles of so large a capacity would be dangerous. But on the advice of the Chief Inspector of Explosives, who has consulted the principal oil firms on the subject, they are prepared to agree to the increasing of the maximum size of the drums prescribed for the holders of motorist licenses from two gallons to four. It will, however, still be open to dealers holding the ordinary possession licenses to keep their stock in drums up to 10 gallons capacity, if they choose. Lastly, I am to say that the Government of India see no objection to the extension "mutatis mutandis" of the regulations applicable to owners of motor cars and to owners of motor boats or launches.

AN OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT.

Simla, June 15. Mr. A. H. Wollaston, officiating Examiner of Public Works Accounts, Madras, is appointed to officiate as Examiner of Guaranteed Ry. Accounts, Madras in addition to his own duties.

Simla, June 15.—On the morning of the 14th instant two sowars of the Zhoob Levy Corps were shot between Khanmunda and Guzha on the road to Shinghai, and three carabines were carried off.

PLAGUE MORTALITY IN INDIA.

Simla, June 15. During the week ending 10th June plague mortality fell from 1637 to 7489 over India. The decrease is shared by all provinces but the Punjab continue to contribute over five thousand deaths a week.

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE DIR POLITICALS CONFERENCE. AGREEMENT ACCEPTED.

Allahabad, June 15. Major Godfrey, Political Agent for Dir, Swat and Chitral, recently held a conference at which the Nawab of Dir, his brother Mian Gul and the Chief of Burma were present. These three swore solemnly to accept the agreement arrived at by the tribal jirgas as regards Mian Gul's claims. LORD KITCHENER MAKES NO TOUR. Allahabad, June 15.

Lord Kitchener will not make any moon-tour this year. THE SEISTAN MISSION. ARRIVAL AT QUETTA. Allahabad, June 15.

Colonel McMahon, with the first party of the Seistan Mission has arrived at Quetta.

IMPERIAL COUNCIL. Allahabad, June 15. There is still no date fixed for the meeting of the Viceroy's Legislative Council at Simla, as only minor bills have to be dealt with.

THE SEISTAN MISSION. Allahabad, June 14. (From Our Own Correspondent.) The first party of Seistan Mission reached Nushki on Monday.

ANGLO-CHINESE TELEGRAPH CONVENTION. Allahabad, June 14. Mr. Barrington, Indian Telegraph Department, left Shanghai last week on completion of his special mission to China in connection with the renewal of the Anglo-Chinese Telegraph Convention.

THE BUTLER REPORT. MR. ARNOLD FORSTER'S PREFACE. Allahabad, June 16.

The London correspondent of the "Pioneer" wires under date the 15th inst.:—In a preface to the Butler Report, Mr. Arnold Forster points out that evidence is incomplete and that when charges against individuals are made they are not subject to a judicial finding. The report is, therefore, not a judicial finding. It shows that in June 1902 the army had huge quantities of supplies, new colonies being denuded, and that money was plentiful. Lord Kitchener established a Sales Department believing that good prices were obtainable and arranged that future supplies would be brought from local contractors. When Colonel Morgan, who was Director, Sales Department and Supplies, left Pretoria in November, failure of sales was evident and contracts for supplies were incomplete. Nevertheless, says the Report, the system continued, forage was sold to and was purchased from the same contractor, prices showing that he profited to the extent of £200 daily from cats alone. Government still stored and transported forage and supplies continued to arrive from overseas. High Railway rates were paid and Pretoria sales, in some cases, did not realise the amount of customs duties to which sales rendered Government liable. Monthly reports of the Sales Department were ordered but not made. The Committee comment on this silence which tended to obscure from War Office what was happening. They state that the course of their inquiry was marked by an increasing sense of suspicion. Finally, even the idea of culpable negligence gave place to a worse interpretation. Persons principally blamed are Colonel Morgan who is held answerable for grave scandals arising from his civilian brothers in connection with contracting firms and Colonel Hipwell, Colonel Morgan's successor, who is declared to have been entirely unfit for the position and Captain Limond to whom Colonel Hipwell delegated his authority. The Report also refers to there being indications of substantial financial persons moving in the background. Colonel Morgan told an interviewer that the Report was a gross libel. He declares that he seeks a full inquiry. The Press also demands this and criticises the rhetorical and unjudicial tone of the Report.

ANOTHER OUTRAGE OF TRIBESMEN. Allahabad, June 16.

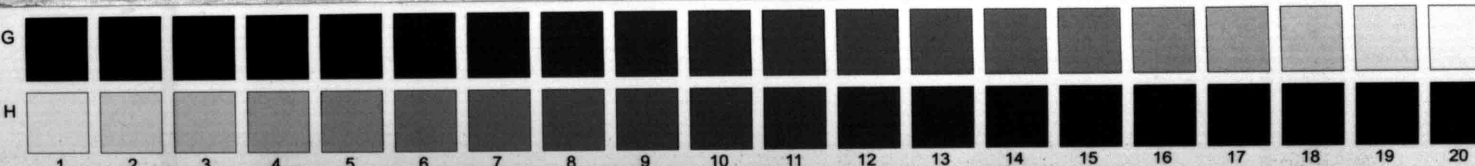
Another outrage of tribesmen is reported from the north-west frontier on the 14th morning. Two Sowars of Zhoob Levy Corps were shot between Khanmunda and Guzha on the road to Shinghai and three carabines were carried off.

GRATUITY TO TIBET MISSION. ESCORT. Simla, June 16.

The Secretary of State sanctioned the grant of gratuity to officers, non-commissioned officers and men including the Imperial Service Troops to the Tibet Mission Escort. The gratuity will be issued at the rate of Rs. 24 for the British and Rs. 12 for the Native soldiers. Every soldier etc., borne on the strength of escort between 13th December 1903 and 23rd September 1904 will get gratuity.

Ranaghat-Krishnagar Light Railway.—The survey of this line, for extending it to Kaina Ghat via the Strand Road at Santipur, has been completed. It is contended that it would be much to the convenience of goods and passenger traffic to terminate this line over the Gurni bridge at Ranaghat, as recommended by Mr. Moyie. It is also claimed that it would be more advantageous in many ways to the Krishnagar-Santipur-Kaina Ghat proposal of terminating the line at Krishnagar. But Mr. Taylor should know what he is about and he is not quite a stranger to the E. B. S. R. system. The conversion of this line into the broad gauge seems desirable as it would undoubtedly in that case yield increased traffic results.

For similar reasons the Government of India are of opinion that the fees charged for the grant of licenses to transport dangerous petroleum are also susceptible of reduction and the following rates are suggested for adoption. For quantities not exceeding 40 gallons Rs. 2, for quantities from 40 to 480 gallons Rs. 2 for the first 40 gallons plus 8 annas for every additional 40 gallons or parts thereof, for quantities exceeding 480 gallons Rs. 8 plus Rs. 2 for every additional 480 gallons or part thereof. Under this scale a fee of Rs. 12 would be charged for a license to transport 1000 gallons of dangerous petroleum and would correspond with that to be charged. For a license to possess a similar quantity of this oil for the new general transport license which will be granted in future to dealers in dangerous petroleum (vide paragraph 2 of this letter) the Government of India consider that it



High Court, July 16

ORIGINAL SIDE.

(Before the Hon. Mr. Justice Sale.)

INFRINGEMENT OF BANKIM'S WORKS.

SREEMATI RAJLAKSHMI DEVI VS.

PANDIT KALI PROSONNO KAVYA-BISARAD.

Mr. Garth and Mr. A. Chowdhury instructed by Babu Kumud Nath Ganguli appeared for the plaintiff.

Mr. S. P. Sinha and Mr. B. C. Mitter instructed by Messrs. Morgan and Co appeared for the defendant.

In this case, it will be remembered, a rule was issued on behalf of the plaintiff calling upon the defendant to show cause why the defendant should not be restrained, until the final determination of the case, from publishing any of the works of the late Bankim Chandra and why he should not be restrained from publishing the advertisement concerning the sale of those books at Chundernagore in the daily or weekly newspaper called "Hitabadi".

The above rule came on for hearing to-day. Mr. Garth in support of the rule first dealt with the facts of the case which had already appeared in these columns.

Mr. Sinha began by reading the affidavit made by the defendant in which the defendant denied that he had published those works and said that he had no connection with the publication. He said that in the course of his business he had simply published the advertisement which had been handed over to him. He admitted that the advertisement was written in his own hand-writing, because the paper had no expert to write advertisements. It was customary in the office of Hitabadi for the defendant to touch advertisements. Counsel said that it had been alleged that the defendant printed and published the piratical work of Bankim Chandra here and sold them at Chundernagore, but the book showed that it was printed and sold at Chundernagore. The printing itself was not an offence. So far as any infringement, it was done outside the jurisdiction of this court. Counsel then raised two points; first, he said, the defendant in his affidavit denied that he had printed the book and hence the plaintiff could not restrain the defendant. Counsel then cited the case of Redway and Smith recently decided in the Calcutta High Court. His second point was, that assuming that the book was printed by the defendant, it was published at Chundernagore and hence outside the jurisdiction of this court. In support of the second point counsel cited L. R. 95 Chancery Vol. I, 634. The copyright was a creature not of the common law, but of statute. (4 Clerks, House of Lords, 815.) The statute had operation only in British territory and had nothing to do with foreign territories. That being so, if an infringement had really been made, the case could not be brought to a British court. On general principle the plaintiff could not sue unless they could show that the act was wrong in British India as well as in French Chundernagore. (Pollock on Tort art. 176 p. 559.)

Mr. Garth said that mere printing of a work was an offence and he cited Indian Copyright Act sec. 7 and Stephen on Decrees 675. As regards publication, Chundernagore Counsel said that the facts disclosed that the printing was done here and printed matter sent to Chundernagore. They were then offered for sale at Chundernagore. Counsel next asked the court not to believe the story that all the advertisements of a big paper like the "Hitabadi" were written by the chief editor himself and asked court to consider the prominent place in which it appeared. All these went to show counsel said, that the defendant was interested in it. Counsel then asked the court to take into its consideration all the circumstances. The defendant first went to the plaintiff and offered Rs. 25,000 for the work and failing to attain his object he published the advertisement offering for sale books worth Rs. 33.

His Lordship after hearing both sides observed that certain facts were quite clear. The plaintiff was entitled to the copyright of the books of which he deceased husband was the author. The books were of considerable reputation. It appeared that the defendant went and offered to republish the work on certain terms. The defendant failed to obtain the right which he was seeking. It also appeared that the unauthorized work was printed and published. Thus very serious infringement was made. It appeared that an advertisement appeared in the paper of which the defendant was the editor, the object of which was to assist the illegal publication. The court thought that there could be no doubt that the defendant advertised the publication and printing of the unauthorized work which was the work of the plaintiff's deceased husband and thereby knowingly encouraging the infringement. His Lordship declined to determine other points that would prejudice the case, and considered that the advertisement should cease pending the case. The court ordered that no such advertisement would appear. Under those circumstances the rule was made absolute. The cost of the rule would be cost in the cause.

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justices Pargiter and Woodroffe.)

THE MONGHYR SENSATION.

Mr. Jackson with Mr. Garth Babus Dasrathi Sanyal and Joy Gopal Ghose moved on behalf of Babu Sheonandan Prosad Singh for the quashing of proceedings and for the transfer of the case against him under section 528 Cr. P. C. Babu Sheonandan Prosad is a son of Rai Komleshwar Prosad Singh Bahadur, a wealthy Zemindar of Monghyr whose annual income is about 2 lakhs of rupees, is the Vice-Chairman of the local municipality and an Honorary Magistrate. On the 4th May last Babu Kamla Sahay Muktar, complained before Babu Shams Churn Mitter, Deputy Magistrate, against the petitioner and some other servants of his father under sections 147, 149, 355, 323 and 504 I. P. C. giving a list of witnesses the first of whom was the said Deputy Magistrate. On that very day after examining the complainant and two of his witnesses the Deputy Magistrate issued warrants against all the persons named in the petition of complaint. On the following day the petitioner applied before the same Deputy Magistrate praying that the warrant might be cancelled and that the proceedings against him might be postponed till the disposal of the case against the servants. The Deputy Magistrate refused to stay the proceedings but cancelled the warrant and issued summonses against the petitioner. On 6th May

the petitioner moved the Sessions Judge of Bhagalpore, who on 8th idem passed the following order:—"It is ordered that the proceedings against Babu Sheonandan Prosad be stayed until such time as the Deputy Magistrate shall either from judicial enquiry or as a result of the evidence produced against the persons be satisfied that there are good grounds for proceeding with the prosecution." On 9th May petitioner applied for an early judicial enquiry but on the prayer of the complainant the case and the enquiry was adjourned till 20th. In the meantime the complainant moved the High Court against the order of the High Court but their Lordships expressing their opinion that the order was right the application was withdrawn. On 20th May Babu Shama Churn Mitter made over the case against the petitioner to Mr. Fell, a Deputy Magistrate with second class powers, for judicial enquiry and report. On 29th May Mr. Fell submitted his report in which he said that "a prima facie case has been made out under section 147 with 109 and 355 I.P.C." On receipt of the report Babu Shama Chama Mitter issued summonses under those sections against the petitioner and fixed 5th June for the hearing of the case. The petitioner next filed an application setting forth objections to Mr. Fell's report, but that application was rejected. Against the above order of Babu Shama Churn Mitter passed on 29th May, the petitioner moved the District Magistrate of Monghyr, but that officer declined to interfere.

Mr. Jackson urged that the order of Babu Shama Churn Mitter transferring the case to Mr. Fell for judicial enquiry was bad in law and without jurisdiction and that the proceedings taken by Mr. Fell and his report were illegal and without jurisdiction and also the subsequent order of Babu Shama Churn Mitter on that report was bad in law and without jurisdiction. Counsel further urged that even if the enquiry was legal, the order of the Deputy Magistrate was bad and unjustifiable having regard to the order of the Sessions Judge of Bhagalpore. Counsel concluded by urging that even if the proceedings taken against the petitioner should not be quashed, the case ought to be transferred to the file of the District Magistrate of Monghyr or some other Magistrate in Bhagalpore.

Their Lordships passed the following order:

Let the record be sent for and let a rule issue on the District Magistrate of Monghyr to show cause why the trial of the appellant Sheonandan Prosad Singh should not be held separate from the trial of the other accused and why it should not be transferred to the District Magistrate of Monghyr or to Magistrate at Bhagalpore or why such other order should not be passed at to this court may seem fit. In the meantime the proceedings will be stayed."

COMMITTED AS MAGISTRATE AND TRIED AS JUDGE.

The appellant in this case was convicted for murdering one Mahabir Kanu by Mr. Cammiade, Sessions Judge of Cachar and sentenced to death. The trial was held with the aid of assessors who were for acquitting the appellant, but the Sessions Judge disagreed with both of them convicted and sentenced the appellant as stated above.

After the case was called on Babu Prosonno Gopal Roy, who represented the appellant, stated that he had first of all to submit a point for their Lordships' consideration, for if their Lordships were to decide that point in his favour, the case would have to be sent back and there would be no need to go into the merits of the case. The point stated was whether an officer who as Magistrate committed an accused person to be tried by the Sessions Court, can try that accused person as Sessions Judge. What appeared was that Mr. Cammiade as Magistrate had committed the appellant to be tried by the Sessions Judge for murder. He then became the Sessions Judge and tried the appellant and convicted and sentenced him as Sessions Judge in the manner stated above.

Their Lordships after hearing the Deputy Legal Remembrancer who left the case in the hands of the court, delivered judgment in the course of which their Lordships remarked:—"There can be no doubt that the accused has not had a fair trial because Mr. Cammiade in his order of commitment said 'the presumption is that the accused committed murder etc.' These words show that he had formed a strong opinion sometime before he had tried it as Sessions Judge. We think the trial, under such circumstances, was not a fair one and we think the Sessions Judge ought himself to have reported such case to this court in order that it might be transferred for trial to some other Sessions Court. We set aside the conviction and sentence and direct that there be a new trial and that the new trial be held before the Judge of the Assam Valley District."

ALLEGED RESCUING A PONY.

Babu Shamaprosno Mozumdar moved on behalf of one Icharam Brahman who had been convicted for having forcibly rescued an impounded pony and sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment. It appeared that on the information of one Run Bahadur Chatri, the petitioner was prosecuted by the Baksha police, District Jalpaiguri, for an offence under Sec. 379 I. P. C. inasmuch as he was alleged to have forcibly rescued an impounded pony. The petitioner was placed on his trial before Mr. Ainslie, Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Alipore. On 24th May petitioner applied that the summary procedure might not be adopted in this case, but that application was refused. On 5th June the petitioner prayed for summons against the Forest Ranger to prove a certain permit for grazing cattle in the forest, that prayer was also rejected. Again on that day the petitioner's Muktar applied that the court not address the Court as he had not received a copy of the evidence for which he had applied and asked for an adjournment, but that prayer too was refused. Finally the Magistrate convicted the petitioner under Sec. 24 of Act I of 1871 and sentenced him in the manner stated above.

Learned Vakils contended that the Magistrate prejudiced the defence materially, by refusing to summon the Forest Ranger and that the Magistrate should have allowed the petitioner's muktar time and opportunity to argue the case.

Their Lordships issued a Rule on the District Magistrate to show cause why the conviction and sentence passed upon the petitioner should not be set aside on the grounds urged in the petition.

A MODEL POLICE OFFICER.

Mr. Garth moved on behalf of one Ganendra Chandra Guha, 1 to a Sub-Inspector of Police, who had been convicted under section 455 I. P. C. and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment by a Deputy Magistrate of Cuttack. The facts of the case are shortly these: The complainant, Jadunath Bose, third teacher of the Kendrapara High School, and the petitioner occupied adjoining

houses in Kendrapara and were friendly and on visiting terms with each other. The complainant had his wife, a girl of 17, living with him. This petitioner was living alone.

It was alleged that a few days before the occurrence, on two separate occasions, the petitioner from his own house had intentionally attracted the girl's attention and made overtures to her, while she was bathing in her courtyard, but without receiving any encouragement. Then about 1 a.m. in the early morning of the 23rd December last, the petitioner went to the complainant's house and entering the apartment where Jadunath was sleeping with his wife, tried to chloroform the former. The girl was awakened by the petitioner's entry and seeing him hold a handkerchief over her husband's face, cried out, whereupon the petitioner put his hand over her mouth to prevent her making a noise. He then pushed her husband who fell off the platform on which they were sleeping and woke up. A struggle ensued, but the petitioner managed to escape. On the facts the petitioner was convicted and sentenced in the manner stated above. There was an appeal before the Sessions Judge but without any success.

Their Lordships declined to interfere.

A MUNICIPAL CASE.

Babu Arulva Charan Bose moved on behalf of Srimati Trayokho Tarini Dassi for the issue of a rule calling upon the municipal Magistrate of Calcutta to show cause why his order sentencing the petitioner to pay a fine of Rs. 150 should not be set aside.

In this case Babu Raj Kumar Roy was prosecuted for making certain structures in premises No. 43 Sikdar Bagan Street without sanction and in contravention of the Building rules. The usual notice under Sec. 451 was served on him and as he did not object to it he was proceeded against in court. It was not until the trial had proceeded a certain length that he put in a written statement in which it was stated that his wife was the owner of the house. She was then made the party. The defence was that the District Building Surveyor was actuated by malice in bringing this case as he failed to get the house for himself on smaller rent. The Municipal Magistrate, however, found that the case for the prosecution was not shaken and he convicted the petitioner under sec. 579 and sentenced her to pay a fine of Rs. 150.

It was contended that the prosecution was barred by sec. 631; that the conviction was against the weight of evidence, circumstances and probabilities of the case; and that at all events the sentence was too severe.

Their Lordships declined to interfere as the points taken were not urged before the lower court. The application was rejected.

TRIED ON A HOLIDAY.

Babu Shamaprosno Mozumdar moved on behalf of one Mohamed Abdul Aziz, who was convicted under sec. 352 I. P. C. and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 50 by an Honorary Magistrate of Cuttack.

On 13th February last at the suggestion of one Mosadi Lal, the petitioner went to his shop to settle the payment of a decretal money. On arrival at the shop the complainant told him to pay some money for settling the matter. He refused to do so and the complainant abused the petitioner, whereupon the petitioner struck the complainant with his cane. The complainant next filed a case charging the petitioner with trespass and assault. The case was summarily tried by the Honorary Magistrate on 4th March last day the petitioner came to know that the District Magistrate had fixed that day as a local holiday and on that day his pleader was ill and other pleaders also did not attend the court as it was a local and general civil court holiday. The petitioner applied for two days' postponement but the Magistrate refused to grant the prayer and without hearing arguments on the defence convicted the petitioner under section 352 I. P. C. and sentenced him to a fine of Rs. 50. The petitioner moved the Sessions Judge but that officer declined to interfere.

Learned Vakils contended that the Magistrate acted without jurisdiction, that he did not exercise proper discretion, that he refused postponement and that the petitioner was materially prejudiced for there being no argument on his behalf.

Their Lordships issued a rule on the District Magistrate of Cuttack and on the opposite party to show cause why the conviction and sentence should not be set aside and a fresh trial ordered on the ground that the petitioner was unable to get the services of a pleader on the day on which the case was decided and that the Magistrate, under the circumstances of the case, did not adjourn the case.

JAIL ADMINISTRATION IN U. P.

The Report on the Jail Administration of the United Provinces, for the year ending 31st December, 1904, states that at the commencement of the year there were in the jails 23,668 prisoners of all classes. Seventy-two thousand two hundred and fourteen prisoners were admitted into the jails and 72,872 were discharged during the year; the total number in confinement on the 31st of December was, therefore, 23,010, or 658 less than at the beginning of the year. As compared with the figures for the previous year, there was an increase of 1,849 in the number of male convicts and a decrease of 325 in the number of female convicts admitted. The number of under-trial prisoners admitted to jails was less by 400 males and 188 females than in the previous year. There was also a decrease of 64 in the number of civil prisoners received into the jails. The daily average number of prisoners of all classes in confinement during the year was 23,888 as compared with 23,147 in the previous year. A satisfactory feature of the Report is the continued decrease in the numbers of the "profession" criminals. This class of prisoner is now kept apart from the main body of the convicts, and it is believed that the special form of punishment meted out to them has been largely answerable for the big drop in the re-admission of habituals which has been noticeable during the last two years. The professional criminal in India is every whit as big and as dangerous a class as his confreres in England and on the Continent, and special measures for the treatment have been very wisely adopted.

The committee appointed to inquire into the practicability of the proposal before the corporation, to use the Litter system for the removal of waste in Bombay, has approved of the proposal, and recommended an expenditure of Rs. 50,000 for an experiment at Kewatipur.

SHISHIR KUMAR GHOSH.

(Retired Editor of the "A. B. Patrika.")

A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

Babu Jatindra Mohun Bannerjee writes in the "Hindu" of June 13:—

Though born amidst rural scenes and surroundings in a small village far into the interior of the district of Jessore, in Bengal, the subject of my sketch is now, at the age of his life, known throughout India and America and to a no small portion of the people of the United Kingdom. Great but humble, austere but kind, compassionate and considerate, Shishir Kumar is truly a child of Nature. Like Wordsworth, Shishir Kumar feels the presence of "a spirit in the wood"—"ay, in every object, great or small, animate or inanimate, articulate or inarticulate—and like that great poet he loves to live in and amidst Nature away from the bustle and turmoil of a humdrum city life and rove round in the midst of Nature's vegetable kingdom—her trees and plants, her creepers and evergreens. And why?—because in Nature and around Nature he is constantly reminded and convinced of the ever-present presence of the Giver of all good unto whom he has consecrated his blissful and blessed life.

From the early days of his childhood, Shishir Kumar developed a tendency for keen observation and it was mainly due to this fine faculty for acute observation that he rose so high, became so great, so good—aye, so saintly. Like all great men he drew his inspirations from Nature, the affectionate, nurse of all great intellects. Like Sakayasha, Shishir Kumar felt a pang in his youth for the sins, sorrows and sufferings of his fellow-countrymen, and this feeling grew on and on in intensity as he advanced in years till at last it included humanity at large. To me he seems, in one respect at least, to be even greater than the heir of the King of Kapilavasthu. To do good to humanity, to alleviate its sufferings, the husband of the beautiful Gopa had to forsake his dear and near ones and renounce the world till he could gain his end and induce his parents and wife to adopt his creed—not by force or persuasion but by his own deeds and sayings. But Shishir Kumar scored a point here, and he, true to the teachings inculcated by Sree Krishna—the God of Love—entered the world, through and through, with all its concomitant griefs and grievances before him, but never deviated by the breadth of a hair from the path of virtue and righteousness and went on higher and higher up the rungs of the ladder to fame and Faith raising along with him those who were around and under him. And the result is, though a religious recluse, he is now the head of a happy family enlightened and initiated into his creed, and the cynosure of the Vaishnava world at large.

His early education began in the village Patsaha where he was always conspicuous for his keen intellect and quick perception. He then joined the Hare School, Calcutta, and subsequently the College in the same compound; and after completing his course there he entered the world. As he was always bent upon spreading knowledge and education broadcast among his own people and thereby helping them on in life, his choice of a profession fell on the Education Department and he began life as a schoolmaster. As a teacher he was always kind, affable and affectionate, but austere at times to the delinquents; and I know this from my grandfathers, who had the proud privilege to sit at his elbow as pupils, that he exerted such a healthful influence over his charges to mould their character that even at the late hours of their life they remembered with rapture the happy and thrice-welcome days that they passed with him at Jessore. One of my grandfathers was dull at mathematics and he—alas! he has gone to his long home very early—used to repeat the words of advice Shishir Kumar would give him and the attention, almost fatal I should say, the teacher would pay to this particular pupil, with almost tears in his eyes.

But he did not linger long in this genial but unprofitable profession though he was soon after made a Deputy Inspector of Schools. India claimed her child to do his duty by her mother. India was, though then much better off than in the reign of anarchy that she is passing through at the present day,—in the throes of a violent indignation; but there were few to speak out this before the world at large; much less to protest against it and demand that equity and justice which was her due from the rulers of the day. And a good and bold organ of public opinion was a sorely wanted. The inarticulate call of his mother country touched his heart to the quick and he forthwith responded to it with all the ardour, hilarity and exuberance of youth—indeed he consecrated his life to the cause of his country—wholly and solely. Unmoved by the friendly warnings and undaunted at the dangers and difficulties ahead, but quite conscious of the tremendous responsibility of the noble but toilsome task that he was going to take upon his worthy shoulders, Shishir Kumar, with the co-operation and moral courage of his latelamented brother Babu Homanta Kumar Ghose, started the "Amrita Bazar Patrika," then a vernacular weekly published in Jessore. So great is his love for his birth-place that he christened his paper after a name of his native village, called "Amrita Bazar," which again, I am told, is named after his late revered mother. But I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the latter statement.

Nevertheless the trials and tribulations through which the paper and its proprietors and promoters passed are well-known to the world, and I need not make this article unnecessarily long in chronicling them here in detail. The success the "Patrika" has achieved speaks for itself, and the journal itself stands a living monument to his name and fame wherever he may now hide himself out of modesty and devotion into his Maker. Only this much will suffice to say that as a journalist of the latter day generation he stands peerless in Bengal if not in the whole of India. The "Patrika's" is a record of glory and solid work and all is due to Shishir Kumar.

As he grew in years, and the struggle for the country imparted a chastening influence over his mind, his love for his fellowmen expanded and he felt in his heart of hearts the necessity of doing spiritual, and the more substantial, good to mankind. He could no more rest satisfied with the earthly good he had done to his country and too great to resist, after preaching unto the world what he calls salvation for all, and "Lord Gnanrang," the hilmark of his fame was ushered into existence. Few people can check the onrush of tears of joy and love for the lord of Nadis that a close perusal of his book inevitably brings

His Bengali rendering of the book is also as sweet and charming as the original English one. Mr. Caine, M.P., wrote the preface to the English edition of his book and that is a sufficient guarantee how precious it is. His "Indian Sketches" is also a very good book, and those who have perused it will testify to its immense value. As a devout Vaishnava, he is literally adored as a saviour by the people of his own creed.

With a word or two about his present life I shall close this article. He now lives the most part of the year in his residence at the hill station Baidyanath on the E. I. Ry. He often pays flying visits to his country seat at Amrita Bazar where he now owns an extensive landed property. He is so kind that whenever he goes down to Amrita Bazar his ryots flock round him in scores and obtain wholesale remissions of rents and loans. He is so simple that he now frequently plays marbles and hide-and-seek and huddle-do-do with boys under twelve. He runs with them with a handful of pie and throws them about to those who follow and chase him. And he is so kind and feeling that one day he found a child of a maid servant of his Calcutta residence tossing about on a dirty bed, wrapped round in dirty linen, and with phlegm and saliva smeared all about his face, while a sickening smell of urination spread the air around it. The child was crying for its mother who was out away on business. He—at once and without the least hesitation took him up in his arms, rubbed clean his face and posterior with his own wrapper and rocked him till he sank back into sleep. Needless to say that medical aid was given gratis to the child and leave on full pay granted to the servant till the recovery of her child. Numerous other instances of this nature can be cited; but I have already grown too long. I would thus conclude with the remark that he now passes his time in prayer, in communion with his inner soul and between his inner soul and God, and that a peer of his is rare in this world. True to the kindred point of heaven and home, but by no means forgetful of the world around, Shishir Kumar is now at the sixty-fifth year of his age, biding his time to merge into eternity with a light heart.

VARIETIES.

The tree peony is to the Riviera coast, says the "Garden," what the rhododendron is to cooler, moister shores, and in magnificence of colour and size it is quite unrivalled by any other flower of our acquaintance. The difficulty in making a selection among about 25 varieties of these beautiful flowering shrubs is so great that in the end it is best to choose those of the strongest and most upright habit, for it is only those that make fine bushes laden with magnificent blooms in April.

An American projectile company claims to have invented a sort of aerial torpedo, shaped like and operated in the manner of a huge rocket, which the company asserts "may revolutionise modern warfare," says a "Daily Telegraph" New York telegram. People who witnessed the experiments are not so sanguine, but in a series of tests the huge rockets flew a mile through space, and scattered shrapnel over rather a wide area. The inventor claims that his aerial torpedo works as well as ordinary shell fire, is easier of transport, and much cheaper.

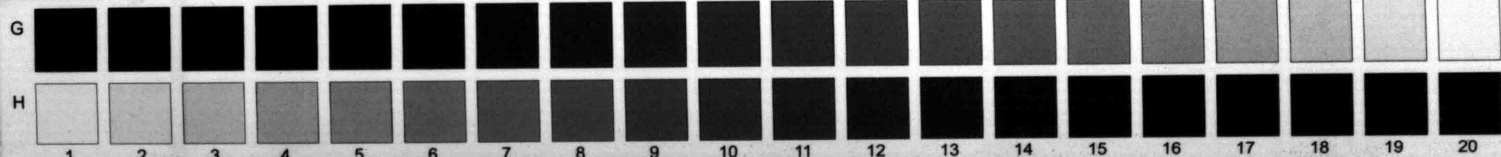
One of the greatest curiosities of the Colonial Gardens of Paris is a dwarf elephant, scarcely taller, to judge by the pictures given of it, than a Shetland pony. It is from the French Congo, where it was captured by natives, who had killed its dam, and was presented to M. Omieres, the Governor. Lambarene, as the dwarf is named, was brought over in charge of a Senegalese rifleman, who even sleeps in a cot so arranged that he and his charge can see each other. The elephant takes kindly to a captivity sweetened by such alleviations as much cake and sugar. His regular diet, for a day's rations, is 64lb. of rice steeped in four pints of milk, and 2lb. of salad. He is ten months old.

The Brixham fishing ketch "Breadwinner" (Archibald Friend, owner and captain) arrived at Brixham on 22nd May, and reported a curious occurrence while trawling about four miles off Newhaven. With a fresh north-east wind and a clear blue sky, about noon on the previous Wednesday, Mr. Friend noticed what he termed "a great heat wave" rise from a white chalk field on the shore, near the rear of the wireless telegraph station. It travelled towards his vessel, and within five minutes the "Breadwinner's" foresail was ablaze. Water was at once thrown over the sail, and the fire was extinguished. Subsequent examination showed that about three square feet of the deck was also burned, while the windlass and winch were so hot that the crew could not get near them to hold them. Mr. Friend is unable to account for this strange phenomenon. Others trawling near noticed the heat wave, and on board another Brixham craft were found signs of burnings.

A considerable amount of prospecting for gold is going on in the Nilgiri district, and numerous new licenses are being granted daily.

All public men carry their lives in their hands, and Horace's grand line applies with emphasis to them when they are struck down by the untimely blow of the assassin, hired or frantic. But the tragic end of M. Delany is has something peculiarly mournful about it. He was the Grand Old Man of Greece, and his name is written indelibly in the history of his country for the last thirty years. But he has fallen under the knife of an obscure ruffian whose only justification for sacrificing him was that he had closed the gaming houses! Trop de zele as a policy would seem to have even more disadvantages in Greece than elsewhere.

An Anglo-Indian paper writes: The Burman's love for his cattle extends to refusing to milk them for the benefit of Europeans. It also results in the devoting of an amount of care and attention to these animals which renders them a pleasing contrast, in condition, to what is to be seen ordinarily in India. Major G.H. Evans, Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department Burma, has caught some of the enthusiasm of his present neighbours and has just written a book which will be much appreciated on the other side of the Bay of Bengal. It gives exact and careful descriptions, with illustrations, of the various breeds in Burma, and of the Burmese methods of raising and otherwise tending them.



DUTY ON CEYLON TEA.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Simsa, June 13.

The following correspondence is published:—

From W. Parsons Esq., Secretary, Indian Tea Association to the Secy to the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department.

"I am directed by the General Committee of the Indian Tea Association to refer to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 3500 S. R. dated, 27th June 1902, with respect to the question of the customs duty upon tea imported into the island of Ceylon. When bringing this question to the notice of Government the Committee put forward two proposals. The first proposal was that an attempt should be made to induce the Ceylon Government to exempt Indian tea from payment of the duty, and the second was that if the Ceylon Government would not agree to do this the Indian tax should be enhanced. It will be within your recollection that a reference to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon was made by your department. His Excellency was, however, unable to consent to any change in the duty and you intimated that the Government of India adopt the alternative proposal of the association. In view of this definite pronouncement the Committee agreed to allow the question to remain in abeyance. But the action which they had taken gave rise to some discussion both in Ceylon and in India; and during the three years which have elapsed since their letter was written, the question has been frequently mooted in the public press and elsewhere. The result has been that the opinion of practically all sections of the Ceylon and Indian tea industries has been elicited. As regards Ceylon it is satisfactory to note that although a majority of proprietors favour the continuance of the duty an influential minority now consider that Indian tea might well be exempted from payment of it. Sir Joseph West Ridgeway, the late Governor of the Island was also apparently in sympathy with the minority, judging by the following extract from his review of his administration:—'It has,' he said, 'been repeatedly urged in certain quarters that the duty of 25 cents a pound on all tea imported into the island is inimical to the real commercial interests of the colony inasmuch as it operates against the expansion of trade and tends to foster a feeling of resentment among the planters of India where the corresponding tax is only 5 per cent. ad valorem. The Planters' Association and the Chamber of Commerce, however, have consistently opposed the abolition of the duty on the ground that it would involve a danger to pure Ceylon tea which it is impossible to estimate. I have recently received from a local firm a request for blending facilities similar to those granted in London. The proposal being that the firm should be allowed to import free of duty Indian and other teas to be blended in a private warehouse, but under the supervision of a Customs official that they should furnish the Customs authorities with particulars of the constituent portion of the blend and that when these teas are re-exported the packages should be plainly marked with distinct indications of their contents. In my opinion this proposal deserves very careful consideration as the possible solution of what may prove to be a very troublesome question.'

"From the foregoing it will be evident to Government that the trend of opinion in Ceylon at the present moment is not so determinedly opposed to the suggestion which the Committee made as was the case in 1901-02. On the other hand, Indian proprietors still hold strongly to the views which they expressed through the association at that time. They still maintain that in the interests no less of Ceylon tea than of Indian tea the duty levied in the island should be abolished. So far as the latter is concerned it is admitted that the continuance of the duty on Indian tea directly impedes the blending trade in Colombo. Were it abolished, Colombo would, the Committee believe, rapidly become a blending centre and would thus materially aid the distribution of Indian and Ceylon teas in markets other than the United Kingdom. To relieve the London market of the pressure of over supplies is the object; for which might tend to support the cess operations ought surely to be welcomed by all producers.

In thus venturing to repeat their former proposals the Committee take the liberty of expressing a hope that His Excellency the Governor-General in Council will be pleased to reconsider his former decision. Should His Excellency consent to do so they would respectfully suggest that a further representation be made to the Government of Ceylon and that in the event of its being unsuccessful the question of the enhancement to a protective rate of the Indian duty should be seriously considered.

10th December, 1904.—From E. N. Baker Esq., Secy. to the Government of India to the Hon'ble the Colonial Secy. to the Government of Ceylon.

"I am directed to write attention to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 08449 dated the 4th June 1902, in paragraph 4 of which you intimate that the Government of Ceylon had decided to maintain the restrictions in force on the blending of Ceylon and Indian teas at Colombo, the Indian Tea Association has again approached the Government with the object of securing the removal of these restrictions. It is stated that foreign consumers have now acquired a taste for blends of Ceylon and Indian teas, but owing to the demand has to be met from the London market, even in cases where the tea is destined for eastern ports which could be more quickly and more cheaply served from Colombo. The Association urges that the interests of both Ceylon and Indian producers are thereby prejudicially affected as the large stocks bound in the artificial depression generally, while the artificial restrictions imposed on direct exports of blended teas from Colombo prevent the thorough exploitation of the eastern markets. The Association is also of the opinion that a considerable section of the commercial community in Ceylon is now in favour of the abolition of the Government of Ceylon still adheres to the decision communicated in 1902 or whether they are prepared to permit blending operations at Colombo subject to conditions generally similar to those laid down in paragraph 470 of the British warehousing code

10th December 1904.—From J. Campbell Esq. Under Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary, Indian Tea Association:—

"In continuation of the letter from this department No. 5014 S. R., dated the 17th September, 1904, I am directed to forward copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Government of Ceylon on the subject of the existing restrictions on the blending of Indian and Ceylon tea. A further communication will be made as soon as a reply is received from that Government. I am to add that the Government of India do not at present propose to approach the Government of Ceylon in connection with the proposal to abolish the import duty levied in that country on Indian tea. They are also unable to entertain the suggestion that the Indian import duty on imported teas should be enhanced to appreciative rate.

Colombo, 6th May, 1905.—From the Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department:—

"I am directed to inform you that which you ask whether the Government of Ceylon are prepared to reconsider the decision of 1902 and to permit the blending of tea in Colombo subject to certain conditions has had the fullest consideration by His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon in Council and that I am instructed to express regret that His Excellency does not see his way to relax the restrictions now in force in Colombo. The Governor in Council has arrived at this decision after the fullest consideration of your letter and of past correspondence and after consultation with the Planters' Association of Ceylon and the Chamber of Commerce of Colombo and I am directed to enclose for the information of the Government of India a copy of a letter dated the 27th March 1905 from the Chairman of the Planters' Association of Ceylon which clearly sets out the objections felt by the planting community to a concession on the lines suggested by your Government—objections in which the Chamber of Commerce has expressed its concurrence. Without going so far as to express his entire approval or acceptance of the arguments put forward by the representatives of those principally interested the Government considers that their reluctance to incur the risk of losing the fruits of their past great expenditure on pushing the sale of their staple product in foreign countries is entitled to be respected."

27th March, 1905.—From W. Forsyth Esq., Chairman, Planters' Association of Ceylon, to the Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary, Colombo: (Restrictions on blending of Indian tea in Colombo):—

"In further acknowledging your letter of February 13th 1905, I have the honour to state that the above subject was fully discussed at a Committee meeting of the Planters' Association of Ceylon held in Kandy on March 10th 1905. I am requested to inform you that the committee still adheres to the opinions expressed in the letters addressed to Government upon the subject, dated 26th January, 1894, and 15th January and 9th February, 1904. Whilst admitting that the blending of Indian teas in bond would benefit the Colombo mercantile community and the port itself it was strongly felt that it is questionable whether whilst his interests might be detrimentally affected. I am to point out that the tea planters of Ceylon have during the last ten years voluntarily taxed themselves to the extent of 30 lakhs of rupees in order to open and develop new markets for their produce. It is only within the last two years that the tea planters of India have taxed themselves in the same manner and for the same purpose and during that period their expenditure has amounted to 4 lakhs of rupees. An examination of tables shows that in 1895 the Ceylon tea crop amounted to 984 million pounds of which 12 million pounds were sold in markets outside Great Britain. In 1904 out of a crop of 159 million lbs. 58 millions were sent to the United Kingdom for the year 1895. India produced 123 million lbs. of tea of which 104 millions went to outside markets.

In 1904 out of a crop of 207 million pounds 39 millions only were absorbed by foreign markets. From the foregoing it will be observed that in 1904 Ceylon sold 36 per cent of her crop in foreign markets whereas India disposed of 19 per cent of her produce in countries outside the United Kingdom during the same year. The Committee therefore desire more conclusive proof than is adduced in paragraph 2 of the Indian Government's letter that blending in Colombo would further stimulate the consumption of Ceylon tea it is the expressed opinion of the committee that if facilities were afforded India for blending her produce with that of Ceylon in Colombo that the former country would directly benefit at the expense of the latter. In conclusion the Committee would approve any scheme which in the opinion of its members is likely to be mutually beneficial to the combined tea industries of India and Ceylon it is not prepared without further information to give its support to the proposal contained in the letter under reply.

STANDARD TIME IN INDIA.

Bombay, June 14.—The Bombay Chamber of Commerce met this evening to discuss the Government of India's proposal on the adoption of standard time. The members were asked to vote for the introduction of standard time in Bombay or the continuance of the present local time by which Bombay is thirty minutes behind Madras time, and will be thirty-nine minutes behind the new standard time. The Chairman, the Hon. M. C. H. Armstrong, condemned the standard time proposal as unscientific and not in accordance with the action of the rest of the world. He advocated the zone system, as recommended by the Royal Society. It had been stated that if standard time were introduced the offices would have to open later by the clock as native clerks would not attend offices earlier by sun time than at present. On the other hand he contended it would be wrong for Bombay to have a different time from the rest of the continent. On the question being put twenty-two were for the retention of the present local time, seventeen for standard time. The Bombay Exchange came to a similar decision.

The Madras Government have requested the Commissioner for Government Examinations and the Registrar of the Madras University to see that no examination is conducted on a public officer unless through and with the consent of the head of his Department, and has specially drawn the attention of the Director of Public Instruction to the matter.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

LUNA CRATERS.

Five years ago two astronomers, watching a small crater to the south of Posidonius, saw it suddenly disappear before their eyes in a kind of whitish cloud. Charbonneau, observing another crater, saw it visible for a few moments, then it disappeared apparently in a whitish cloud, then reappeared, and so on at irregular intervals. There are plenty of reasons for believing that changes on the lunar surface should be taking place even more rapidly than those of which we are aware on the surface of the earth. During the long lunar night of fourteen of our days our satellite is exposed to the intense cold. Then comes the long lunar day, in which the crust of the planet is raised to a heat of some 300 Fahr. These tremendous alternations must be the cause of continual disintegration, especially as the processes are being repeated month by month. Of course some kind of atmospheric clothing is imagined for 'the orb'd maiden, with white fire laden,' for otherwise, as Langley has shown, she would, even in burning sunshine, be shivering from the effects of an exposure to a temperature below 50deg. Fahrenheit. As Proctor said, we may hold confidently the assurance that there are signs of change to be detected, and the wonder is that they are not oftener noticed by astronomers.

VITAL THEORIES.

In the concluding paper of a series of essays on Modern Cosmogonies, written with Miss Agnes Clerke's customary clearness and grasp, she reviews the various theories which have striven to account for life as the outcome of the growth of worlds. It is a subject rather for surmise than for argument; and one with which a writer on astronomy speaks with less authority than a chemist or a biologist. But Miss Clerke, who declares for the power outside nature continually and inscrutably acting for order, elevation, and vivification, has so admirably a dialectic style that even those who cannot agree with her may read her with pleasure. Witness, for example, her destruction of the 'futile conjecture of an extra-terrestrial origin outside our globe.'—'Richter's suggestion of germ laden aerolites. Its adoption would oblige us to regard the denizens of our planet, fauna and flora alike, as salvage from the wreck of some unknown world in space. 'Creat ad Judaea Apellat.' To our minds all the fables of the legend appear more credible than the pre-natal history of the primal organism implied by this wild surmise. Inquiry into the nature of the supposed organisms serves to draw closer the web of embarrassment. The remarkable aridity of meteorites excludes the possibility of their having been of an aquatic habit. Members of the fungoid order are unsuited to act as pioneers owing to their helplessness in the matter of commissariat, and the spores of lichens or mosses could scarcely be expected to survive the vicissitudes of such a journey as they must have performed if meteor-borne to terrestrial shores. The immigration hypothesis, moreover, even if it were plausible, could not be made useful. Difficulties do not vanish on being pushed into a corner. The problem of life is as difficult in this world as in another; matter we are convinced has no more psychical initiative in the system of Arcturus than can be ascribed to it in the system of the sun."

NEWS IN ADVANCE OF THE MAIL.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

THE NAVAL BATTLE.

London, June 1.—The "Daily Telegraph's" special correspondent with the Japanese fleet cabled from Moji as follows:—On approaching the Straits of Korea the main Russian fleet changed their course as if to return to the Yashi Island, but at five o'clock on Saturday morning steaming 12 knots, the vessels steered through the Korea Straits in a south-easterly direction. The Japanese had left as prearranged and the base squadron designed to press the Russians towards Iki. The enemy went with full steam ahead in an impressive and majestic style, the Japanese in the meanwhile lurking in the neighbourhood. The Russians traversed a strong current running west of Iki and proceeded due north. The Japanese were ready with their auxiliary fleet to the north and headed off the enemy. Togo's vessels manoeuvred with precision, and soon fire enfiladed the Russians on both flanks and front. The scene was superbly terrible, the guns of nearly fifty ships being fired with a great crash. The boulevards gave shot for shot at the fleets moving; but the Russians deviating from their original course with a hostile squadron on each side and another ahead were practically defeated within a few hours. Admiral Rozhdestvensky was unable to turn. He had fallen into a trap which was awaiting him since he left his Madagascar tactics. His fleet displayed hesitation, which was the forerunner of utter confusion, and the Japanese knew instantly that the enemy were beaten. Concentration fire became dreadful, every gun being trained upon the Russians who were caught in a cul-de-sac. Long lines of smoke floated across the water which was interspersed with flashes. At 2 o'clock the bombardment was at its zenith. Every second the Russians advanced towards Vladivostok. The Japanese being ahead advanced also, and shots from the north were answered by shots from the south-east and west, with the result that the doomed enemy were battered like a cloud of locusts, and the sea was swept into pale tracks under the innumerable searchlights of the large warships. The great cannon of the Japanese continued to respond, and the Russian fleet intense was kept up till 2 o'clock in the morning. Thereafter torpedoes were let loose, and it seemed as if there were scores and scores of them. The night work resulted in the sinking of Alexander III, Oshibaba and Nazarin, another vessel and three gunboats. At dawn on Sunday the Japanese at closer range were pressing the Russians. Between 3 o'clock and 5 o'clock the Russian Cruiser, Admiral Kakhinoff, foundered after her upper works had been reduced to splinters of wood, iron and steel. The Russian fleet became disordered and proceeded in a zigzag course, some of the vessels pointing to the east others to the west. Then the Japanese with judgment amounting to inspiration advanced to closer quarters. The Russian ships under a fire, which was rendered all the more terrible by a shortened range, got severed, uncoordinated and demoralised. They gradually pressed towards Nagato province. The fight lasted seven hours and the atmosphere during that time was obscured. Togo risked nothing and lost nothing. The Russians next attempted to steer north-west. Heavy fighting continued until sunset when the wind subsided. The seas were smooth and transparent in the

blueblackness of the night. The ships stood out something more than spectres, something less than fearful citadels. The Russians were edging north, but the powerful Japanese fleet in a horizontal line across their bows proved an effective barrier linked with guns. At 8 o'clock the Japanese destroyers and torpedo-boats advanced to the north-west of Nagato. The battle continued to rage fiercely but the Russians had no strategical position from which they could effectively resist the Japanese onslaught.

FANTASTIC DUELS TO WIN WIVES.

Last month two Italians named Guetta and Sorato, who were rivals for the affections of a young girl, resolved to put their claims to the novel settlement of duel by avalanche. For this purpose they repaired to the Splügen Pass, where avalanches are at this season of frequent occurrence, and for four consecutive mornings, from nine till eleven, stood on an exposed slope without any result, though on one occasion Guetta was hurled to the ground by the rush of air caused by a passing avalanche. The authorities then got wind of the affair, and under threat of imprisonment the rivals were compelled to forego their intention. They ultimately drew lots for the girl, and Sorato won.

Two heavy weights suspended from a beam by slender cords were the weapons chosen by two Parisians named Durier and Voisin to terminate their rivalry for the hand of a pretty actress. Beneath a weight each took his stand, there to remain until the breaking of one or other of the cords should decide his fate. For over four hours they remained motionless, when the cord attached to Durier's weight snapped, and the ponderous mass of metal, falling upon the man beneath, struck him to the ground. Fortunately, however, it just missed his head, and he escaped with a broken collarbone.

Somewhat prolonged was the duel waged a few years back, at a well-known Yorkshire seaside resort, to decide which of two young men should surrender his claim to the hand of a local publican's daughter. The rivals both prided themselves upon their natty prowess, so it was agreed that in the open first miss his morning's swim in the sea should withdraw his pretension to the lady's hand. For nine months and more each took his matutinal swim, but at length there came a day of such furious storm that one turned faint-hearted and refused to dare the tempestuous billows. The other, however, at considerable risk, dashed into the foaming sea, and, although he was badly cut and bruised, emerged a triumphant wooer.

Another aqueous duel occurred two years since, the locale being the Lake of Geneva and the contestants a Swiss named Zellner and one Lenoir, a Frenchman, who agreed that he who could remain the longest beneath the surface of the water should, without interruption or hindrance from the other, be permitted to pay his addresses to the daughter of a wealthy tradesman. The rivals dived simultaneously, and over two minutes elapsed ere Zellner's head appeared above the surface. There was no sign, however, of his rival, after whom, when yet another two minutes had sped, a couple of onlookers dived, and succeeded in recovering his senseless body. Resuscitatives were successfully applied, and on Lenoir's recovering consciousness he was acclaimed the victor.

At the time of Suici's forty-day fast at the Westminster Aquarium, some years since, a couple of young Mancunians agreed, by emulating his example, to decide which of them should first propose for the hand of a girl who had hitherto regarded them with a seemingly impartial affection. Four days were sufficient ordeal for one, who, refusing any longer to abstain from food, left the field clear to his rival, whose proposal, the lady, met with scant consideration from the lady, who declared that she would not entrust her future to the keeping of such a fool as he had proved himself. Needless to say, his rival's reception was equally glacial.

During a very severe winter in the forties a couple of Germans, natives of Dresden, resolved, for love of a woman, to fight a duel to the death. Very fantastic was the method employed. Without provision of any kind, and clad only in the lightest of clothes, they went out into the country, there to remain without shelter until one or other of them should succumb to the cold. Three days after their departure a wretched creature crawled back into the town; ten miles distant his rival, frozen to death, lay beneath the falling snow.

The "Rangoon Gazette" writes:—Mr. Tilly's interesting report for May on the plague notices the large number of Burmese attacked, they being the only natives attacked in which more women were attacked than men. Mr. Tilly thinks the attendance of women in large numbers at "wada" may account for this. The fact that large numbers of Burmese men wear neck stockings and shoes or boots, whilst most women go without foot covering, is perhaps another reason. Burmese Buddhists object to killing rats or other animals, and rats are known to spread plague. They also object, as a rule, to the tar smell in disinfectants which most Europeans appreciate.

An appeal was heard at the Bombay High Court on the 13th inst. against the judgment of Mr. Lucas, late Sessions Judge of Poona, who decided a couple of months ago that there was no cause of action arose in the suit of the Secretary of State for India against the late Mr. Hari Raoji Sir Dinshaw Manekjee Petit and others in regard to the rightful ownership of the Bungalow in No. 1, Queen's Gardens. Mr. Don Carolis Hewavitarne, Modellar of Ceylon, the head of well known firm of furniture dealers in the Pettab, intends offering Rs. 30,000 to found two scholarships for industrial arts. The scholarships are limited to Sinhalese Buddhists, and they will be selected by a competitive examination. The selected candidates will join a Japanese technical College. The scholarships will be known as "The Modellar Hewavitarne Scholarships."

Since the 15th May no steamship, except the regular liners, has entered the port of Rangoon. The presence of the Baltic Fleet in Far Eastern waters has had a depressing effect on shipping and trade, and now that this bugbear has been moved it is rumoured that Japan intends to impose a heavy import duty on rice. Three sailing vessels are port duty on rice. These sailing vessels are loading rice meal for Europe—a thing that has not happened in that port for several years. Mr. K. Matsuda, of Yokohama, a representative of the Togo Kisen Kaisha (Oriental Steamship Co.) has paid Rangoon a visit for the purpose, it is believed, of ascertaining whether the Company will be able to establish a regular line between Yokohama, Rangoon and Calcutta, with an agency in Rangoon.

MAGNETO SURVEY OF THE NORTH PACIFIC.

The Carnegie Institute of Washington, D.C., has authorized a magnetic survey of the North Pacific Ocean, and \$20,000 has been allotted for the expenses of the present year. "As is well known," says "Science," "the state of our knowledge of the distribution of the magnetic forces over the greater portion of the earth—the oceanic areas—owing to the paucity of precise data, is exceedingly unsatisfactory. This fact is especially true for that great body of water—the Pacific Ocean—rapidly developing in commercial importance. Capt. Creak, now retired, of the British Admiralty, declares that, with the exception of the voyage of the Challenger, the North Pacific Ocean is nearly a blank as regards magnetic observations, and he thinks that the proposed survey will be of great value. Except for data from occasional expeditions and such as were acquired in wooden vessels, a long time ago, the present magnetic charts used by the navigator over this region depend largely upon the observations on islands and along the coasts. Such land observations, however, are rarely representative of the true values, because of prevalent local disturbances. It is, therefore, impossible to make any statement as to the correctness of the present charts. The demands of science, as well as those of commerce and navigation, require a systematic magnetic survey of this region under the most favorable conditions possible, and that the work be done under the auspices of some recognized research institution in order to insure that the scientific aspects of the work receive their adequate recognition."

The plan of work, as made by G. W. Littlehales, hydrographic engineer of the United States Hydrographic Office, and consulting hydrographer of the department of terrestrial magnetism of the Carnegie Institution, is as follows: "To charter a wood-built, non-magnetic, sailing vessel of about 600 tons displacement, which, starting out in summer from San Francisco, shall pursue a clockwise spiral course, embracing the entire North Pacific Ocean. The object of planning such a course is to gain continuous advantage throughout the survey of the dynamical agencies of the atmosphere and the ocean, in passing in succession into each of the five-degree quadrangles into which the chart is divided, and in which observed values of the three magnetic elements need to be obtained."

The seasonal shifting of the permanent centres of barometric pressure will cause a variation from month to month of the conditions of wind and current that are represented on this particular chart, but if the departure from San Francisco be taken in the summer, the chain of meteorological events will contribute towards the maximum progress over the course, passing thence along the west coast of America to the vicinity of the Galapagos Islands, thence across the Pacific in latitude between two and three degrees north, thence along the eastern side of the Philippine archipelago and the empire of Japan, thence eastward in about latitude 52 degrees north thence to the latitude of San Francisco, and thence continuing through the series of areas bounded by parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude each five degrees apart, lying next on the midocean side of the circuit last made and proceeding gradually and by successive circuits into the central region of the North Pacific."

THE TRUMPET TREE.

This tree which is quite common throughout the West Indies is known to botanists as "Cecropia peltata." It belongs to the natural order "Urticaceae" which contains also the bread-fruit, jack-fruit, the Assam rubber tree ("Ficus elastica"), and other useful plants. The "Cecropia" embraces a number of species indigenous to Tropical America and the West Indies. It receives its common name from the fact that pieces of its hollow stem or branches have been used for making musical instruments. While the trumpet tree does not yield timber as do many other trees of this order, it is of use as a shade tree. Its straight, bare trunk, with large and spreading head, renders it particularly suitable for this purpose. In Jamaica it is very common throughout the island wherever the virgin forest has been cleared for cultivation. As a shade tree it is employed more particularly in the coffee plantations in the central districts.

The tree has a somewhat striking appearance, growing to a height of upwards of 50 feet. Its trunk is whitish, about 1 foot in diameter. The leaves are large and deeply lobed being covered on the under side with a snow-white down.

The extremely light wood of this tree is used for making floats for fishing nets, and also razor strops.

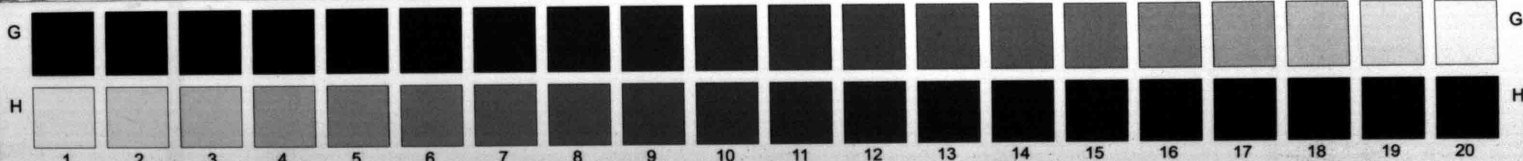
An interesting feature of the trumpet tree is the curious relationship with ants which, in some countries, inhabit the hollow stems. This is described by Willis in his "Flowering Plants and Ferns" as follows:—

"The hollows are inhabited by fierce ants ('Azteca' sp.) which rush out if the tree be shaken and attack the intruder. Schimper has made a thorough investigation of this symbiosis (or living together for mutual benefit) of plant and animal. These ants protect the 'Cecropia' from the formidable leaf-cutter ants."

A drug is obtained from the trumpet tree. A related species, "Cecropia obtusa," has recently been subjected to minute histological and chemical examination by E. Perrot and E. Choay, whose results are summarized in the "Pharmaceutical Journal." Chemical examination of the leaves revealed the presence of small quantities of an alkaloid known as cecropine.

ELECTRIC TRACTION IN INDIA.

Lucknow, June 14.—Schemes are before the public for electric trams, lighting and power at Lucknow, Cawnpore, Allahabad and Benares. At Lucknow there has been opposition to a proposal to run trams down the centre of the roadway unless the commissioners widen the metalled portion of the road. At Allahabad there are rival schemes, Messrs Kilburn and Co., Calcutta, and Mr. Montague Churchill Shann having each applied for licenses. Mr. Shann is supported by a syndicate which is supplying capital for Bombay's scheme, and on a comparison of the terms offered to the public numerous petitions from the inhabitants of Allahabad are being submitted favouring Mr. Shann's project.



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J. T. Peters Esqr., S. T. Corps, Umballa, writes:-

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Medicine for one month's use - Rs. 5/-

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

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

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

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

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

3. Dr. B. K. Bose, Surgeon-Major M. D. C. M. I. M. S., etc., says:- "I have tried Healing Balm in cases of acute Gonorrhoea with success."

4. Dr. U. Gupta M. D. M. C. (Edin.) F. C. S. (London) etc. says:- "I tried R. Laugin and Co's Healing Balm and found it really a very excellent medicine for both chronic and acute Gonorrhoea."

5. Dr. G. C. Bez Borna, L. R. C. P. (Edin.), L. F. P. C. and L. M. (Glasgo, plendia, s. says:- "I tried Healing Balm. It is a splendid remedy for the diseases of Genito-urinary tract and it acts like a charm. Its diuretic property is well marked."

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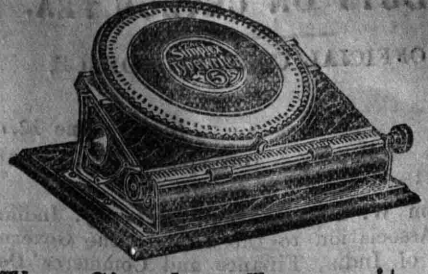
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Dr. H. Biswas.

HOOGHLY ITEMS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Hooghly, June 13.

HOWRAH SESSIONS.

Our Sessions Judge, Mr. G. K. Deb, has returned and resumed his duties here after presiding over the Sessions at Howrah and disposing of eight cases there. The whole of the last week was occupied in trying all these cases in which except one all the accused were convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. Mr. Deb is again going down to Howrah on Monday the 19th instant to try a murder case which is awaiting trial. I give here a succinct account of the eight cases already disposed of: (1) One Soron alias Sarat Ch. Banerjee of Uttarpara was on conviction sentenced to transportation for 10 years for having stolen a trunk containing jewellery, cash and gold Mohurs from the house of a gentleman named Babu Ganga Gobinda Mookerjee of Bali. (2) One Sitaram Halwai with several aliases was charged under Sec. 379-75 and sentenced to suffer 4 years' rigorous imprisonment. (3) One Bhuda Das was charged with the offences under Secs. 369, and 379-75 I.P.C. with having abducted two children on the pretext of giving them some sweets and bereft them of their ornaments which they had on their person. He was on conviction awarded six years' imprisonment with hard labour. (4) In this case one Heera Lal Manna was charged on 489 A and 489 C of the I. P. Code i.e. counterfeiting G. C. notes. The accused was charged with having in his possession a forged currency note for rupees ten. The prosecution cited a witness to be examined on its behalf. The Jury on the evidence adduced found that the accused had no deceitful intention and that when the alleged offence was said to have been committed by him he was not right in his head. The Judge accepted the verdict and acquitted the accused. (5) One Karim Shaikh with three aliases was charged under Secs. 457-75 of the I.P.C. with lurking house trespass in order to commit theft and was sentenced to be rigorously imprisoned for 5 years. (6) In this last case one Sow Lochan Nodia was charged under Secs. 380-75 I.P.C. and sentenced to six years' rigorous imprisonment.

CRIMINAL BREACH OF TRUST.

Mr. Heera Lal Kumar, Barrister-at-Law, brought a case under Sec. 406 I.P.C. against one Abinash Ch. Mazumdar of Bhadrakali. The case for the prosecution was that there is a tenancy under the Kundu Babus of Mahariy in which the complainant, his brother Mati, the accused, Rajah Peary Mohun Mookerjee and others are co-tenants. The Zeminar brought two rent suits against the tenants and got decrees. The complainant says that when his property was attached in execution of the rent decree he to save his property gave rupees one hundred and ninety-five to the accused to be paid to the land-lord. The accused it is alleged, did not pay the money to the land-lord nor to the court but purchased the property in the name of one Bipradas Banerjee. The case for the defence was that the interest of the complainant was not identical with the interest of the accused, that they were in very bad terms, that the story of the deposit and his denial thereof were false; that his property was also sold and purchased Khas by the Zeminar; and that the land-lord did not show him any consideration for his being a Brahmin. Two witnesses were examined. The Deputy Magistrate of Serampur convicted the accused and sentenced him under Sec. 406 to 3 months' rigorous imprisonment. An appeal has been preferred before the Sessions Judge of Hooghly and the accused has been released on bail of rupees two hundred.

OFFICIAL.

Mr. Tindal has taken over charge of the Serampur Sub-Division from Babu H. B. De who is reverted to his substantive post of the second officer. It is rumoured that our new Magistrate and Collector, Mr. B. De, will take over charge from Mr. Carey on the 14th and that in addition to his own duties he will also act as the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division in the place of Mr. Walsh who is going away to Darjeeling on one month's leave owing to excessive stifling heat. Mr. Carey is still here though he is under orders of transfer to Saran as Joint Magistrate there. He does not attend court and the criminal appeals are accumulating.

BYE-ELECTION.

The Bye-election in ward No. 1 of the Hooghly Municipality came off on Saturday the 10th instant to fill up the vacancy caused by the death of one of its elected Commissioners. Babu Jotish Ch. Nandi, a Zemindar, was duly elected.

The season 1903-4 established a record, so far as the yield of wheat was concerned, the return for the whole of India being 1,600,000 tons above that of any previous year. When, however, the last crop was sown, there was some reason to anticipate that this record would be lowered, for the area then sown was the highest for the last decade, or 5 million acres greater than in the preceding year. Frost and rust, however, as we have already had occasion to state, did great havoc with the crops in the United Provinces, with the result that the return for 1904-5 (7½ million tons) is nearly 22 per cent. lower than that of 1903-4. That the yield is still above the average is due to the fact that frost did little damage to wheat in the Punjab or the North-West Frontier Province.

New York, May 22.—Thirty people were injured in a sensational accident which occurred on the elevated electric railway to-day. A train was standing by an open switch near One Hundred and Thirty-third Street Station, when a train in the rear dashed in and, the two coming into collision, buckled and flung the train. At this point the railway is sixty feet above the street, and foot passengers were horrified to see two of the carriages hanging over the track above their heads. There was an awful suspense for a few moments as the carriages swayed in mid-air, and passengers were seen to be scrambling out through the broken windows and doors. Some of them, however, were so terrified, strained, and jumped out into the street, sustaining injuries from which it is feared they will not recover. Others ran along the elevated structure, and were struck down by the live rail. It was owing to the fact that the couplings of the buckled carriages held firm and to the cool-headed manner in which the officials went about their work that there was not a serious loss of life.

TIPPERA NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Comilla, June 9.

THE A. B. RAILWAY.

The Assam Bengal Railway, which was first opened for public traffic of all descriptions in 1895, has proved a boon to the people of this part of the country; and it will be still more popular if the authorities of the Railway will try to remove the public grievances. There are no platforms at the stations except at Chittagong and Laksan; and the Railway authorities say that there are no platform accommodation on the European Railways. True, but all the principal Indian Railways have provided platform accommodation, and hence the people of our part of the country may rightly claim the same privilege from the A. B. Railway. Female passengers find great difficulty in alighting from the carriages. Secondly, there are no waiting room for female passengers in any of the stations. At Chandpur—the biggest transhipment station—females are subjected to be exposed to the sun and the inclemencies of the weather for hours together. Only fancy their position in the rainy season. There is a flat at the steamer ghat but unfortunately the passengers are not allowed to stay there. There are no separate female accommodation for the females on the mail trains. These run up to Tinsukia, a distance of over 600 miles. When the Railway authorities provide separate female accommodation in passenger trains they should also provide the same on the fast mails. Lastly, there are no latrines on the fast mails though the recent Government circular enjoins the authorities to provide them. We invite the early and earnest attention of the authorities of the Railway to these matters, and hope considerate as they always are they will not fail to look to public convenience.

LEGAL TOPICS.

Tamizuddin and Munsh Ali, two town Choudkars, who were charged with theft took their trial before Babu Raj Narayan Banerjee, Dy. Magistrate, who allowed ample opportunity to the accused to defend themselves. They have been convicted to one year's rigorous imprisonment each. It is really strange that the Choudkars whose duty it is to keep watch and ward over the property of the people showed themselves turn out to be thieves. One Nitya Basi, a helpless and poor widow of Sattora, Tipperah, complained to the Choudkars and the collecting Panchayat of her village against Mathura Nath and others for house trespass, etc. The collecting Panchayat and Choudkars went to the spot and finding this to be a true case reported it to the President. In the meantime, Nitya Basi lodged a complaint before the Sub-Divisional Officer of Brahmanbaria, who referred this for enquiry to the President of the village. Then the President came to the village of Chalkhola which is a quarter mile off from Sattora and ordered Nitya Basi to come there with all her witnesses. Thereupon she filed a written petition to the President to make a local enquiry on the spot. Then the President said that he would take 10 days' time for the enquiry, and wrote to Babu Tara Prasad Paul, member of Panchayat, that the complainant need not attend the court at Brahmanbaria on the specified day and the result was that the case was struck off for non-attendance. It is a noteworthy fact that the President did not report anything about his proceedings to the Sub-Divisional Officer at Brahmanbaria for reasons best known to himself. Now we invite the attention of Mr. Scroope, our Magistrate, to this matter and hope he will hold an enquiry into the case.

THE ALLAHABAD BRIDGE.

The bridge over the Ganges at Allahabad, which is to be opened to-day to all classes of railway traffic and is, we understand, to bear Lord Curzon's name, will take a place among the most important bridges yet built in India. At the spot chosen for the crossing, the Ganges is some 6,000 feet in width. The southern half of the river is bridged by 15 spans of 200 feet, while the northern half is blocked by a solid sand embankment. The most interesting, however, if not the most important, part of the work is the Bell guide bank, which forces the river under the bridge. This bank is of somewhat original design, and is, we believe, both the largest and most quickly executed work of its kind in this country. The bridge piers rest on wells sunk a hundred feet into the river-bed, and it was while sinking them that the interesting finds of pleistocene fossils, already noticed in these columns, were made. The piers are sixty feet in height and are of handsome appearance. Active operations were commenced in November 1902, and the bridge has therefore been constructed to the point of enabling it to carry trains in three working seasons. A temporary bridge has been in use since the 1st January of this year, and no interruption has occurred in the traffic, though a certain amount of delay in getting the trains across the river has of course, been inevitable. The permanent bridge carries the train between the girders, and when finished will have a roadway on top. The earth embankments for this run to ninety feet above water level, and form a striking feature of the landscape. The acceleration of the trains from the date of opening of the bridge shows that the administration of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway mean to waste no time in competing for the Allahabad traffic to the Hills. No doubt when the new line has been thoroughly consolidated after the next rains the public will obtain the full advantage of the shortening by 20 miles of the distance from Allahabad to Lucknow effected by this route. Mr. Gales, the Engineer-in-Chief, and his staff are to be congratulated on the result of their labours. If the bridge fulfils the expectations which have been formed of it—and happily there is no reasonable ground for doubt on that point—it will rank among the most successful achievements of the Public Works Department in an era which has already seen considerable developments in railway and bridge construction.

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RANGOON NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Rangoon, June 4.

ROBBERY IN THE BANK OF BENGAL.
Before the Third Criminal Sessions of Rangoon four durwans of the Bank of Bengal were charged with robbery of Promissory Notes to the value of Rs. 10,000. The case has ended with the result that two durwans have each been punished with 7 years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,000 or in default to undergo an additional term of one year's imprisonment. The third accused has been awarded two years' rigorous imprisonment, and the fourth has been acquitted. The cashier had to make good the loss.

THE PLAGUE.

Plague is still raging in Rangoon though with less fury than before. It has been predicted that with the setting in of rain the number of plague cases will increase. The total number of seizures in May was 392 with 366 deaths and 49 discharges.

BURGLARY IN RAILWAY CARRIAGES.

A gang of thieves are carrying on their nefarious trade on Railway trains between Pynsuna and Pyntaza. Thefts from passengers in second class compartment are also of frequent occurrence. We learn that even the inspection carriage of the Inspector of Railways was entered somewhere between the stations mentioned above. The Superintendent of the Railway Police has been called upon to make every endeavour to break up the gang as soon as possible, and to bring them to justice.

WEATHER AND CROP SUMMARY.

The following is the summary of the crop report for the week ending the 3rd instant:—There has been general rain; heavy along Tennasserim and Arakan Coasts, Manhin, Shwebo, Kyaukse and in parts of Bassein districts. Sowing of hill-side paddy commenced in Tavoy, Bhamo and in parts of Katha. Reaping of dry weather paddy approaching completion in Lower and Upper Chindwin and Kyaukse and progressing in other districts. Sowing of cotton in Sagaing and ploughing for cotton in Lower Chindwin continue. Ploughing for early gossamum and miscellaneous crops in progress in several districts. Gathering of tobacco completed in Sagaing. Dry weather paddy has suffered in Mandalay for want of irrigation and crops have been destroyed by floods in parts of Pakokhu, Katha, Bhamo and Upper Chindwin; elsewhere standing crops are in good condition. Price of paddy has risen considerably in Henzada and slightly at three centres; it has fallen slightly at 4 centres; elsewhere unchanged.

CHARGES AGAINST A VAKIL.

His Worship Mr. Azizuddin Sahib Bahadur, Senior Presidency Magistrate, Black Town, Madras delivered judgment on June 12 in the case in which Mr. Sulla Gurusami Chettiar, a Vakil of the High Court, stood charged with defamation at the instance of one T. Chinnabai. The facts of the case are briefly stated as follows:—A few years ago, Swaramani Boyi Ammal, a young Brahmin widow (since deceased) came to live in Madras, and accused became friendly with her. But a misunderstanding arose soon after, and the woman transferred her affections to the complainant. The accused, jealous at this, wrote to the woman, it was alleged, to say that the complainant was a cheat and a man of illegitimate birth, and it was shameful of her to live with him. There was also reference made in the letter to complainant's personal appearance, etc. After reviewing the evidence adduced on both sides, His Worship remarked, that the accused must have been the author of the letter, which, though purporting to have been sent from Madras, had really been posted in the Flower Bazaar Post Office, Black Town; for, this post-office was about the nearest one to accused's house, and the letter had besides been sent soon after the meeting between the accused and his quondam mistress in complainant's company at the Park Fair. The wording of the letter also went to show that it was written by one who knew all about the complainant, while an examination of the hand-writing clearly proved that the letter was written by the accused and none else. The evidence of the expert witnesses both on behalf of the complainant and the accused had to be received with considerable caution, not because of any wilful misrepresentation on their part, but because their judgments became to a certain extent warped in regarding the subject from one particular point of view, so that even though most conscientiously disposed, they were incapable of expressing a correct opinion. Proceeding to consider whether the imputations contained in the letter were privileged, His Worship held that they were not. The wording of the communication in general and that part of it which contained imputations against complainant's appearance, birth, etc., in particular could certainly not have been meant in good faith. The letter was clearly malicious, and it had been proved to refer to the complainant. Accordingly His Worship found the accused guilty, but, though he did not think a heavy fine was called for, yet since the counsel for defence asked for an appealable sentence, he convicted the accused and sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 701 or, in default, to undergo one month's simple imprisonment.

A Committee will shortly assemble at Simla to consider the questions relating to the grant of Simla allowances to assistants employed in the offices of the Government of India.

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HOW THE RECORDS OF PARLIAMENT ARE PREPARED.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Surprising and Little-Known Facts.

Few people outside Parliament, said an M.P. to an interviewer, have any idea of the elaborate machinery by which its proceedings are placed on record; indeed, I once heard a man, who ought to have known better, declare quite seriously that all the work was done by the Clerk of the House and his two assistants.

As a matter of fact, this work keeps many scores of clerks, shorthand-writers and transcribers, compositors, readers, and printers exceedingly busy; and unless the complex machinery were perfectly adapted to its purpose and ran very smoothly, the thing would be impossible. There are really four separate offices in the department of the Clerk of the House alone, each employing a large staff of men—the Journal Office, the Committee Office, the Public Bill Office and the Private Bill Office—and it is the province of this department to "make true entries, remembrances, and journals of the things done and passed in the House of Commons," to quote the old phraseology—that is, to keep records of the proceedings of the House, notices of motion, division lists, amendments to Bills, private Bills, and so on. This record, which is prepared and printed daily, often covers scores of pages, and its preparation is little less laborious than that of a newspaper.

The work actually done by the Clerk and his assistants in the House itself is at best but a skeleton diary of each day's doings. In the minute-books they note briefly the decision of the House on the different orders of the day, make short memoranda of the petitions presented and outline the proceedings generally, the details being left to other hands.

Then there is the record of the divisions, which is a most formidable task. As I dare say you know, the names of all the members are printed on long sheets, and armed with these the clerks, whose duty it is, make a careful note of every legislative proposal who passes through the two lobbies—the Ayes and the Noes—striking his name through in pencil as he passes. The moment the division is over, these lists—one for the Ayes, the other for the Noes—are sent off to the printers, who print all the names struck out, together with the question and the time of the division, thus placing on record an exact account of the division with the names of all who voted in it on one side or the other.

Now, this does not seem a very formidable business; nor is it, as regards a single division; but multiply it by twenty or more—for this number of divisions has often been exceeded in a single day—and you will see that the work involved is enormous. Many thousands of names have to be put in type and carefully checked and corrected in proof before they can be finally printed in the Votes for the following morning. Similarly, all notices of motions, amendments, questions, and so on have to be carefully scrutinized to see that they are all in order, and these in turn are dispatched to the printers.

And all this work, you must remember, does not include the reports of speeches, the preparation of which, as you may imagine, occupies a large staff of men, from the reporters in the gallery to the printers. The reporting is done by the Parliamentary staff of the "Times," the various reports are submitted for correction to the different speakers, and the reports when printed swell the volumes of "Hansard's Debates." Another important part of the chronicles of Parliament is the record of the work done by the various committees. This alone employs at least a score of stenographers and transcribers, whose work is under the direction of the official shorthand-writer.

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Mr. Carter is a native of Kingston, Jamaica, near which city his father carried on a large plantation. He enlisted in the First West India Regiment and was promoted through various ranks to that of Quarter-Master Sergeant, serving in all for 27 years. He lives now at 25, Free Street, South End, Port Elizabeth. His experience has been so widespread and unique that what he says is of particular interest, so we give his letter, dated November 21, 1904, just as it was received:

THE SOLDIER'S OWN STORY.
"I cannot recollect the exact date of my first attack of indigestion, but anyway I was a Quarter Master Sergeant of the 1st British West India Regiment at the time and stationed at Kingston. I used to feel out of sorts; I always felt as though I had eaten too much, even though, in fact, it would be the smallest morsel. I had a bloated, puffed-up, sensation after each meal and I can assure you I felt miserable. Mother Seigel's Syrup for the younger members of our family and as they pined their faith to Mother Seigel's curative powers, I considered I would not go far wrong by giving it a trial myself. I had suffered for three years and was determined to get rid of my trouble somehow. I was walking up Orange Street, Kingston Jamaica, when I came to Dr. Kiddons' chemist shop and three I purchased a bottle of Mother Seigel's Syrup. I used it for about two months, at the end of which I found I had not further need of medicines or doctors: I was completely cured."

"I have since then recommended Mother Seigel's Syrup to my friends all over the world, the 'Gold Coast' especially, where I had to give myself another course of Seigel's owing to the severe climatic conditions, and the generally unhealthy condition of our living. I am still enjoying good health and pleased to be able to give you this statement."

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