

WAR NOTES.

THE GREAT NAVAL BATTLE.

The officers of the Japanese destroyer "Sasanami" have given fuller details of the capture of Admiral Rozhdzestvensky. Their narrative is as follows:

"At ten o'clock on the morning of May 28 we, together with a certain warship, were ordered to search for the remnants of the enemy. We put on full steam, and darted here and there over the battle waters.

"Eventually ahead of us we saw two streaks of smoke against the bright horizon. Going at a speed of twenty knots we steamed after the smoke.

"Soon we discovered two of the enemy's destroyers cutting through the water for all they were worth. As we neared them we opened a tremendous fire from all our guns.

"One of the Russian destroyers forged ahead, it was impossible to catch her, and she escaped. The second one did not change her course, and, moreover, did not return our cannonading.

"We watched our little enemy carefully for some moments, and then saw a sudden movement abroad. To the top of the mast ran a white flag, and astern fluttered the emblem of the Red Cross.

"We signalled, 'What is your condition?' A few moments' delay occurred, and then the little signal flags appeared. We read the Russian reply as follows:

"We are damaged. We have been shot through the engine-room. We have Admiral Rozhdzestvensky on board. We are short of fresh water altogether. There is the admiral and his staff aboard.

"We were quite surprised, and while we could not help expressing our sympathy we could not conceal our delight at securing such a prize. We thought it all too strange. Examining officers were told off, and with drawn swords, their escorts with bayonets fixed, went over to the Russian destroyer, which we could make out as the Biedovy. Besides Admiral Rozhdzestvensky we found the chief and eight other of the officers of his staff. We were amazed. What a haul!

"We were about to take the necessary steps to attend to the wounded, when two throng of Russians officers assembled around Admiral Rozhdzestvensky clasped their hands as if in prayer and exclaimed, 'Please be merciful; the wounds of Admiral Rozhdzestvensky are serious. If you remove him to the Japanese ship these wounds may be broken, and he will fall into a dangerous state. Please, we pray you, leave him as he is now.'

"Admiral Rozhdzestvensky was lying at the bottom of the destroyer amid a pool of fresh blood. He was in a semi-conscious state. The scene was an impressive one.

"After a while, being pitiful at the condition of the Russian officer, we felt sore at heart, and after a short consultation we decided to grant the request. Four of the principal Russian staff officers were taken on board the 'Sasanami,' and our examining officers were left behind, and Admiral Rozhdzestvensky lay helpless in the destroyer, surrounded by his officers.

"A tow-line was passed from the Japanese vessel to the Russian ship, and with our burden astern we set off for the nearest island along the Korean coast.

"The point was raised as to whether or not we might meet and be overpowered by isolated but still formidable remnants of the Russian fleet. In the event of such a mishap occurring we decided to die by the swords which we were at our sides.

"At ten knots we steamed for refuge. The waves were high, washing over the bows of both ships, the towline strained and creaked, and twice it broke. Night came on, and it was pitch dark. With the dawn came some relief, but the hours had been full of pain and anxiety.

"When the morning light widened our horizon we met our warship, the 'Akashi.' We signalled that we had captured Admiral Rozhdzestvensky, and obeying our orders, conveyed him to Sasebo.

"As soon as the Russian officers and sailors already prisoners at our base heard that their admiral was our captive they seemed very witnessed."

It is understood that the first shipment of quick-firing guns for field batteries in India has been made from the Woolwich.

The Hon. Mr. Miller, Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, arrived at Nagpur on Friday afternoon. Owing to the uncertainty of the weather and the trains, the arrival was private.

Mr. S. Fremantle, C.S., has been placed on special duty to inquire and report on the causes of the scarcity of labour at the industrial centres in the United Provinces. The news of this appointment will be received with special satisfaction at Cawnpore, where the labour difficulty, that commenced with the first serious outbreak of plague in the city, seems to have become chronic.

OPIMUM DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Annual Administration Report of the Opium Department for the year ending October 1904 may be taken as fairly satisfactory. It is, however, noteworthy that the shortage of acreage of land under opium cultivation in Bengal is becoming more manifest. In the Behar Agency 344,730 bigas were settled as compared with 346,956 in the previous year, showing a further decrease of 2,226 bigas which is ascribed mainly to the rejection of unprofitable cultivation. In the Benares Agency, however, there is a substantial increase in the total area which sufficiently compensates for the shortage in Behar. The total area settled were 693,033 as compared with 624,562, thus showing an increase of 68,471 bigas. There is, however, another point which is brought out in the Report relating to the experiments in the new cultivation by indigo planters. These were continued during the year but with less success. Better results, however, are anticipated during the current year. Mr. Bernard Coventry, Principal of the Agricultural Institute, Pusa, had, at the suggestion of Mr. A. T. Christian, arranged to grow 500 plants of poppy experimentally on scientific principles. The result of the experiment will be awaited with interest.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU NEED IT. Do not wait until some of your family is taken with a violent attack of cholera or diarrhoea. A bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy at hand when needed has saved many a life. Procure it at once. For sale by All Chemists and Storekeepers. Price 1 Re. 9 Rs.

WHY TOGO WON.

In a recent despatch from Tokio describing the great naval battle, the "Times" says:—About 1-30 p.m., the fog thinning, Rozhdzestvensky sighted Togo's battleships in single column line ahead rounding the north of Tsu Shima and bearing down on the fort bow. Shortly afterwards he sighted Kamimura rounding the south of the island and covering his stern on the same side, while the decoy squadron, strongly reinforced, threatened his starboard.

The Russians immediately formed two columns, line ahead. The east column was led by the Emperor Alexander III., the west was composed of cruisers, while the auxiliaries were between the columns in the rear. The sea was now very rough, with a strong south-west wind blowing, so the Japanese had not only the benefit of the sun, but were also assisted by the heavy smoke which poured down upon the Russians. The heavy seas, too, were immensely in favour of the Japanese gunners, who constantly practised in stormy weather, with the result that their aim was not distributed by the unsteadiness of the gun platforms. Further, they were able to take advantage of the exposure of the enemy's vital parts occasioned by the rolling and tossing of the ships.

The Russians opened fire at 12,000 metres, but it was wholly ineffectual. The Japanese, on the other hand, reserved their fire until the range was 7,500 metres, when they fired six trial shots and scored three hits. The battle now became general. The Russians perpetually essayed to force their way northward, but the Japanese, steaming at a higher speed, constantly headed them back, so that the Russian course, described a loop, the ships falling past the Japanese, who poured in a deadly fire from three directions. Admiral Rozhdzestvensky's gunners maintained a much higher rate of fire, but their projectiles nearly always flew high or buried themselves in the sea, evidently owing to the gunners' want of experience in gun laying in rough weather. Before evening five Russian warships, which apparently lost their stability owing to the piercing of their watertight compartments on one side only and the action of the fore and aft bulkheads.

Meanwhile, the Russian formation had been broken, but the ships were still confined in the south-east corner of the Sea of Japan.

Thus far Admiral Togo's strategy had worked perfectly, but the most important part of his plan remained—namely, the loss of 16 squadrons of torpedo-boats upon the Russians during the night when they were partially disabled and confused. But there were great fears at one time that this would be impossible as the sea was too rough for torpedo-boats. However, towards evening the wind and the waves subsided and the night became quiet and starlight, and excellently suited for the work of the torpedo-boats, which rushed in from three quarters, reserving their missiles until they were within 300 metres at most and making a practice so deadly that it rendered all previous failures. The Japanese deny any use of submarines, and the conditions of the battle were obviously unsuited for them.

Meanwhile the Japanese fighting squadrons had drawn off northward, leaving the field free for torpedo craft. By midnight only nine Russians retained their formation under Nebogoff. These struggled northward, the torpedo-boats clinging to their flanks and constantly stabbing, so that dawn found only five remaining—namely, the Orsk, Nilkolai, two coast defence ships, and the Izumrud.

Having lost his bearings, owing to the complicated manoeuvres, Nebogoff decided to steer westward until he picked up some feature of the Korean coast that he could identify. Presently the Izumrud, which was scouting, reported that she made out the Liancourt Islands, whereupon the Russians, recovering heart, shaped their course for Vladivostok. But almost immediately they observed two squadrons of Japanese approaching full speed ahead and recognized the flags of Togo and Dewa. The Izumrud steamed off at top speed, but Nebogoff's ships, encumbered with wounded, with half their guns out of action, and ammunition lacking, decided to haul down their colours. Other still floating fragments of the Russian fleet were pursued and destroyed by the Japanese, who had been previously organized in view of this contingency into groups of homogeneous ships.

The battle shows no novel feature. The Russians fought with devoted valour, but were outclassed at every point. Their shooting was incomparably inferior to that of the Japanese, who scored an extraordinary number of hits with their 12-in. guns. The Japanese projectiles were also much more effective than those of the Russians. Nothing was more notable than the Japanese skill in using torpedoes, contrasting markedly with their previous ill-success and evidently resulting from the special course of training which they recently pursued and from the teachings of experience.

Notes from Midnapur.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Midnapur, July 6.

MR. CARROLL'S CASE.

Mr. Drake-Brookmann delivered judgment to-day, acquitting Mr. Carroll.

THE PARTITION OF MIDNAPUR.

Government seems to be determined upon the partition of Midnapur. The scheme has now taken a different form. Kharagpur is to be the headquarter of the district with Contai and Tumuk as its sub-divisions. Jhargram will be made a sub-division and put under Midnapur. The opinions of the leading gentlemen have been invited.

It is stated that peat will be used by the Denver North-Western and Pacific Railroad for fuel. Thousand of acres of high grade peat have been found along the routes, and a process has been discovered by which peat can be dried and mixed with a chemical preparation in such a way that it will burn better than anthracite coal. A saving of thousands of dollars annually in the peat bill is anticipated.

RECOMMENDED BY DEALERS EVERYWHERE.

Mr. M. Links, a storekeeper at Carcor, N. S. W., Australia, says: "I never fail to recommend Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, because I know it is good." You make no mistake when you buy this medicine. Dealers all over the country will tell you the same thing. Sold by All Chemists and Storekeepers. Price 1 Re. 9 Rs.

Rangoon Notes.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Rangoon, July 1.

A JEALOUS STABBING.

On Wednesday, the 28th June, one Mah Thet Nao, a bazaar-seller in Pezondaung, was stabbed by one of her suitors. The Eastern Magistrate took down the deposition of the woman at the General Hospital, Rangoon. Mah Thet Nao said that, while she was selling articles at the market, she was stung by Po Yun with a knife. She was divorced by her husband about a year ago. Since the last two months the accused had become one of her suitors. About two days before the occurrence, she was asked to give him a definite answer about their marriage, and she having failed to do so she was threatened by him. One Tun Lin, another suitor and an intimate friend of hers, cut a joke with her before Po Yun and the jilted lover got jealous of his rival. He soon afterwards returned to the Bazaar stall and said: "You did not reply to my letters," and immediately afterwards pulled her by the shoulder and stabbed her four times, on the chest, side, hand and fingers. He was not anxious at all to run away and said that he would surrender himself.

PINE IN THE SHANS.

The attention of the speculative merchants has not as yet fallen on the pine and turpentine industry which may profitably be encouraged in the Shan States. The pine forests of the Shan States are exceptionally good in quality. As regards quality of growth, density of stock and effective natural regeneration they are all that can be desired. In some parts though they have been a little injured by excessive "tanungya" cultivation which is destructive to forest growth there can be no doubt that before many years elapse the value of Shan pine forests will be recognised and a new industry started. If pine planks can economically be preserved against the attack of white ants they may be used largely in buildings and thus lessen the increased demand of teak, of which the price has been doubled since the annexation of Upper Burma.

LEAD IN THE SHANS.

Lead of good quality found in several tracts of the Shan States. These mines are worked by the Shans "when there is a demand for lead i.e. when any war breaks out on the hills." But, now, in peaceful days, there is a great demand for lead and if means of transport are provided there is a very good prospect of a lead industry there.

A DARING THEFT.

One Moothshwamy was tried by the Eastern Magistrate for a curious theft case. The accused had broken into a shed of the Port Commissioners near Botatung where a number of goats were kept. He had an accomplice with him. Both these men managed to kill two goats and two kids and were clearing off with their booty when the patrol of the Botatung guard on suspicion stopped the men—one cleared off, and the other was found to be in possession of a bag containing the heads and the flesh of the goats. The accused was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment.

RESULT OF MR. NAZARETH'S MURDER.

Two servants of the deceased who were kept under observation for the murder of their master, Mr. Nazareth have been released, there being no proof against them, but they are being watched by the police. The amount of Rs. 500 offered as reward for bringing the murderer to justice has been increased to Rs. 1,000.

DARING BURGLARY.

The shop of a respectable Parsi gentleman in Dalhousie Street was entered into by burglars by opening up the tiles of the roof. This method is chiefly adopted in India, hence the Police suspects some up-country thieves, who cleared off with jewellery &c. to the value of Rs. 2,000 nearly. It is strange that a murder and a burglary occurred almost side by side at the heart of the town within two weeks and the Police could trace nothing. Thanks to Police administration in India!

AERONAUTS DROWNED.

WRECKED BALLOON CAST UP BY THE SEA.

Dusseldorf, Tuesday, June 20.

It is feared that two daring aeronauts, Herren Volmer and Fogel, have met their death by drowning in the North Sea.

Leaving Remscheid in Prussia on Whit-Monday in a newly-constructed balloon, nothing was known as to their fate until a tragic discovery was made at Scheveningen in the Netherlands on Sunday.

The wrecked balloon was thrown up by the waves there at eight o'clock in the evening, and in the car was the body of Herr Volmer. Nothing is yet known as to the fate of Herr Fogel, but everything points to his having shared his companion's fate.

A sanguine message, which in the light of the finding of the wrecked balloon has a peculiarly pathetic significance, has just come to hand by an emaciated carrier pigeon. It is dated Monday, June 12, 1 p.m., and runs as follows:—

"The Zuyder Zee is in sight on our right. We hear foghorns. Height, 11,470ft. Scenery beautiful. Have taken many photographs. Have already tried to land. Very cold, but the champagne remains good. Can probably go as far as the sea. Just ascended 1,000ft. higher.—Volmer Fogel."

From this message it is supposed that, as the two men saw the Zuyder Zee and heard foghorns, the wind was in the north-west and they were blown out to sea, when the balloon sank.

CONTAMINATED CHRONIC DIARRHOEA

While with the U. S. Army in the Philippines, I contracted chronic diarrhoea. I suffered severely from this terrible disease for over three years and tried the prescriptions of numerous physicians, but found nothing that did me any good until I tried Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, two small bottles of which entirely cured me and I have since had no return of the disease.—Herman Stein, 213 N. Union Ave., Pueblo, Colorado, U. S. A. For sale by All Chemists and Storekeepers. Price 1 Re. 9 Rs.

THE RULE OF THE ROAD.

Anantapur, July 3.

On the 28th ultimo, Mr. P. Adimurti Row, Pleader and Municipal Chairman of Anantapur, went out on Municipal business with some of his staff in a pony jukka when he met Mr. R. M. Powell, Superintendent of Police, riding towards him from the opposite direction on a bicycle. They passed each other in the first instance but shortly after Mr. Powell, it is stated, overtook his jut while returning home and stopping the Municipal Chairman. Mr. Row said, he was not aware of any rule prohibiting him to drive in the centre. Mr. Powell said he would prosecute and Mr. Row replied he could do so. A complaint was preferred by Mr. Adimurti Row before the District Magistrate, the very next day. He promised enquiry and it is still pending. Meanwhile Mr. Powell held a charge sheet against Mr. Adimurti Row before the Bench Court of Anantapur accusing Mr. Adimurti Row of driving on the wrong side of the road so as to cause danger or obstruction—offence punishable under clause 3 Section 3 of the Town Nuisance Act.

The case was called on to-day at noon before the Bench consisting of the Stationary Second-Class Magistrate, Mr. R. Sambasiva Row, President and Messrs. Durgachellam Mudaliar, Giddappa Krishna Reddy and Hanumantha Rao.

Mr. Powell appeared exactly at 12 o'clock to which hour the case had stood posted.

Mr. P. Adimurti Row the defendant, turned up a few minutes earlier. He was defended by Mr. C. S. Subramaniam, High Court Vakil of Bellary instructed by Messrs S. Vedajay Row and S. Sundram Iyer, of the local Bar.

On the case being called on Mr. Adimurti Row denied the charge and claimed to be tried.

Mr. Powell, the only witness in the charge sheet, was then examined.

Mr. Powell deposed as follows:—

As I was riding on a bicycle on the Anantapur-Bellary High road on the 28th evening in the direction of the Railway Station, I met a pony jukka coming along from the direction of the Railway Station. The driver shouted out "high, high," in the way these men usually do. I was on the left side of the road in one of the wheel tracks. Being in a position I was legally entitled to occupy, I had no intention of getting out of the way. The jukka which was in the middle of the road made no attempt to get to one side but went straight on. The result was that if the jukka pony had not swerved at the last moment the jukka would have run into my bicycle and caused an accident. My contention is that the proper place of the jukka should have been on the left side of the road according to the section of the Act.

Cross-examined by Mr. C. S. Subramaniam.

I met the jukka on the Bellary Road just opposite the Collector's compound between the gate-way and the branch road to the west of the compound. It was not dark then. The road just there is very broad. I passed the jukka, turned round, followed it and overtook it near the bridge. I went a certain amount of distance moved on by the bicycle about 50 to 100 yards. The jut swerved and I also swerved. I rode and overtook the jukka and called out "Who are you?" There were I think three persons in the jut. No reply was given me at once. I then went on and stopped the jukka or rather I cannot say whether it stopped itself. I asked, who are you? Mr. Adimurti Rao pushed out his head and said "I am Adimurti Rao." I asked him, "are you, as Chairman not aware that you are bound to ride on the left side of the Street?" This was when I stood in front of the jukka. I cannot say who was seated in front. He said there are no such rules and he said it in a distinctly offensive manner.

Adimurti Rao was not driving the jukka but was sitting behind the driver. I got very annoyed at the ignorance displayed by Adimurti Rao as Chairman and Lawyer. I was also considerably annoyed by his not making an apology by saying that it was the fault of the servant. I did use some strong language. I admit what Adimurti Rao says. Continuing the words are two English and one Hindustani. There are damn-impudent, etc. Ignorance of law is no palliation and I can't say Adimurti Rao was right. He had only to stop his servant but he made no attempt at all. I think the pony swerved of its own accord. The cart track goes about the middle of the road. At this stage Mr. Powell remarked whether his deposition should be recorded in full and whether this case was not a non-applicable one.

Mr. Subramaniam interfered that just a little while ago Mr. Powell was hard upon Adimurti Rao for ignorance of the rule of the road. Here we are quite ignorant of the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code and yet have to deal with it every day and what is more we are paid for it whereas poor Adimurti Rao is not paid for as Municipal Chairmanship.

Witness continuing. When two vehicles meet one takes one-half and the other the other half. I maintain that I was entitled to the left rut. I did not think that it was any part of my duty to swerve away to the left. There was no question of Mr. Adimurti Rao being crowded for room. There was ample room for him to have kept his proper position. I was in my proper position. There was also space to move. I were was no talk when we passed each other at first. The road there is about 40 feet broad and has no houses either side. I know that Mr. Adimurti Rao, has complained to the Collector about the language used by me. I came to know of this on the 29th. There was not a single man or carriage at that part of the road then. I had seen Mr. Adimurti Rao several times but I could not say that I could have recognised him on seeing him. I don't think there have been any prosecutions under this clause. I have read the letter just shown me. Here Mr. Powell remarked is this letter to prove enmity between me and Adimurti Rao? If so it is rather silly and childish Mr. Subramaniam replied that this case and everything connected with it applied to him.

CAUTION.

Persons when travelling should exercise care in the use of drinking water. As a safeguard it is urged that every traveller secure a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy before leaving home to be carried in the hand bag, case and annoying distressing sickness and diarrhoea. For sale by All Chemists and Storekeepers. Price 1 Re. 9 Rs.

peared to him to be silly and childish and the defendant's filing the letter need not be grudged.

Witness.—The letter is mine.

N.B.—The letter is as follows.

From Mr. R. M. Powell, Esquire, Superintendent of Police Anantapur.

To the Chairman, Municipal Council, Anantapur.

Sir,—In reply to your letter, No. 476, dated 10-11-03 I have the honour to point out to you that you have evidently misunderstood the wording of the section, the English of which is clear enough. The wording of the section referred to (No. 56) is—"If in my half year, any person exercises such a profession * * * for 60 days with out paying * * * the Chairman shall serve * * * Now no one with the most elementary knowledge of the English language could construe this as meaning that when any person had not exercised his profession for 60 days the Chairman should serve him with a notice. As the claim of the Municipal Chairman is obviously bad in law and invalid, I have the honour to inform you that I refuse it and will not pay the amount.

I have etc., (Sd.) R. M. Powell.

Witness.—I have read the reply but I have no recollection of it. I remember tearing up passports. I think they were issued at Kallur. I cannot recollect if there was any official correspondence about it. I have some recollection that the Collector wrote to say it was illegal. I don't know on whose report it was. I can't recognize the men in the jut. There was no man running behind.

By Mr. Giddappa.—One of the Bench. I did not stop the jut at first when I met it because I was going fairly fast, the jut was going fairly fast and I had to go and turn round.

By Mr. Durgachellam Mudaliar.—It would be about 200 yards from where I met the jut at first to where I stopped it. Because Adimurti Rao accepted the responsibility by pushing out his head and talking to me I charged him. I could not swerve as I had no time to think.

By Mr. Hanumantha Rao. Defendant.—My handy was drawn by Talupoor Gundu Rao. He was seated in front. I was just behind him. There were two others in the handy, Municipal Magistrate N. C. Kuppusamy Naidu and Shroff Venkoba Rao. I saw the bicycle at a distance of 10 yards I asked the driver to move and he did. Mr. Powell passed on his way. He passed on two furlongs in the same rut and returned. If he chose, he could have applied brake and stopped the bicycle.

Judgment.

The Bench were unanimously of opinion that the driver is responsible, and not Mr. Adimurti Rao, and he was accordingly acquitted.—"Madras Standard"

ALLEGED PERJURY BY A VAKIL.

The further hearing of the case in which Mr. Salla Guruswamy Chetty is charged by Chinnathumby Moodeliar, with perjury was resumed on the 5th before Mr. W. E. T. Clarke, at the Egmore Police Court, Madras. Mr. A. S. Cowdell appeared for the prosecution, the accused being defended by Mr. T. Richmond. When the Court reassembled after tiffin, a somewhat important and novel question was raised as to the liability of Government to pay the batta and travelling expenses of witnesses when a private party was prosecuting undersanction obtained from the High Court. The point arose in connection with an application put in by Mr. Cowdell for the issue of gratis subpoenas for a number of witnesses, among whom one was at present residing in Erode. His Worship enquired of Mr. Cowdell whether he was appearing for Government in the present case, or had been retained by the complainant. Mr. Cowdell replied that he appeared under the sanction order granted by the High Court. His Worship remarked that it was the complainant who moved the High Court for sanction. Mr. Cowdell observed that the Madras rule was that Criminal Courts were authorised to pay the expenses of the complainant's witnesses in cases which were instituted by or under the orders of the High Court, or with the sanction of the Government. Counsel thought that that rule applied to the present case, because the sanction of a Judge was exactly the same as a Government prosecution. Otherwise there was nothing to prevent the parties colluding together and arranging among themselves not to pay the batta of witnesses and thus allowing the case to fall through. This was a most dangerous thing to allow, and Counsel suggested that that was the reason for the framing of the Rule; where there was a 'prima facie' case and the Court granted sanction, then the batta of witnesses could be paid because it could not then be considered a frivolous case. In fact, the sanction in such cases was granted in furtherance of the interests of public justice. Sanction was not given for any purpose of vindictiveness, but merely to see whether an offence had been committed, and if so that the offender was brought to justice. The prosecution of such a case by the party himself was merely an exception to the general rule under which the Police or some other Government official carried on such prosecutions. Mr. Richmond pointed out that the Section of the C. P. O. dealing with this matter laid down that the Court was authorised to pay, and not that the Court was bound to pay. His Worship said that the question was an important one and he could not pass a broad order without going thoroughly into the matter. It seemed to him that the Legislature had some special object in view in introducing into the Section the words "if the Court thinks fit." His Worship said that he would take time to consider the matter and pass orders to-morrow. At the special request of Mr. Cowdell, His Worship ordered subpoenas to issue gratis on the witnesses residing in Madras, but deferred granting a subpoena to the witness residing in the mofussil until the question of expenses had been settled. Mr. Leonard, the expert in hand writing, was then further examined by Mr. Cowdell at great length and the Court rose for the day, adjourning the further hearing of the case to 1 p.m. to-morrow.

BE FIRM.

When you ask for a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, do not allow the dealer to sell you a substitute. Be firm in your conviction that there is nothing so good. This medicine has been tested in the most severe and dangerous cases now crams, colds and diarrhoea and has never been known to fail. For sale by All Chemists and Storekeepers. Price 1 Re. 9 Rs.

THE Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, JULY 13, 1905.

THE PROPOSED ANTIDOTE TO OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT.

The wise statesmen, the early founders of the British Empire in India, realized that without a free indigenous press it would be impossible for them to govern India. For the rulers are only a few thousands in the midst of hundreds of millions, and it is the Indian press which keeps them acquainted with the innermost workings of the Indian society. Put out this light and the rulers will find themselves immersed in Cimmerian darkness; and even a "substantia" (all-knowing) man like Mr. Carey, who found fifty abuse in "good morning, Sir," will not be able to know what his Pushtoo-speaking Afghan menial is doing in his kitchen.

The Indian press, however, sometimes offends the authorities by criticising their indefensible doings and measures, and then they, in anger, try to extinguish it. The Afghan and the famine policy of Lord Lytton proved so great a failure that the Indian press opposed it furiously, and his Lordship's Government gagged it in a pet. Calmer counsels, however, prevailed afterwards and the measure was repealed. In the same manner, because the publication of the Gilgit document, by this journal, revealed the real reason why the Maharajah of Kashmir was deposed, the Lansdowne Government, therefore, in a fit of fury, thrust an Official Secrets Act upon the Indian public.

But that measure did not suffice. It was left to Lord Curzon and his Lieutenant, Sir A. Fraser, to introduce a real Official Secrets Act in India. If the provisions of the Act themselves were sufficiently alarming in their character, they were made still more so by the utterances of the Lieutenant-Governor, who, not only betrayed a deep-rooted prejudice against the Bengalee Press, but made it abundantly clear that he would not permit it to divulge any official information which, in his opinion, ought not to be disclosed.

The result is that, Indian papers do not now venture to publish even the most innocent document without the permission of the Government or without legal advice. Fancy, we had to consult one of the distinguished lawyers of Calcutta, before publishing what is known as the "Carlyle Circular," and when he could not give us a definite opinion, we had to seek the permission of the Hon'ble Mr. Carlyle to give publicity to it in our columns.

It should also be noted here that, never was the press more scantily furnished with official information as under the present regime. Previously official reports were fuller than now. These reports are now not only the driest of the dry, but they contain no or very little information about matters of public importance. Then again, previously the Government showed a good deal of interest in acquainting the press with any new measure it intended to inaugurate; but, now it shows no such desire.

About a year and half ago, an important movement like that of improving the village panchayat was inaugurated by the Local Government. But up to this time, not a scrap of official paper in this connection has been placed at the disposal of the press, though we repeatedly asked for information in our columns. Similarly, the Carlyle Circular, which created such a sensation, saw the light of the day through a mere accident. Copies of the Government Resolution and Mr. Curzon's letter on the rural primary schools, referred to by us in our last issue were also not circulated to the press. In short, all touch between the Government and the press has practically ceased under the present regime.

Both the Government and the public are losers by such an arrangement. Nay, we think, the Government suffers more than the people, for, relying upon false or garbled information, the press may be led now and then to attribute foul motives to the authorities though the latter, instead of abuse, perhaps deserved thanks. Recently two Calcutta papers had a hot discussion over the appointment of some Europeans as Police Inspectors. Both claimed that their sources of information were reliable, and yet one found it necessary to censure, and the other to defend, the Government. Such things are, however, not possible if correct information can be had from the proper sources. It is, therefore, very much to the interest of the Government that some arrangement be made whereby the press may be furnished with authentic information on matters of public importance.

It seems the Lieutenant-Governor has at last realized the situation, and is desirous of adopting some means by which authentic information on public questions may be given to the press. For this purpose, it is proposed, that editors of newspapers and the Secretaries of the Local Government should meet and discuss the question to-day. Of course the movement is based upon excellent motives and it has our hearty support; but, will it succeed? We ask this question from our previous experience of the subject.

It is quite true that the Hon'ble Mr. Carlyle and other Secretaries of the Local Government are liberal-minded administrators who are sincerely anxious to effect some real reform in this connection. But will they be permitted to have a free hand in the matter? The success of the movement lies in the nature of the information to be supplied to the press. Of course the press will not get anything very important: the Official Secrets Act itself, which remains unrevoked, shows it clearly. Now, this is not the first time that a reform of this kind has been attempted. There was a time when the Official Secrets Act did not exist, when a Press Commissioner was appointed to furnish information to the press. And yet what sort of information was usually sent to the papers? Well, it was something like the one we found the other day in an American paper, namely, that "the white Lemur in the New York Zoo has given birth to an offspring."

In India, the authorities, having regard to the provisions of the Official Secrets Act, may be led to go further and inform the newspapers in Bengal that, not only had the white bear died of heat, but the Chinese Amban was about to get a sunstroke. But what is the good? Is it possible for the Secretaries to make up

the obnoxious results of the Official Secrets Act, by supplying the press with information regarding the state of health of the inmates of the Zoo or of the Shah of Persia? Such gewgaws will not satisfy the press. The rulers of India had been able to manage the Empire without an Official Secrets Act for 150 years or more; but they can't do without one now. Is it possible that they have secrets which will not bear scrutiny, while their predecessors had no such dreadful secrets to deal with? Have they degenerated so much?

Mr. Risley, while Municipal Secretary of the Government of Sir Charles Elliott, also tried his best to supply official news to the press, but the project failed. We, however, wish every success to the proposed movement, though, we must say again, that we have been so often tantalized in regard to proposed concessions to the press that we cannot now accept anything on trust.

THE PARTITION QUESTION

THE FORTHCOMING FRANKENSTEIN.

The first effect of the announcement about the partition of Bengal was simple "stupefaction" of the nation. The leaders are, however, gradually recovering from the shock, and realizing the full import of the situation. The depth and intensity of the feeling which the news has produced may very well be judged from two or three notable incidents of the week. A public meeting was held on Friday last in pursuance to a requisition of the Sheriff of Calcutta to consider the steps to be taken for giving a suitable reception to their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales. The requisition was signed by all the leading men of Calcutta, and the requisitionists intended, one and all, to attend the meeting, and offer their humble tribute of loyalty to the august personages who are coming to honour their country with a visit. But the vast majority of them did not attend, for their hearts were too heavy with sorrow to permit them to join a joyous movement to express joy without doing violence to themselves. The meeting was thus attended practically by officials and those of our big men who are quite helpless and who have no independence in a matter like this.

Nor was this all. While the Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, and the Maharajahs were vying with one another in expressing their fervent loyalty, Mr. A. Choudhuri, one of the speakers on the occasion, found it necessary to acquaint the august assembly with the fact that the announcement of the partition of Bengal has been created in the public mind. He said, addressing the Lieutenant-Governor, who presided, and other gentlemen present, that the threatened partition "has been received with deep sorrow in this country. We hope it is not correct." Now, fancy that, one in Mr. A. Choudhuri's position, who, by the way, is not a "professional agitator"—this was admitted the other day in a letter to the "Sunjibani" by no less an authority than Sir Andrew Fraser himself—and who is one of the gentlest and quietest of our leading men, found it his duty to give vent to his surcharged heart in an assembly which was composed of the ruler of the Province and other high officials, and all the recognized loyalists of the country. And need we say that, Mr. A. Choudhuri voiced the feelings and sentiments of the entire nation, including the big men who attended the Town Hall meeting, when he said that the country has been overwhelmed with grief at the news of the proposed partition of Bengal.

Here is another incident of equally grave importance. There was a meeting of the Local Legislative Council on Saturday last. The subject of discussion was the Brothels' Bill, which was introduced by the Hon'ble Mr. Curzon. Three elected Members of the Council, however, took that opportunity of referring to the partition question, though there was of course no remotest connection between this matter and a measure that affects a number of unfortunate women in Calcutta. But what could these Hon'ble members do? The partition question was the uppermost thought in their minds. They could think of nothing else. They were also the representatives of the people in the Legislative Council, and they would have been guilty of a serious dereliction of duty to their constituents if they had not availed themselves of the first opportunity of letting the ruler of the Province know the alarm and consternation which have overtaken the nation by the proposed dismemberment of Bengal. The Hon'ble Mr. J. Choudhuri, who represents the Rajshahy Division, one of the doomed Divisions—most feelingly pointed out how the system of government in this country was being "Russianized."

The rulers may rest assured that there is now no other talk in the country except the one relating to the threatened partition of Bengal. In Calcutta, when you meet a number of men grouped together and holding discussion with a serious face, know for certain that they are talking about the partition matter. In parlours, in tram cars—nay, even in streets that is the common topic of the day. The leaders are, however, awaiting the publication of the Government Resolution on the subject. As soon as the formal announcement of the partition of Bengal is made, they will devise and adopt suitable means to open their campaign. The Government will then see what a Frankenstein it has raised.

The Indian nobility and the upper layer of the Indian gentry met, along with European officials and non-officials, at the Town Hall Friday evening last for the purpose of settling the question of giving a suitable reception to their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales. All these big Indians are not only big but very estimable men in their own way; and their loyalty is so assured that a public meeting is not wanted to prove it. Yet they have reasons to be loyal; for they hold the "patta" of their position from the Sovereign, and they are bound to feel grateful to him. The bulk of the population here, however, nothing to do with the kings and princes. So their loyalty is more valuable than that of big men. If they, therefore, come forward to welcome the Royal guests, that will please their Royal Highnesses and the people of England, nay, even the majority of Englishmen here, far more than an expression of loyalty from the big folk. So in order to establish the fact that

the masses are as loyal as the big men, facilities should be given to the lower millions to present an address to their Royal Highnesses in their own way. That will not only glorify British rule in India, but have another great effect. The people of India are treated as a conquered race. The very fact that they have been disarmed proves it. A large standing army of mercenaries also proves the same thing. Why these military mercenaries here? It is because the people of India are believed to be disaffected. But if the masses are able to show that they are not disaffected but are ardently loyal to the British Crown, then the pleas which enable a section of the rulers to inflict gross wrongs upon India will be removed. In short, if the fact can be established that there is no disloyalty in India through the need for the population, then the need for a standing army of foreigners or the disarmament of the nation at once disappears.

PARITION QUESTION IN THE COUNCIL.

The proceedings of last Saturday's meeting of the Bengal Council will, we doubt not, make a deep impression upon the minds of the rulers and the ruled alike. The subject of discussion before the Hon'ble members was the Brothels' Bill. But, of the four representative members present, three talked very little of that Bill, and devoted almost all their time and attention to the discussion of the question of the partition of Bengal, which was not before them. If the other representative member did not follow in the wake of his colleagues, it is, we believe, because, he does not belong to mafasil and represents only the Municipality of this city; besides, he has not yet fully recovered from the effects of his late serious illness. It is quite true that there is no connection between the Brothels' Bill and the partition question, and the members were thus guilty of irrelevancy. But, surely, the members themselves knew it as much as others; yet why did they commit this blunder? It is impossible for those who are not as powerfully affected by the partition question as the people of Bengal to realise their position.

When Renter announced that Mr. Brothrick had sanctioned the partition project, the country was shocked. The consternation was so great among the leaders of public opinion that they felt as if they were dazed. They could talk of nothing else except the threatened catastrophe. Two opportunities presented themselves to enable them to unburden their hearts immediately. One was the royal reception meeting held at the Town Hall on Friday last, and the other was the Bengal Council meeting which sat the following day. At the former meeting, which was presided over by the ruler of the Province, Mr. A. Choudhuri gave vent to the deep feeling of sorrow that has filled the hearts of the nation. That was also "irrelevant," and yet every body felt it was quite relevant, for the question of partition was uppermost in the minds of all. And hence no body took any exception to his allusion to the matter.

But the Council Chamber was a more suitable place for the leaders to relieve themselves of their surcharged hearts, and acquaint the authorities with the real state of things. As we said, absorbed with this subject, they discussed it over and over again amongst themselves, their hearts bleeding all the while. Just about this time the representative members were summoned to the meeting of the Legislative Council. If he had a Parliament, here, instead of a sham Legislative Council, the representative members would have at once moved for the adjournment of the House and the suspension of all business in view of the grave importance of the partition question. This our pseudo M. P.s could not do. So they adopted the only course that was within their reach; even at the risk of being called "irrelevant," namely, as the Bengalee phrase goes, "to sing the song about Mahi Ravan when they were asked to hush paddy," that is to say, they sought to tear the partition project to pieces when they were summoned to give their opinion on the "Brothels' Bill."

And thus when the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose commenced speaking regarding the Bill in question, he forgot all about it in a few minutes, and poured forth what was working in his mind and seeking an outlet. The outburst was as sudden as it was unique:—"Sir, before I sit down I may be permitted to say that we have met to-day under very peculiar circumstances, and though I rejoice in the introduction of this measure into the Council, I find it difficult to express myself in the way I should like to do. Our hearts are too full to-day with the recent intelligence of the calamity that has befallen us, a calamity unparalleled in the days of the Moghul or the Pathan, a calamity before which the abrogation of the gracious Proclamation of Her late Majesty under the present regime sinks in justy under its insignificance. Our hopes of a united Bengal of a great Bengali-speaking and nationality bound by common ties and prospering under a common Government, are gone. From henceforth the cup of bitterness will be our portion and all our energies and efforts must be directed to counteract the disintegrating influences that threaten to overwhelm us. Sir, this is not the time to dwell on this question, but it is so near our hearts that I could not altogether refrain from referring to it."

Babu Bhupendra Nath, in the above, not only represents his own feelings but those of the entire nation. He would have been wanting in his duty to himself, to his country, and to the Government if he had failed to utilize his position as a Member of Council for the purpose of letting the world know the indescribable consternation which the threatened partition of Bengal has created in the land. It is quite evident, Babu Bhupendra Nath's speech was not a premeditated one but the result of an impulse. Possibly he had not the least desire to be irrelevant. His heart was full, and so his thoughts rushed out in spite of himself. We cannot say with what feeling was this outburst of Babu Bhupendra Nath regarded by the Lieutenant-Governor. His Honour was no doubt taken unawares. But, it seems to us, his Honour was generously disposed; otherwise, he would not have allowed Babu Bhupendra Nath to follow up Babu Bhupendra Nath in the same eloquent way. Babu Ambika Charan's speech is a little long, but it will bear repetition, for he too spoke from the bottom of his heart.

"Sir, before Your Honour adjourns the Council for your autumn tour, I feel it my

painful duty as a humble representative of that Bengal to draw attention to a telegram from Renter as published in the morning papers of Thursday last which has fallen like a bombshell among the people. It is said that the Secretary of State has accepted the Government of India's scheme for the partition of Bengal. The people as yet know not what that scheme really is and what a grim mockery of fate that they should be told that it has already received the sanction of the highest authority in the administration. In December and January last attempts were made both in this as well as in Supreme Council to obtain information on the subject, but Your Honour's Government could not, and the Government of India would not, vouchsafe any replies. Judging by the light of this telegram, it would now seem that while in this state of doubt and uncertainty, not a few of us were sleeping in a fool's paradise fondly indulging in the dream that it is impossible for the British Government to condemn a whole people without giving them at least an opportunity to be heard in their defence: everything was being arranged quietly between the Government of India and the India Office to decide the fate of the unfortunate people of these provinces. The repeated prayers for the publication of the new scheme have thus gone entirely unheeded, while the telegram which they sent to the Secretary of State upon the vague, unauthorised information of the "Standard" and the "Indian Daily News" for the simple postponement of the final decision pending the receipt of a memorial which they have hastily despatched over the signatures of nearly 70,000 people of East Bengal has also been disregarded. Even the worst criminal has a right to be furnished with a copy of his indictment before he is condemned but here the Government have decided the fate of over 30 millions of His Majesty's innocent subjects without a hearing. It is also a melancholy irony of fate that this violent ukase, so painfully reminding the people of the utter futility of their opposition, should be issued at a time when they were so jubilant over the coming advent of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. Sir, their Royal Highnesses will come and go, but the bleeding hearts of their future subjects who will undoubtedly bless them, will also send forth the doleful strains of a mourning nation, and mar the harmony of a great rejoicing. Sir, the struggle of a helpless people is over, and here drops the curtain over one of the saddest tragedies ever enacted on the political stage in this country. The map of Bengal may now be rolled up; for it will not be necessary to open it within another hundred years."

In the midst of the speech of Babu Ambika Charan, the Lieutenant-Governor was found to lean back on his chair and shut his eyes. One could thus see that his Honour was feeling a little uncomfortable. He could not, however, fairly stop the next speaker, the Hon'ble Mr. J. Choudhuri when he too, after the Hon'ble Babu Ambika Charan had sat down, began to speak in the same strain. Mr. Choudhuri, after having made one or two complimentary remarks upon the Brothels' Bill, brought the partition matter to the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor pointedly, and in a way which is unprecedented in its character:—"I shall not be true to my position as a representative of the people, if I did not give expression to the profound grief, the sense of mortification and humiliation that have overtaken the whole of our people at the news that the Secretary of State has sanctioned the breaking up of the Province and people of Bengal in spite of the protest of Bengalees to a man."

As for my constituency in particular, I mean the whole of Rajshahy Division, the action of the Government is still more arbitrary and insidious. The Government proposals have never been communicated to a single soul in the whole of Northern Bengal and no opportunity given to the people of these parts to express their opinions of the country about the change. I am acquainted with the opinion, ideas and sentiments of all the men of light and leading in Northern Bengal; and I can assure you, Sir, that they will regard this violent disruption with their brethren as a dire national calamity that has befallen them under British rule. We part from your Government and this Legislature, and what is more, from our brethren, with a sense of a national wrong which will only serve to embitter our feelings towards the Government that has brought this about; and this surely will be productive of no good. The unanimous protest of the entire Bengalee-speaking people has been ignored in a manner more becoming a Minister of the Czar than the representatives of the most constitutional monarch on the face of this earth."

His Honour could stand it no longer. So he interrupted the Hon'ble Mr. Choudhuri with these words:—"I wish simply to say this. I have not interrupted hon. members in talking about a subject which is absolutely irrelevant to the subject now under discussion, because I have no desire whatsoever to appear to fall in sympathy with hon. members who feel as they do feel, and also because I think that under the peculiar circumstances of the case it is only natural that they should wish to say a few words; but I think I must ask hon. members not to abuse the patience of the Council and not to abuse the privilege given and use language which cannot be approved from this chair."

We beg his Honour's pardon. The Hon'ble members were not abusing but making very good use of their privilege. His Honour complains of his patience having been tried. On the other hand, we think, he should have thanked them for keeping him informed of the innermost workings of the hearts of the Indian people of which he was necessarily ignorant. Indeed, instead of showing impatience, Sir Andrew Fraser should have encouraged the Hon'ble Members to acquaint him more fully with the state of the popular feeling which has been called forth by the partition measure.

Mr. J. Choudhuri had not, however, finished when he was interrupted by the Lieutenant-Governor; so when the latter had ceased speaking he made the following stirring appeal to the Lieutenant-Governor:—"Sir, as we consider you, as not only the representative of our Sovereign but the representative of our people as well, my humble prayer to you to-day is that you would convey to the Sovereign our unanimous feeling and deliberate opinion that His Majesty's Ministers have been ill-advised in adopting the scheme, and that His Majesty may be yet pleased to stay the hands of his Ministers. With this prayer I resume my seat."

Let it be distinctly understood, that the message which Mr. J. Choudhuri delivered to His Honour was not his own, nor of the Division which he represents, but of the whole of Bengal. As the ruler of the Province and the sacred custodian of the destinies of its eighty millions of people, we fervently trust, Sir Andrew Fraser, will carry the message, through the proper channels, to the proper party, namely, the great King-Emperor whose subjects they are.

The "Englishman" talks of the irrelevancy of the Hon'ble members who, in the Council Chamber, talked of partition, instead of the Bill before them; and, he is further of opinion that the Government should not have permitted it, for according to our contemporary, "neither party was greatly the gainer by the incident." We do not agree with our esteemed contemporary. We thank His Honour for having permitted the members to speak out their minds; if he had, however, chosen to gag them, he would have lost an opportunity of feeling the pulse of the people. Thus, it is not correct that the Government did not gain by this "irrelevancy." This irrelevancy, as a fact, enabled an alien Government, not at all in touch with the eighty millions of Bengal, to know what their feelings were in regard to this question of partition. This irrelevancy will be also of advantage to the people; for they see in it that a country is "Ekdil"—of one mind—in the matter of this question.

Four or five years ago when a Theatrical company was entertaining Europeans at Chowringhee, the news of a victory over the Boers was telegraphed to Calcutta. And what was the result? Those present began to dance, cheer, shout, wave their hats, betraying many other symptoms of madness. But yet no body blamed them for their irrelevancy. In the same manner when the three brave members of the Bengal Council gave vent to their feelings at a moment when their hearts were bleeding, and betrayed some irrelevancy, they did what was only natural. The three members have done a work which deserves a page in history. They have done what was never done before.

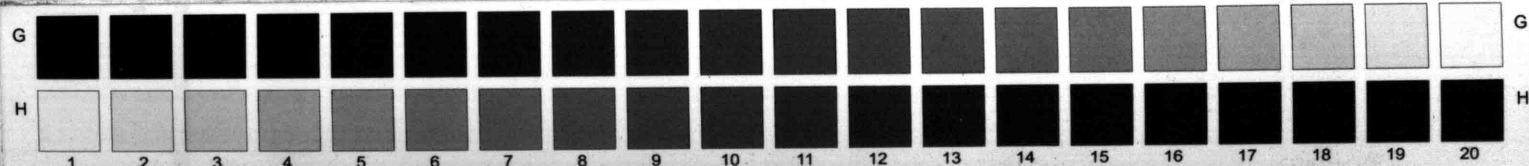
Referring to the Royal Reception Fund what we find is that the amount subscribed by our big men comes to Rs. 68,736. This is all right. But how much are they going to subscribe for the Bengal Partition Fund? It is no doubt their duty to show their loyalty to their Royal Highnesses, but let them not also forget that they have a duty to the country. Indeed, if Bengal is dismembered, they will not be able to show their loyalty in the magnificent manner of the present day; for, they will have to pay nearly double of what they do now as taxes to meet the cost of administration, which will be nearly doubled. And then, where is the guarantee that the Permanent Settlement will not be in due course dismembered along with Bengal? The donors have to remember another thing. It was our esteemed countryman, Sir Gurudas Banerjee, who gave a hint of it in his speech at the Town Hall meeting. This is what he said:—"I only express a hope that while imitating the magnificence of Nature, the committee will see its way towards arranging things so that the necessary transitory fervour of the joyous occasion may be behind some bright work of usefulness to man to commemorate the auspicious visit of their Royal Highnesses."

When the present King-Emperor came to this country in the seventies, the defunct Indian League, under the auspices of Sir Richard Temple, commemorated his visit by an institution called the "Albert Temple of Science." It was doing splendid work, but its usefulness was considerably marred by the withdrawal of a large amount of its fund by the late Sir Ashley Eden in a pet. It has, however, yet a fund of over Rs. 45,000, in the hands of a Committee, who have kept the institution afloat somehow or other all this time. Now, after meeting the necessary expenses for the entertainment of their Royal Highnesses, why not pay the balance to the Committee of the Albert Temple of Science, and render the institution, which bears the name of the King-Emperor, a more useful one? We trust, the matter will engage the attention of the Executive Committee of the Royal Reception Fund.

From the English papers received by the last mail, it appears that the following questions were put by Mr. Weir in the House of Commons to the Secretary of State for India:—

- (1) If he will state how many ryots have been evicted in the Madras Presidency in default of payment of Land Revenue in each of the last five years, and what sum has been realised in each year through the sale of land previously in the occupation of the evicted ryots.—June 20.
- (2) If he will state the value of the salt sold annually to each Native State of India, with the population of each such State.—June 20.
- (3) Having regard to the fact that some of the Native States of India enjoy the right to purchase salt from the Government of India free of duty, whereas other Native States do not enjoy that privilege, will the question of conceding this right to all Native States be considered.—June 20.
- (4) Whether he is aware that Mr. Burkill, officiating Judge at Allahabad, recently passed a sentence of six years' rigorous imprisonment on the Chaukidar Mahabir for the theft of letters of the property of the Post Office; and, having regard to the fact that less severe punishment is inflicted for similar offences in this Country, will he suggest the expediency of a reconsideration of the case with a view to a remission of part of the sentence.—June 22.
- (5) If the Government of India will consider the expediency of making the appointment of a third judge for the province of Oudh permanent instead of merely temporary.—June 22.

Here are the answers to the above:—
"1. Number of defaulting ryots whose holdings were sold.
1899-1900 1900-1 1901-2 1902-3 1903-4
10,179 14,760 10,649 7,766 4,946
Amount realised by sale.
Rs. Rs. Rs. Rs. Rs.
191,814 270,652 152,433 133,678 97,129
2. If, as I presume, the question has reference to the salt supplied in specified



quantities and on privileged terms by the British Government to certain Native States under special Treaty engagements, I will ask the Government of India to have such a Return prepared.

"3. The right in question exists in virtue of special Treaty engagements, as the honourable Member was informed in answer to his Questions of 16th December 1902 and 23rd March last. It is not proposed to extend the concession to other States.

"4. I have observed a report of the case referred to in the newspapers. The accused appears to have committed an extensive series of thefts and to have stolen considerable sums of money contained in the intercepted letters. It is open to him to appeal to the High Court and the Governments of the United Provinces and India in regard to the severity of the sentence, and I see no reason to interfere.

"5. I agreed in April last on the recommendation of the Government of India to the third Judge in the Chief Appellate Court in Oudh being made permanent."

A CORRESPONDENT from Sheohar has sent us a letter in which he has sought to justify the conduct of the Collector of Gorakhpore and the Manager Mr. Judson towards the Rani of Tamkuhi. The writer admits the correctness of the allegations already published in the Indian papers about this sensational matter, and the only point he urges on behalf of these European officials is, that they acted from the best of motives. Well, one may, with the best of motives, administer a large quantity of arsenic to another, but the result is sure to be the death of the latter. We, however, learn from the letter of our correspondent that, while the Rani has memorialized the Government of India, awaiting the removal of her grievances, the marriage of her son with the Sheohar Raja, which is the subject matter of her complaint, was celebrated on the 24th June last! Now suppose the minor, on attaining to majority, abandons his wife and marries again to oblige his mother, will the Manager, the Collector, the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Viceroy come forward to the rescue of the unfortunate girl? And can our correspondent explain why was a European Manager thrust upon a Hindu estate?

A MOPASIL banker, known to many big officials whom he has often to pay court, was regretfully telling us the other day that his firm resolve was to avoid Europeans but he could not do it. It is all very well, said he, to count Europeans among your friends, acquaintances or patrons, but they rarely do you any good; on the other hand, they generally tax your pocket. No sooner you become familiar with a European than, as a rule, your money begins to ooze out. "Two years ago," he continued, "a Shaheb wanted to shoot in a jungle which I have the misfortune to possess in my Zemindari. I had to spend something like ten thousand rupees to meet the wishes of the Shaheb and the cost of the hunting party. I came to Calcutta to attend the jayanti meeting at the Town Hall, and I thought I should take this opportunity of paying my respects to my patrons here. I saw some of them; they talked with me, on an average, for 5 minutes, and gave me the gracious permission of sitting on a chair near them and shaking their hands. But when I came back I saw my house besieged by a troop of orderlies, who must have their bucksheesh. I paid a couple of Rupees to each, and they threw the money to my face! So by coming in contact with big Shahebs you only lose your purse. If you go today to your respects their servants, and sometimes the servants of their neighbours, will fleece you. I heartily welcome his Royal Highness here, but why should I be compelled to part with money in this way which I can ill afford to do?"

Is a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals is needed, a society for the prevention of cruelty to poor clerks from over-work is a greater necessity. Take the case of the sufferings of the clerks of the Postal Accounts offices. It is not generally known that on more than one occasion work was done in Nagpur and Delhi offices on Sundays. Would it be believed that the same thing happened in the Savings Bank Department of the office of the Comptroller of Post Office on the 4th June last? The Comptroller issued orders to close his own office as well as offices under his control on the 4th July on account of the Hindu festival "Rath Jatra," but unfortunately the clerks of the office of the Deputy Comptroller of Post Office were deprived of the holiday. We are told that the clerks were denied this holiday because there were arrears of work. But why has the work been allowed to accumulate? It is due to shortness of hands, and not to the negligence of clerks. We hope the authorities will enquire into the cause of the arrears of work now existing which, as we said, has resulted from insufficient number of hands.

Our kind friend "Justice" says:—

"India to-day," said Major E. Fitzgerald Law, lecturing at the London Chamber of Commerce, "is prosperous as regards both its economic and financial position." If that is so, there must be some mistake about all these stories of famine and pestilence. Or is it possible that the natives of India have been learning of the disciples of prophet Malthus, and are deliberately reducing their numbers by starvation and plague?

Our distinguished countryman Mr. R. C. Dutt is, we hear, doing useful work in the territories of H. H. the Gaekwar of Baroda. These reforms, which he could only suggest to the British Government, have found a place where they could be not only introduced by their author, but actually superintended and carried out personally. Well, before Mr. Dutt's appointment in H. H. the Gaekwar's service, the land revenue rules were little more satisfactory than those obtaining in the neighbouring British provinces. At his initiation and under his supervision a new experiment is at present being tried of the ryots having the choice to pay in cash or kind at their own convenience. Any disputes as to the real produce of the land and the State dues are to be settled regularly in a court of justice, and the revenue officer cannot arbitrarily fix the same. Mr. Dutt is also expected to reform the administra-

tion of other branches of the State. Indeed, his vast administrative experience and knowledge which he has obtained in British service are being fully utilized and given free and fair play to in Baroda. What a pity, the talent and experience of Mr. R. C. Dutt should be utilized by an Indian State and not the British Government in its Indian territory! If men like Mr. Dutt were born in a free country he would have found opportunities to distinguish himself in various ways and taken a foremost place as a wise and great statesman in the world. But as an unfortunate Indian, he is destined to remain where he is. In Baroda, however, he has some opportunities for displaying his administrative powers; though he is there only for a year and half he has already made his mark in a very conspicuous manner.

It is not known beyond some personal friends of Mr. Tilak that the latter has invented Marathi letters for his newly-designed linotype machine. A gentleman from Bombay has sent a proof sheet printed from these types. The printing is first class. Mr. Tilak is at present engaged in making an addition to the existing lino machine in the shape of a new case, which he wants to get made either in England or in America. And this is the man whom some high Bombay officials sought to brand as a criminal and send him to jail!

SCRAPS.

As announced in these columns a meeting was held at the Writers' Buildings on Monday under the presidency of the Chief Secretary, Mr. Carlyle, for giving facilities to the press in respect of the supply of information. The editors of the "Statesman," "Indian Daily News," the "Bengalee" and the "Hindu Patriot" attended the meeting. The Chief Secretary announced the resolution of the Government to give greater facilities to the press by starting a Press Room.

The last issue of "Charu Mihir" again loudly complains of oppression on the people by the bad characters of the district. The paper puts forth several causes as to why many cases of oppression fail in courts of law and the chief among them is that those who actually witness the occurrences dare not come forward with their evidence lest they should be tormented and oppressed by the notorious characters. And in support of its argument, the paper has published eighteen specific instances in which witnesses in such cases have been harassed and tortured by the badmashes. The district authorities should take special note of this.

In our issue of the 27th ultimo, we referred to a police enquiry of sensational nature that was going on at Samastipur, (District Durbhanga), regarding an assault alleged to have been committed upon one Behari Lal Pal by Mr. Garlie, the Sub-Divisional Officer, under circumstances already published. The matter has been compromised as the following letter from Samastipur under date the 7th instant will show: "Police Inspector Babu Mohesh Chandra Pal, after finishing his enquiry, submitted his report to Mr. Haycock, Collector of Durbhanga. It is alleged that Mr. Garlie, the Sub-Divisional Officer of Samastipur, admitted the fact of the assault before the Police officer. Mr. Haycock took up the matter, and demi-official correspondence passed between the Collector and the Sub-Divisional Officer, the contents of which are not known to the outside public. Day before yesterday, Behari Lal was called by the Sub-Divisional Officer at his bungalow. The Sub-Divisional Officer asked Behari Lal to withdraw the complaint and not to proceed further. The case has thus been compromised."

The Committee of the Indian Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition of the Twenty-first Indian National Congress to be held at Benares in 1905, have issued their prospectus which contains all necessary information concerning the Exhibition. It will be remembered that since 1901 an Industrial Exhibition has been held in connection with the annual session of the Congress. Such Exhibitions were held at Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Madras and Bombay; an agricultural side having been added to it at the last named place. It is proposed to hold the 5th Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition at Benares about the time the Congress meets there in December next. Though the Exhibition is held under the auspices of the Congress its accounts are kept separate, and any surplus from the Exhibition funds is not devoted to the purposes of the Congress. The Exhibition is intended to give an idea of the present condition of Indian Industries and agriculture and the possibilities of their future development. It is true that Commercial enterprise is not the sole requisite for national greatness, yet no one will deny that material progress is essential to the prosperity and well-being of the community and the conviction is growing year by year that the manufacturer no less than the scholar, the mechanic no less than the teacher and the clerk has an honourable place in the State. It is being more and more realised that agriculture and other industrial pursuits offer a wide and useful field for brain as well as muscle, for minds of every calibre and for the application of the most advanced scientific knowledge. The Exhibition will aim at bringing together specimens of the natural products of India and modern appliances by which Indian industries may be improved. The Committee will be prepared to receive exhibits which will include and illustrate among others:—1. The natural products of India; 2. Indigenous industries; 3. Industries introduced or modified by foreign influence; 4. Appliances relating to Indian agriculture and manufactures, whether such appliances are made in India or imported; 5. Medical and sanitary apparatus and appliances; 6. Indian Art and 7. Educational apparatus and appliances. It is hoped that the holding of such Exhibitions may encourage some of our countrymen to follow in the steps of those who have devoted capital and skill and energy to the fostering of old and the initiation of new industries. The Committee attaches special importance to the popularising of a knowledge of improved agricultural implements, appliances, and methods, for it is believed that by the adoption of these India can produce far larger and better crops than are at present obtained. Seeing that the scope of the Exhibition is national, the Committee confidently asks for generous assistance, both in the form of subscriptions to cover the heavy expenses of such an Exhibition, and in the hearty co-operation of all (especially by sending Exhibits), for there is no class of the community whose interests are not likely to be promoted by the Exhibition.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, June 23, 1905.

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK.

"Aspire, break bounds, I say,
Endeavour to be good, and better still,
And best, Success is nought,
Endeavour's all."—Robert Browning.
"Our greatest glory consists, not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

—Oliver Goldsmith.

THE BUDGET DEBATE.

The longest day of the year has come and gone, and with it the Indian Budget debate at Westminster. The occasion is likely to stand out as memorable among Indian debates in the House of Commons more in its results than in the actual proceedings of the afternoon and evening. Usually the optimistic statement made to Parliament by the Indian Secretary falls on scarcely heeding ears and tired minds, to say nothing of empty benches, and Indian affairs go on their way unhampered by any cogent and formidable array of opinion on the subject in England. Thus it has been of late years; there were times when a different state of things prevailed. But a bureaucracy, perpetually sounding its own trumpet and strong in its own righteousness, has done much towards magnetising the British public into a feeling that all is well in India, the men in charge are upright and to be trusted, why, therefore, trouble about bewildering details and complicated methods? However, the 1905 debate will not pass quietly into history almost as though it had never been; it is fraught with vital issues. Not only did military matters loom large in their changing aspect, but such questions as the treatment of Indian subjects of the Crown in South Africa—most ably and effectively championed by Sir M. M. Bhowmaggree—and reform in internal administration of India were brought forward in such a manner as to promise definite results. The progress to be looked for may be only very small compared with that which is desired, but some steps in advance there will be and, as such, they will be welcome.

The work of the National Congress was referred to with approval in the course of the debate, and though a dissentient voice was heard from the Government side of the House and the Secretary of State would not so much as mention the name of this Indian Parliament, the sterling character of the organisation was emphasised, and also the fact that to regard it as hostile and seditious was completely wrong. Then, too, there were echoes of the Viceroy's unpopularity and the protest meetings; it was not to be expected that so "official" a member of the Liberal Party as Mr. Haldane would look with favour upon the extreme measures to which Indians have been provoked, but he emphatically declared that he wished it to be understood that a watchful eye was being kept on what was going on in India. Mr. Haldane's intervention in the debate was unusual; he has not hitherto distinguished himself conspicuously as a speaker on Indian subjects; when he has gone more closely into the study of them he will, no doubt, be led to modify some of his statements of Wednesday afternoon. The only recruit for Indian matters—distinctly Indian, not Anglo-Indian—was Mr. Cathcart Wason, who, as previously mentioned in these communications, represents the northern isles of Orkney and Shetland in the House of Commons. He was successful in the ballot in obtaining a place for the first amendment, and was the first speaker in the debate to set forth the fact that the condition of affairs in India was not so rosy as had been painted by officials and ex-officials. He made only a short speech and restricted his remarks principally to representation and periodical enquiries; though not brilliant, his first speech on Indian affairs may be counted as useful. Of course the veterans, Mr. Samuel Smith, Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. Herbert Roberts, Sir Mancherjee, Sir Henry Fowler, Lord George Hamilton all had their say, dealing with India from the varying standpoints from which they are accustomed to regard it, but there were also others who had no chance of catching the eye of new occupant of the Speaker's Chair. There was, I understand, some slight misunderstanding as to the actual day on which India was to occupy the attention of the House. The 21st of June was originally fixed and adhered to; but the first whip sent out to Liberal members after reassembling from the holidays put the Indian Budget down for today (Friday); Thursday, too, was understood by others to be the appointed day, and one honourable member—one of the crowded out number—was so convinced that Wednesday would not be the Indian day that he invited a number of his fair friends for tea on the Terrace on that day, so as to be free for Thursday or Friday as the case might be. It is not easy to understand how this bungling arose, but it remains a fact nevertheless.

On entering the House I was forcibly reminded of a previous occasion when the unwelcome appearance (for an Indian day) of members jostling each other in their anxiety to pass the swing door betokened the precedence of another interest than that of the great Indian Empire. Readers of the "Patrika" will not have forgotten that during the course of the South African war, the late Mr. Cairne, by the fortune of the ballot, secured for India an unexpected place in the business of the House and was prepared to bring forward a number of important questions relating to her welfare. He was to be ably supported also by those who look at India with other than official eyes. Alas for expectations! As a matter of urgent importance, the question of the remount scandals came before India; so strong was the indignation on this point that the debate went on hour after hour and it seemed as though India would be effectually hustled out of the Parliamentary arena. The result was not quite so bad as that, but when Mr. Cairne eventually got his opportunity a late hour of the sitting had been reached, and only a short time remained for his Indian speech. If I remember correctly only one, at most, two, speakers were able to follow him in addressing an almost empty House ere the cry sounded, Who goes home?

On Wednesday, however, the result was not so serious. An African scandal was again a point of urgent importance, and the full House had gathered to hear Mr. Balfour rather than Mr. Brodrick. There

was a short, if fierce, fusillade of questions and then the Prime Minister announced the decision of the Government to appoint a Commission to enquire into the terrible waste of public money in connection with the stores department after the conclusion of the war. This point conceded, honourable members trooped solemnly out into the June sunshine leaving comparatively few to listen to the official Indian statement. This uncompromising attitude towards India is adopted by the occupants of the Government Benches as well as by the rank and file of the Parties, and throughout the whole sitting Mr. Brodrick alone represented the Cabinet when the welfare of three hundred millions of British subjects was being discussed. Such conduct is disgraceful; India may not be "in my department," but India is the most important part of the Empire, and surely deserves some consideration from those who control Imperial machinery. Still, the attendance, apart from the Treasury Bench, was a distinct improvement on recent records, and it was only from, say, nine o'clock to about a quarter to ten (when the discussion was resumed after the interval for dinner) that the house presented the usual "Indian" aspect—a mere handful of members on either side. This state of affairs improved later in the sitting; so, taken as a whole, the attendance must be regarded as fairly satisfactory, but there is still room for much greater improvement in this respect.

One word as to visitors. During the afternoon the Strangers' Galleries were largely in possession of Indians; but whether it was the heat of the House or the character of the debate, the fact remains that comparatively few had had patience to retain their seats up to the adjournment at 7-30 p.m. At nine o'clock fresh Indian faces appeared, but scarcely one was left when the division was taken. The attitude of the House towards India may well arouse feelings of resentment in the minds of Indians themselves, but those who find themselves in London, and in possession of the necessary papers to enable them to pass the keen-eyed officials on duty and take a seat in one of the galleries, should have sufficient interest in their country's welfare to listen to every word that is said with regard to it once a year. The India Office officials, of course, occupied their usual seats in the left-hand seats under the peers gallery; Mr. Brodrick more than once left his seat to have a little consultation with them, and Lord George Hamilton appeared to be having a very pleasant chat with his former colleagues. In the Peers' Gallery were to be seen the Marquis of Bath and Lord Reay, but Ascot—its horse racing and the presence of Royalty—proved a greater attraction for most of our hereditary governors than the House of Commons. Sir William Wedderburn, with Mr. Laiput Rai, the recently arrived Panjabi delegate of the Congress, found seats under the Gallery on the opposite side to those occupied by the India Office representatives.

Now some indication as to the trend of the speeches, the verbatim report of which will, no doubt, reach you in due course. Mr. Brodrick spoke at length twice he gave an annual statement on Indian affairs, of course, at the opening of the proceedings, and about 11-30 p.m. replied to some of the criticisms that had been made during the debate. His first, and longest effort—though it lasted little more than sixty minutes—began with what he called "drawbacks" and concluded with jubilation over remarkable successes. Plague and earthquake formed an admirable foil to surplus revenue, sources of prosperity, agricultural progress, etc. It was well, from his point of view, to begin with disasters, and then to travel onwards to subjects of a more satisfactory nature; for by the time the Secretary had concluded his discourse he was out of the darkness of despair and into the bright sunshine of prosperity. Just a quotation or two will show his line of thought. With regard to plague mortality he expressed the regret that the Government of India could not deal with the whole population as they could with the army and prisoners in gaols. He maintained that if infected clothing had been burned, infected buildings properly dealt with, travellers from infected stations segregated, and other smaller remedies applied, "this great mortality might have been to a large extent arrested." "I grant at once that if it were possible to apply in India all the remedies which science suggests and good government can afford we might largely decrease the present exceptional and unfortunate mortality." He did not propose to devote any of the immense expenditure to be allocated to the destroying of life—military preparations—to the saving of life in India itself. Money—the people's money—was poured out like water when the Russian bogey is raised, but can only be doled out in dribs and drabs when the lives of India's millions are in question. But to continue. Then came all kinds of proofs of the wonderful prosperity of India: improved agriculture, an excellent railway policy (neither did the Secretary mention the fact that for many years the railways have been like a millstone round the neck of the Government; they have just begun to pay, and are, in consequence, glorified, increased trade increased absorption of precious metals, and more money in the Savings Banks. "All this evidence shows that the Government of India are within their rights in treating the present prosperity as the result of ascertainable causes and not due merely to fortuitous windfalls." "Application of the surplus" as the official designation of legislation for giving back to the people money that was wrung from them, and much credit thereby redounds to the generous Government. Speaking of irrigation, briefly, however, and the recommendations of the Commission, Mr. Brodrick remarked: "I have no apology for the fact that the amount to be spent on protective works is larger than that on productive works. . . . Having regard to their advantage to the public it is right that we should in those parts of India that are less favourably situated give the advantage to the general revenue in favour of operations which save so much suffering." On railways, which, as I have indicated, were loudly extolled, the Secretary observed: "I should like to double the present rate of railway construction. I believe that by doing so we shall not only add girth to the mill of the Government, but confer incalculable advantage upon the individual." Developments with regard to agriculture and to commerce were explained, and it was observed that a new department was only created to relieve over-worked men, not for the sake of finding fresh employment,

Sandwiched into the middle of the speech was the question of increased military charges and the changes in military administration. Considered in the light of cabled messages from Simla which appear in this morning's papers, Mr. Brodrick's remarks appear in a significant light. Lord Kitchener is to have his way, practically, and the military autocracy which the Government of India deprecated is to be set up, if not actually in name, yet in practice. The new military supply department is to be store-keeper to the army, and the war lord is to be supreme in the whole of the combatant service. To-day we hear that General Elles has resigned, and that his resignation has been accepted. These facts and the further changes that will take place afford ample material for the declaration that the debate of 1905 on Indian affairs, at Westminster will not pass into history without leaving its permanent effects upon the history of the Indian administration. Efficiency is one thing in military affairs; autocracy is another. But these changes show how strong, if insidious, is the tendency which increases the burdens of the taxpayer—both in India and in England—by maintaining at and beyond war height, military expenditure in time of peace. There is a direct effort going on in many directions to render impossible reasonable reduction in military or naval armaments within the Empire. But that is a matter which must not be further pursued here. In this connection I can only add an extract from Sir Charles Dilke's able speech in which he declared that "in a moment, because Lord Kitchener and the present military Member of Council did not agree, the whole system of army administration in India had been blown to the winds, and the Government had attempted to settle it (by a settlement which was no settlement at all) behind the back of Parliament." So much for the speech of the Secretary for India which wound up with the pious hope that the next few years would show even more substantial building for the welfare of India and her many people than the past had done.

THE BUDGET DEBATE.

Sir Henry Fowler, as is his wont, extended his blessing to the financial statement, suggested minor improvements such as the conversion of rupees into pounds in financial documents, or into tens of rupees; he approved of the remission in the salt tax and urged still further concessions. But he dissented from the military policy of the Government. While admitting that India must be protected, he declared that she was less liable to attack now than at any time during the last fifty years, and he added, "to impose upon the taxpayers of India, as well as of this country, an enormous increase of expenditure for the defence against aggression of the north-west frontier was a policy which would require the most careful consideration of the country as a whole." He touched on the fiscal question as it affects India, and concluded his speech by championing the cause of Indian emigrants to the Transvaal, and supported the Viceroy in his decision not to allow Indian labourers to become virtual slaves in the new colonies.

Lord George Hamilton again spoke with a freedom which contrasts strongly with his official utterances as Indian Secretary; he offered few critical remarks as to internal administration, but with regard to frontier policy he made some weighty observations. I quote a few of his sentences: "I have been for so many years habituated to the idea that it was within the bounds of possibility that Russia might invade India by Afghanistan that, perhaps, I am less apprehensive than some of my late colleagues who have only recently taken to studying that question."

"I think they are unduly apprehensive. I agree that our military arrangements should be made with a view to dealing with that emergency, but at the same time I do not think it is wise policy to let the idea of a Russian invasion absolutely dominate our whole Indian policy and military establishments."

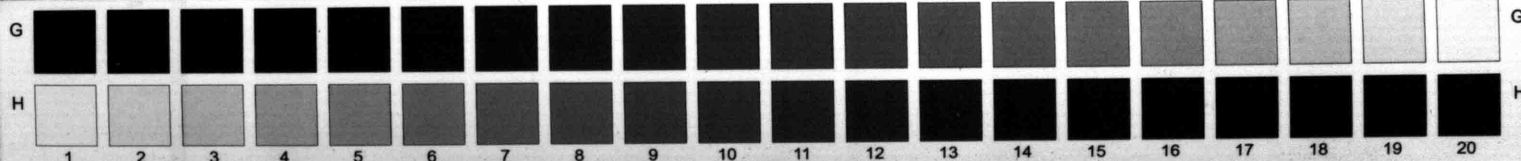
"Our most important defence is the character of the people in the centre and east of Afghanistan. They are brave fighters." "I hold it to be of prime importance that we should remain on good relations with the Afghans and the tribes of the North-West Frontier. If the Amir and the Afghans had strong objections to the introduction of railways and telegraphs the Government had acted wisely in continuing the arrangement made with the late Amir."

As to the change in the position of the Commander-in-Chief, Lord George considered something more drastic was required. He would do away with the office of Commander-in-Chief and establish a Minister for War in his place. "I dare say," he continued, "that the present arrangement may satisfy Lord Kitchener for a time, but I do not think it will last."

To Mr. Haldane's speech I have already briefly referred and can only add that he protested against the increasing military expenditure as alarming, and remarked that "it raised the question as to whether it was not hard on the people of India that they should bear so heavy a burden for political reasons which, probably, would not exist but for the relations of Great Britain to foreign countries." The honourable member hits the right nail on the head in this remark; it would be well if the authorities could see facts in this light.

My space running out, even though this Letter be entirely devoted to the Budget debate, so I must pass on to the speeches of the "reformers," as various members of the India Party in the House are designated. Mr. Samuel Smith seconded the motion proposed by Mr. Cathcart Wason. I give you its exact terms: "To call attention to the condition of the Indian people, and to the necessity for greater opportunities for the Parliamentary discussion of Indian affairs; and to move, That, considering the great importance of Indian questions and the desire of the Indian people to lay their grievances before Parliament and to ask for improvement in the administration of their country, it is absolutely necessary, in the interests alike of India and the United Kingdom, that periodical Parliamentary inquiries into the administration of India be revived, that the salary of the Secretary of State for India be placed upon the British Estimates, and that greater opportunities be given for the Parliamentary discussion of Indian affairs."

The veteran was in good form, but his voice is not very robust, it was a little difficult to honourable members to catch all that he said. His long speech was a careful



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statement of the case for the wider employment of Indians in the service of their country. The present Government of India, he contended, was, at best, a poor form of Government. The officials might be honest, able, and conscientious, but the form of government left the people no opportunity to rise in the direction of self-government. The Secretary of State was advised by officials and ex-officials but, he did not hear the voice of India. More liberal methods must prevail. "Why should there not be," he asked, "three or four distinguished gentlemen of India returned to the Council of the Secretary of State by the Legislative Assembly in India? And the Viceroy should have on his executive Council at least one distinguished Indian gentleman." Mr. Smith declared that "If these reforms had been adopted years ago, I believe we should have escaped the two Afghan wars and possibly even the mutiny might have been avoided." His representation scheme went further and included the return to the House of Commons of three Indian members by the electorates of the three presidencies in India, that returned members to the Legislative Councils of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. "It might be arranged," he added, "that they should only speak on Indian questions, but they would be able to voice the grievances, aspirations, and feelings of the three hundred millions of India." These moderate changes, he considered, would give great satisfaction in India, and would allay that discontent which might give way to disloyalty if no change took place. The Anglo-Indian official, he added, knew that changes must come, and he boldly declared that the Secretary of State at home knows very little of India.

He then passed on to economic problems, suggested the composition of debts, remissions of assessments, the pursuance of a liberal irrigation policy, technical training and industrial education to be fostered. On the point of military expenditure, as I have mentioned, he was emphatic: he considered that domestic needs outweighed those of the army, or the theory of Indian defence so magnified at present. The sums allotted to education, as compared with those allotted to military needs, were ridiculous. "Altogether," you will understand, Mr. Smith made a good fighting speech. He was followed by Major Evans Gordon, who contended that it was foolish to ask for periodical enquiries into Indian affairs, for it would bring India into the arena of party politics—the old contention. He did not at all agree with the present state of affairs regarding Afghanistan, and was anxious that diplomacy should convince the Amir "that his safety lay in allowing us to establish telegraphic and railway connection between Quetta and his remote, exposed frontier in the Herat province. It will not be surprising to hear that the honorable member condemned the Congress and all its works."

After this speech, Mr. Herbert Roberts got his turn. He emphatically declared that the Congress does represent educated opinion in India, and that to regard it as hostile to the government was a fallacy. Discussion of Indian affairs in the House also conducted to good results, often to practical reforms, instigated by him with regard to the liquor traffic. It was Mr. Roberts, too, who directed attention to the effect of the Japanese victories upon Indian opinion, and maintained that the moment was opportune for the British Government to show the people of India their sympathy for the desire that had been expressed for an improvement in the mode in which they were governed.

Of Sir Manchester's able speech on behalf of the British Indians in South Africa I can say little more than what I have already written. He laid the case of their grievances clearly before the House, showing how they were treated worse under the direct Government of the Crown than under the Boer Republic. He explained the steps taken both in England and in South Africa to right the wrong, and declared that Lord Milner had not done what he might have done to bring about amity and concord between two outlying parts of the Empire, and that Sir Arthur Lawley had actually given encouragement to those who, without cause, displayed hostility to the people of India in the Colony. The honorable member was the only one who referred to the coming visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to India, and recommended that it should be commemorated by the establishment of the Indian Privy Council, a scheme, abortive in practice, proposed to celebrate the 1877 Durbar when Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India. He did not agree to the proposed periodical enquiry, regarding it as an impeachment of the rulers of India and damaging to the prestige of the administration.

Sir Charles Dilke, as I have intimated, defended the military system of India, and strongly protested against the manner in which drastic changes and vast expenditure were being rushed through without any one really understanding what was involved. As to Lord Kitchener's redistribution scheme, nobody knew its details, not even the members of the Viceroy's Council, and yet the consent of Parliament was asked to a matter the details of which had not been agreed upon. He considered it unfair to Parliament and to the people of India. Other speakers were Sir J. Fergusson, who voiced the official view, Mr. Emmott, who deprecated large surpluses as leading to extravagance, and Mr. Wylie, who urged further expenditure on irrigation. It was midnight when the division was taken, and the amendment was lost by 51 votes, the numbers being: for the amendment 65, against 116. Thus ended the 1905 Indian Budget debate.

As to the comments of the press, I enclose one or two for the Editor's use, as I cannot further encroach upon his space. The whole question has been overshadowed by the South African scandals, and a number of journals devote their parliamentary pictures to the short debate on that subject and Mr. Balfour's dilatory agreement to public opinion instead of to the Indian business. This was perhaps a godsend to many reporters, who are not other than superficially acquainted with the pros and cons of the Indian affairs. Editorially, too, several dailies have quite passed over the debate, but this morning's news as to the reception in India of the Home Government's proposals with regard to military administration will be sure to call forth for the next few days considerable references to the military aspect of India. This will hardly benefit her, for it will dwarf entirely the economic aspect

To-day the opinion is widely expressed that the victory of Lord Kitchener is a blow to Lord Curzon. A step in the right direction has been taken in allotting India a day in June in the House of Commons, and it is earnestly to be hoped that never again will she be obliged to be satisfied with the last day of the session in August.

Calcutta and Moussil

Plague.—Only one case and one death from plague were reported in the city on Monday the total mortality from all causes being 35 against a quinquennial average of 54.

Calcutta Corporation.—The adjourned fourth ordinary monthly meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta for the current year will be held at the Municipal office to-day at 4 p.m.

Legislative.—The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the resignation of the Hon. Mr. Richard Townsend Greer, C.S.I., of his office of Member of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Supreme Council.—The first meeting of the Viceroy's Legislative Council will be held on Tuesday, 11th July, when Sir A. Arundel will refer the Bill to further amend the Court Fees Act of 1870 to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Erle Richards, Mr. Baker and the Member General Sir Edmund Elles will also move for leave to introduce a Bill to further amend the Indian Articles of War.

Viceroy's Resignation.—The Viceroy's resignation is still the principal topic of conversation in Simla and the mystery regarding the resignation remains unsolved. It is understood that His Excellency's resignation has not been accepted, but the officials are anxiously reticent regarding the future of the Army Reform Scheme. It is, however, credibly stated that His Excellency will not remain in India after the departure of the Prince of Wales, and His Excellency is already leaving questions untouched to be dealt with by his successor.

Insulting a Lady.—On Tuesday, Inspector Large of the Ekbalpore Thanna charged an Oorah gardener in the employ of Mr. Fergusson of Ekbalpore before Mouli Serajul Huq, Police Magistrate of Alipore, with criminal intimidation. The accused was rebuked by Mr. Fergusson, his master, for negligence in keeping the plants in proper order. The accused took this to his heart; and after a while when Mrs. Fergusson ordered him to bring a "Punkha" puller, the accused refused to do so and had the effrontery to insult and intimidate her. The Court found the accused guilty and sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 10 with costs.

Thick-headed Complainant.—A funny incident took place in the Alipore Suburban Police Court Tuesday morning when all the men of the Court room had a hearty laughter at the expense of a young Mahomedan aged about twenty-one years. This thick-headed man filed a petition of complaint for bigamy on the part of his wife. The complainant in his examination deposed that he married four years ago and at present his wife's age was about three years, his present age being six years. The Magistrate remarked that such incident befall only idiots like him and ordered the complainant to produce his witnesses to prove his case.

Bigamy.—On Tuesday, at the Alipore Criminal Sessions, before Mr. Pope, the Additional District and Sessions Judge, a young Mahomedan named Enas Halder and a young Mahomedan married woman of Dhopapara were charged with bigamy. It was stated that the second accused after quarrelling with her husband went to the house of her father and lived for some time there. The husband instituted a criminal case in order to get his wife back. While the case was pending, the first accused married the woman with the connivance of the mother of the woman and a Mahomedan priest of the locality on the strength of a false "Nikah-nama." Mr. Ibrahim, Counsel with Babus Benkim Chunder Sen, Vakil and Sarat Chander Mookerjee defended the prisoners. The trial is proceeding.

Inventions and Designs.—Applications in respect of the undermentioned inventions have been filed:—John George Heinrich, mineral water manufacturers of Milton House, 5, Clifton Road, Camden Square, London, improvements in stoppers for syphon bottles or vessels and in taps, therefore applicable also to fire extinguishers; the Consolidated Engineering Company, Limited, engineers, of Gotha Works, Slough, county Bucks, improvements in or connected with automatic vacuum brakes; William Arthur Harley, tea planter, of Halashana Tea Estate, Kullakamby P. O., Nilgiris, a new or improved machine for rolling tea leaf; Daniel Francis Sherman, fruit preserver, of Newcastle, California, improvements in the process for preserving fruit and preserved fruit products; James William Cross, engineer, 4, Trafalgar Square, London, improvements in oil engines; Johann Wilhelm Riep, chemist of Ellerstr., 170, Dusseldorf, and Gottfried Heinrich Bauer, merchant, of 35, Hildenerstr., Dusseldorf, an improved greasing medium for fibrous materials and woven fabrics; John Lewis Weaver, manufacturer, of Boise, county Ada, Idaho, improvements in and relating to method of and apparatus for placer mining; and Daniel Whitney Houghton, merchant and importer, 37, Apollo Street, Fort, Bombay, an improved protector for taps and valves.

A Timorally correspondent writes to the "Hindu":—The Stationary Sub-Magistrate of Nanguneri has committed to the Timorally Sessions Court a case of murder, the details of which are as follow:—On the morning of the 5th ultimo, one Seeni, a dancing girl of Nanguneri was found murdered in her house. Information of the occurrence having been immediately conveyed to the local Police, they instituted a vigorous investigation with the gratifying result that within forty-eight hours of the commission of the crime, the alleged murderers were caught with the deceased's jewels in their possession at Shermadevi whither they had fled to take refuge for Quolon. Kuppan and Chockalingam, the prisoners, have made a clean breast of their crime both to the Police and to the Committing Magistrate. In their confession they admit that they were instigated to perpetrate the murder by a Vellela of Chennela Kuri-chy and that at dead of night on the 4th ultimo they took a huge grinding stone and forcibly pressed it over the nose of their victim till she died of suffocation. The circumstantial evidence to connect the accused with the crime is complete and Mr. Subramania Pillai Inspector of Police and his subordinates deserve great credit for the untiring zeal and perseverance with which they worked up the case.

Silver Reserve.—The reserve in silver held by the Paper Currency Department amounted on the 7th July to Rs. 13,99,25,556 against Rs. 14,14,41,832 held in gold.

Survey of India.—It is now officially announced that the Secretary of State has sanctioned the appointment of six additional imperial and twenty additional provincial officers to the Survey of India during the next two years, pending the orders on the Report of the Survey Committee, which set cold weather to go into the whole question of the reorganisation of this department. A detachment of the Survey Department is being organised to map the scene of the coming Delhi manoeuvres, the area to be examined amounting to no less than 950 square miles.

Stabbing a Rival.—On Monday at the Court of Mr. R. A. N. Singh, Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah, a man of the Chamar caste was charged with making a murderous attempt on the life of a rival, one Wazir, living in Chuttoo Babu's Lane, in Middle Road, Entally, by stabbing him with a table knife. The accused was employed as a cook under an Indian gentleman living in Harrison Road. On Sunday he called at the house of the complainant and attempted to take away by force a woman with whom he had formerly lived on friendly terms. The complainant on resisting was stabbed with a table knife by the accused, three-quarters of the blade of the knife having penetrated the skull of the complainant. The landlord of the house appeared on the scene and arrested the accused before he could do any further mischief, making him over to police custody. The injured man was removed to the Campbell Hospital, where the knife was removed from his skull. The case was adjourned owing to the complainant being under treatment in hospital.

The Law's Delays.—During the hearing of a rule at the High Court on Monday, which had reference to an old but alleged to have been wrongly attached by an order of the Small Cause Court, Mr. Justice Bodilly enquired what was the value of the property in dispute. It then transpired that this litigation had been going on since 1903, that there had been innumerable applications and counter-applications to the Original Side of the High Court, and that the matter had gone even to the Appeal Court. His Lordship was surprised to find that it was all over a petty squabble between the parties that all this litigation had taken place. It seemed to him perfectly preposterous that so much money should be spent in this way over such a trifling affair. It was nothing short of a scandal. His Lordship ordered that the rule be discharged. He thought it would be a good thing for all the parties concerned if the property were sold. In another suit a large number of barristers represented the plaintiff and fifteen defendants. It transpired that the suit was filed so long back as September 1903, and the plaintiff and certain defendants had died and their representatives had to be brought on the record. For these and other reasons the matters had not come on for hearing yet. There was now a further application for postponement. His Lordship Mr. Justice Bodilly remarked that what he had heard seemed to him a very strong reason for expediting the hearing, and taking it up as soon as possible. Ultimately His Lordship adjourned the matter for a fortnight peremptorily.

A Sensational Case.—A Barisal correspondent writes to the "East":—The other day, Mr. Jeffrey, the Additional Sessions Judge of Backergunji, tried a case of murder and sentenced the accused to transportation for life. The following is the story of the case: One Biswaswar Agradani, a Brahmin by caste, it is alleged, was a disciple of the Sanyasi who played an important role in the dreadful and cruel case of Lalmoheon doctor, a few months ago tried by the D.C. and Sessions Judge of Dacca. The accused, Biswaswar, used to ask his father to marry his sister, a girl of 13 or 14 years of age to the said Lalmoheon; but on his refusal he told that he would marry his own wedded wife to him. On the day of occurrence, he, holding a sacrificial knife in his hand, asked his wife who was in the bathing ghut to follow him in the inside of the ghut. Being refused by his wife he told her that she need not be afraid of following him, as he would not murder her but only intended to induce his father by means of threatening to murder her, to give his consent to his sister's marriage. After this, she obeyed the command of her beloved husband and went there, where she was treacherously murdered, by a single stroke of that sharp instrument. The contention on the side of defence was that the accused was insane for 4 or 5 years and the disease is hereditary. But the Judge did not believe the defence, as the accused was in the habit of smoking ganja, and being intoxicated murdered the wife. The witnesses deposed that the couple were very intimate and the woman was an ideal one.

An Officer's Accounts.—A general Court-Martial assembled in the Court-Martial room at Fort William at 7 a.m. on Monday for the purpose of trying a Second-Lieutenant Ambrose Gage of the 2nd Battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment. The Court was composed of the undermentioned officers, namely, President:—Lieut. Colonel H. T. Butcher, R. G. A. Members: Major G. M. Evans (18th Rajputs), Major E. A. Smith (2nd Rajputs), Major H. Walton (3rd Brahmins), Captain A. H. L. Riach, R. B. Captain H. W. Holdsworth, Hunt, R. G. A., Captain G. H. Griffiths, R. E., Captain O. C. Barrett (1st King's Own Regiment), Lieutenant R. T. Arundell (2nd Rajputs), Lieutenant W. H. Gribbon (1st King's Own Regiment), and Lieutenant R. J. Clark (8th Rajputs). Judge: Advocate: Lieut. Colonel L. H. Reid; Deputy Judge: Advocate, Eastern Command, Lieut. Colonel F. M. H. Marshall, 2nd Battalion, West Riding Regiment prosecuted, and Mr. L. P. Pugh, barrister, acted as the prisoner's friend. The charge against Lieutenant Gage is one of embezzling monies belonging to various regimental (canteen, etc.) funds and the defalcations are said to amount over Rs. 3,000. There are about twenty witnesses to give evidence in the case and the proceedings are expected to last some days. On Monday three witnesses were examined before the Court rose. Lieutenant Gage, obtained his Commission in the 2nd Battalion of the West Riding Regiment eighteen months ago, he being at that time a lance corporal in the Manchester Regiment. He was for a month or two left in charge of the detachment of the battalion stationed at Dum-Dum, and it is at this station that the offences alleged against him were committed.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, July 10.

The Peace Plenipotentiaries will meet at Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Reuter's correspondent at Tokio wires that M. Bouguin, charged with espionage in May last, has been sentenced by the Japanese to ten years' hard labour, and the interpreter Maki, his accomplice, to eight years.

The Japanese loan of thirty millions has been issued.

London, July 10.

A telegram from Washington states that President Roosevelt has submitted to the belligerents China's request to participate in the peace conference. It is not known whether replies have been received, but it can be stated that Russia is favourable and Japan unfavourable to the request, and it is not likely that President Roosevelt will press the request.

GENERAL.

London, July 9.

The torpedo-boat which accompanied the "Potemkin" has left Kustenje bound towards Odessa. She has not surrendered declaring that she did not mutiny, but was forced to follow "Potemkin."

Two Russian warships have arrived at Kustenje and have taken charge of the "Potemkin."

London, July 9.

The Japanese squadron at Saghalien consisted of two battleships, seven cruisers, three gunboats, 36 torpedo boats and a number of transports for landing the brigade.

London, July 9.

The French submarine sunk in Biserta lake is still not raised. The sailors no longer respond to signals.

London, July 9.

It is announced that a Franco-German agreement has been reached regarding Morocco. It is stated in Paris that Germany recognises the exceptional position of France on account of the Algerian frontier, and the possible effect of agitation in Morocco on the natives of Algeria and Tunis. The sovereignty of the Sultan will be recognised and the integrity of Morocco proclaimed.

London, July 10.

Preparations at Brest are completed for to-day's arrival of the British fleet. The rejoicing promise to constitute a record of international naval courtesies. The programme, official and unofficial, of festivities is so huge that scarcely an hour in the whole week, is unaccounted for. There are evidences on every side that the visit will be most popular.

London, July 10.

The trouble on board the Canadian cruiser Canada has been settled and a new crew embarked.

London, July 10.

It is not expected that the submarine sunk in Lake Biserta will be raised for some days. The Minister of Marine has arrived there and went for long submarine trip in a sister ship.

London, July 10.

M. Rouvier announced, in the Chamber to-day, that France and Germany had agreed to an International Conference on the lines mentioned yesterday.

It is stated that the Mission at Fez will be recalled to Tangier when the Conference meets. Germany has not raised the question of the Anglo-French and Franco-Spanish agreements which are not mentioned in the negotiations.

London, July 10.

Owing to constant complaints of the leakage of the cotton reports in America to brokers, the Government has instituted enquiry which has resulted in the dismissal of the leading statistician in the Department of Agriculture.

London, July 10.

During the National Defence debate in the House of Lords, Mr. Balfour's statement, made on 10th May, was severely criticised. Lord Roberts said the lessons of the South African war was already forgotten and he had no hesitation in saying our army was as absolutely unfitted and unprepared for war now as it was then. The nation, he said, must choose conscription or universal training.

London, July

The lecture of the French Socialist Deputy Jaures, upon the international duties of Socialists in reference to War, and which the German Government had forbidden him to deliver in Berlin, has been published textually in the Berlin Socialist organ "Vorwarts;" its tone is moderate and most friendly to Germany. Notable warmth is expressed in reference to the Anglo-French Entente, the writer declaring that "we must resist to the last breath any attempt to enslave us in any action hostile to Great Britain."

London, July 10.

Prince and Princess Arisugawa proceeded to Portsmouth to-day where they are the guests of the Commander-in-Chief until to-morrow, and then embark on the Prussien for Yokohama. They drove in a Royal carriage to Victoria station and were lustily cheered en route.

The Duke of Connaught Lord Lansdowne and Admiral Fisher, besides the Japanese Legation and the Japanese Colony, bade them farewell at the station. Baron Hayashi accompanied them to Portsmouth.

London, July 10.

The British fleet arrived at Brest this afternoon and received a remarkable demonstration of welcome from immense crowds ashore and aloft.

London, July 11.

In the House of Commons last night Mr. Balfour gave notice of motion proposing a scheme for redistribution of seats on a population basis giving England seventeen more members of which London gets five and the suburbs six, Wales one more, Scotland four more, and Ireland twenty-two less.

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

REFORM IN THE ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

Simla, July 10.

In view of the continuous increase in the number of ordnance factories and mass of detail which has to be disposed of by the Director-General of Ordnance in connection with the direct administration of factories, the Secretary of State has sanctioned the creation of appointment of Inspector-General of Ordnance Factories on a salary of Rs. 2200 a month. This officer will administer the factories under the Director-General of Ordnance and will be aided in his duties by an assistant who will receive the pay of the rank and staff salary of Rs. 500 a month in connection with the above appointments. The staff salary of the Asst. Director-General of Ordnance will be reduced from Rs. 600 to Rs. 400 a month and the appointment of the Deputy Assistant Director-General of Ordnance will be abolished.

THE SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Simla, July 10.

took up the bundle and found it contained Jewellery with the exception of one or two small trinkets. The whole lot has been found. Two other bundles were near a RANGOON CASE.

Rangoon, July 9.—Yesterday the Government Prosecutor applied to the District Magistrate for a warrant under instructions. The meeting of the Legislative Council fixed for Tuesday, the 11th instant is postponed by order of His Excellency the Viceroy to Friday the 14th inst.

INDIA AND FEDERATED MALAYA STATES.

EXCHANGE OF MONEY-ORDER.

Simla, July 10.

It is notified that money orders expressed in Indian Currency may now be exchanged between India and Federated Malay States. The amount of single money order is not to exceed Rs. 600.

THE ROYAL VISIT.

Simla, July 10.

It is settled that the Viceroy will receive the Prince and Princess of Wales on their arrival at Bombay.

RANGOON LAW CASES.

Rangoon, July 10.—To-day, the District Magistrate passed orders in the case against San Maw. His Worship discharged San Maw in regard to a charge of murder, under Section 302 I.P.C., and recommended the Chief Court to order the suspension of further proceedings against him under Section 203 I.P.C., that is, for giving false evidence until the conclusion of the proceedings, which are pending against Hla Gyi. The question of bail was left for determination by the Additional Magistrate, who released San Maw on bail in two sureties of Rs. 300 each. In the case against Hla Gyi to-day, before the District Magistrate, his Worship passed orders. He said that the matter of the application of the Government Prosecutor for the arrest of Hla Gyi and for an order, directing that he be placed on his trial before the Chief Court on the original order of commitment Mr. Eddis has argued that there is no provision of law under which such an order can be made, and that as Hla Gyi was committed to the Chief Court to stand his trial, and the Chief Court ordered his release, no other court is competent to order his arrest for trial on the original commitment order. This argument appears to me sound, and it seems to me that if any Court is to be moved to order his arrest for trial on the original commitment the order of the Chief Court is proper and the Court is to be moved. In the meanwhile it is open to me, apparently, to take cognizance of Hla Gyi's offence under Section 204 of the Criminal Procedure Code and to order a fresh enquiry with a view to commitment. This I shall now proceed to do, and I begin with ordering the arrest of Hla Gyi and his production before the Western Subdivision Magistrate, who will proceed under Chapter 18 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

FLOODS IN UPPER BURMA.

Rangoon, July 10.—Abnormal rains in Upper Burma are doing much damage, especially in the Mu Valley Districts. The railway is also suffering considerably, several breaches having occurred between Maw hun and Mawlu Stations on Sunday, when a portion of the road for about 250 feet was washed away, making transhipment necessary.

PRESS TELEGRAMS.

MESSAGES INCREASING.

Allahabad, July 11.

The cheapening of rates for press telegrams in India has had a marked effect on traffic. Indian papers are showing some enterprise in obtaining telegraphic news from various parts of India though their services are still on a small scale. Weekly telegrams of mail news from Bombay now average about 35,000 words and ordinary intend news messages are steadily increasing.

MAD MULLAH IN UPPER SWAT.

PASSIVE HOSTILITY.

Allahabad, July 11.

The mad Mullah whose death was erroneously reported in some English papers is still at Pital in Upper Swat. His influence is now very small, but he still seeks to keep the local tribesmen from having any relations with the British authorities. A number of Mullahs in the Mohmand country are acting in a similar manner but there is no present idea of Jihad. The attitude taken up by these men is one of passive hostility and they do not appeal to have any great hold upon the people as a body.

MULLAH SAIED AKBAR.

CONTEMPLATES JOURNEY TO KABUL.

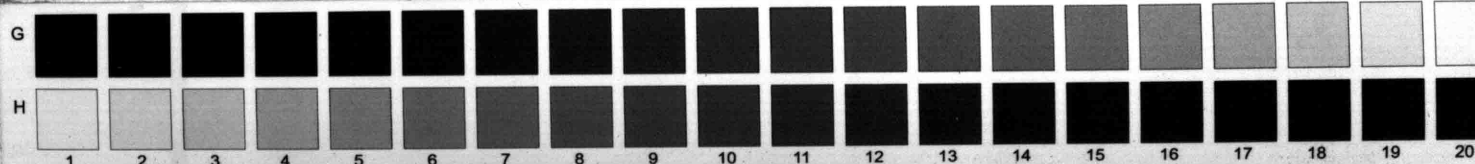
Allahabad, July 11.

Mullah Saied Akbar, the old priest, who played such a prominent part during the tribal rising of 1897, is said to be contemplating a journey to Kabul. His idea is to induce the Amir to grant him a permanent allowance.

MAILS DELAYED.

Simla, July 11.

Owing to several small landships on the Kalka-Simla Tonga road, mails have to be transhipped and were delayed in delivery.



JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICE

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

the proposals for the reduction of the freight on the railways, and the members of the Railway Board were to discuss a question relating to the shortage of troops whilst on tour in Calcutta.

ORIGIN OF LIFE.

AN EPOCH-MAKING DISCOVERY.

spontaneous generation from the lifeless.
SPONTANEOUS GENERATION.

Theroupean men of science found themselves in a difficulty. If life could not be formed, save from proceeding life, on the earth to-day, must we not conclude that it can never have been otherwise formed? But since there assuredly was a time when the earth was too hot to sustain life, how could we account for the occurrence of life upon it to-day since it had been demonstrated that omne vivum ex vivo? My friend Dr. Bastian's voice, protesting against all the authority of the time that the conclusion based upon Pasteur's experiments was informed with a glaring fallacy, cried and cried in the wilderness.

PROPERTIES OF RADIUM

Mr. Burke made a solution of beef-bouillon, and exposed it to the action of radium. So remarkable was the result that he set to work to devise a series of experiments to check and amplify it; he has lately published a preliminary report of his work. Tubes of bouillon containing radium and tubes without radium, stopped up with cotton-wool, subjected to a temperature far above the boiling point of water, under pressure, for half an hour, did not show any change. The control tubes, which contained no radium, were then watched, and "nothing happened."

A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.

It was conceivable and any suggestion of less wild than the suggestion that was a case of spontaneous generation that those things might have been cooked in the radium from the first and the radium—though radium is not cooked—protected them from the action of the heat and pressure which otherwise certainly kill everything living. But it found that when the microscopic slides which these things were placed were exposed to daylight, they disappeared: reappear after a few days in the dark. Then the radium had caused

I write with the reserve due to the fact that we have not yet heard the full details of Mr. Burke's work but it is impossible to resist the conclusion at which he arrives that he has demonstrated the evolution of living matter from lifeless matter in virtue of the action of radium.

NEWS OF THE DAY

Mr. Berghell, Agricultural Bacteriologist to the Government of India, has renounced against the probability of useful results being obtained in India from the introduction of the American system of soil inoculation with bacteria for nitrification purposes in connection with leguminous crops, but that cultures are to be prepared at Sirsah and the matter put to a practical test this year.

The success which has attendel the introduction of Havana tobacco seed in the Mandalay district of Burma is remarkable, as it seems to be the single instance of the kind. Havana seed has been distributed for some years and is now reported to be fairly established. Local tobacco has been displaced by it, the cultivator finding that they got better prices for Havana tobacco.

It is not perhaps generally known that it is a criminal offence to destroy a post-receipt, but so the Chief Court of Punjab has adjudged it. According to a report published in the 'Punjab Recorder' one Sukha Singh received a registered article from a village post-master, but being asked to sign a receipt for it, refused to do so, and in fact tore up the receipt and threw it on the ground. The Magistrate who tried the case did think an offence had been committed, but the Government filed an appeal with the object of making it clear to a 'rude ignorant population' that it is their duty to assist and to obstruct the village post-master or other Government servant.

post-master dropped the envelope and started carrying out his duties. Justice Keel and I then gravely discussed the amount of public attaching to the offence as the act of tearing is an act of mischief. The post receipt, is the property of the Office; the tearing of such receipt causes damage of wrongful loss to the Post Office, and accused is, therefore, liable under Sec. 426 I. P. C. for his act. Sukha Singh consequently ordered to pay a fine of Rs. 100 for his contumacy, but others following precedent may find themselves more severely dealt with.

THE RAILWAY FORGERY CASE.

A point of law was raised in this case. The accused persons were charged under Sec. 467 I. P. C.—abstention of forgery of a valuable security. It was raised on behalf of the prisoners that the railway ticket was not a valuable security within the meaning of the Code. As there was no decided authority on that point His Lordship held that it seemed to him, that the offence comes within the meaning of the section. All the evidences having been taken Counsel for both sides addressed the jury after which His Lordship summed up the case. The jury retired at 4.55 p. m. and after a deliberation of forty minutes they returned a verdict of guilty in the proportion of seven to two against both the prisoners. His Lordship accepted the verdict and sentenced Devendra Nath Mukerjee to three years' rigorous imprisonment. The other prisoner was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment, the sentences to commence at the expiry of the sentence which he is undergoing.

ALLEGED KIDNAPPING FROM AN
ORPHANAGE.

The facts were shortly these: The two accused, who were owners of a timber-yard on the Chitpur Road were prosecuted along with others for kidnapping three girls, one aged 16 and the two others 13 and 15 years respectively. The prosecution alleged that the three girls were taken out from a Hindu Orphanage at 12 Bolaram Ghose's Street by a person who previously worked there as a mason and brought to the timber-yard of the two accused where they were kept for two nights and two days, and the girls were then removed to a neighbouring house, a brothel kept by a woman of the town who was also made an accused in the case, from where they were rescued by the police. All the accused were convicted by the Magistrate, but only two of them appealed.

Mr. Garth said that the story told by the prosecution was not corroborated by evidence. There was no suggestion that the mason brought the girls to the timber-yard and there was no evidence that the two appellants wanted to sell the girls for immoral purposes. The appellants fed the girls and gave them shelter. There was no outrage or violence. True they were removed to a house of ill-fame; but they were kept in a room where no male member was allowed admission. On the contrary, when they came to know that the girls were inmates of the orphanage, the two appellants went over and there and informed the Superintendent and informed him of the whereabouts of the girls. Further it was the two appellants who gave the information to the police.

Their Lordships admitted the appeal.

**ALLEGED RECEIVING STOLEN
PROPERTY.**

Babu Atulya Charan Bose applied for an appeal on behalf of one Aswini Kumar Roy who was convicted of dishonestly retaining stolen property with a guilty knowledge and sentenced to eight months rigorous imprisonment by the Chief Presidency Magistrate on the 8th May last.

facts of the case are briefly as follows: On the 2nd of April 1904 one Saroda woman of ill-fame lodged an information with the Calcutta Police E. section charging one Panna Lal and Ram Krishna Das with theft on some ornaments. The Daroga in charge of the thana arrested Panna Lal and Ram Krishna and Suttya Charan on 7th March last. In consequence of certain information given by Suttya Charan to the son-in-law of the petitioner, the latter was arrested in his native village Guja on the 8th March last. The petitioner on being arrested was questioned about the ornaments and he said that Panna Lal and Suttya Charan brought them for sale and that accordingly he sold them to Ananda Prasad Chatterjee for Rs. 213 and paid the money to Suttya Charan, Panna Lal and Ram Krishna were separately tried by the District Presidency Magistrate who convicted them of theft. The petitioner and Suttya Charan were tried separately and convicted of dishonestly receiving stolen property and sentenced to eight months rigorous imprisonment each. Babu Atulya Charan Bose the petitioner contended that it was against human nature that both father-in-law and son-in-law would say that they were the same boat and that there was not iota of evidence on the record to prove to warrant the presumption that the petitioner dishonestly received or retained stolen property knowing or having reason to believe the same to be stolen property. Their Lordships admitted the appeal.

ALLEGED INDECENT ASSAULT

Babu Gunaada Charan Sen, Vakil, moved for the admission of an appeal on behalf of one Dhanu Dutt alias Chandra Kriana, a boy of 14 years of age who was convicted under section 376 I. P. C. and sentenced to 7 years' rigorous imprisonment by Sessions Judge of Bakerganj for having committed an indecent assault on a median girl of 9 years of age. The assessors found the petitioner not guilty as the evidence was suspicious.

Their Lordships admitted the appeal.

Major R. H. Mahon, who has long been connected with the Indian Ordnance Department, will, no doubt, be the first occupant of the important post of Inspector-General of Ordnance Factories in India, the creation of which is announced.

A committee consisting of Mr. R. D. Dan as president, with Messrs. Marris, Iagan, Hose, time, and Tucker as members has been appointed to revise the system of allowances granted to the clerical establishment of the Government of India.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO INDIA.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECEPTION

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Reception Fund in connection with their Royal Highnesses' visit to this city, was held on Tuesday at the British Indian Association rooms under the Presidency. His Highness the Maharajah of Darbhanga. In moving this first resolution the Maharajah of Burdwan said that as the Maiden was a more central and spacious place than any other part of the town, so it was the fittest spot where their Royal Highnesses should be entertained. He further said that the Prince and the Princess should be entertained not only with such amusements as can be had in Calcutta, but also with what can be procured from Muffasil. For instance, he said, the Sonthal dances are likely to be very much appreciated by their Royal Highnesses. He further suggested the performance of lathalis and other games which he said had pleased Lord Curzon very much when he saw it at Burdwan.

Sir Goor Dass Banerjee suggested that the Fund should not only be devoted to amusements, but also to some permanent work of public utility. He said that this principle should be at once laid down otherwise the entire fund might be spent in meeting the cost of the entertainment. He further observed that if it were known that some useful works were in contemplation, many donors might pay more than what they had already subscribed.

they had already subscribed. Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee seconded the proposal of Sir Goroob Dass Banerjee and strongly urged the necessity of commemorating the visit of their Royal Highness by some permanent work of public utility.

He cited the president of the Albert Victor Leprosy Hospital for which Rs. 25,000 was raised to commemorate the visit of the late Prince Albert Victor to this country, and which was named after the late lamented Prince.

Babu Madi Lal Ghosh said that he had a better precedent to show that their Royal Highnesses' visit should result in some permanent good works. He observed that when the present King-Emperor came to Calcutta in the seventies as Prince of Wales, his visit was commemorated by a permanent institution named the "Albert Temple of Science" which was started under the auspices of the Indian League and Sir Richard Temple. This institution not only yet exists, but it has a fund of Rs. 45,000 and is doing useful work. He further said that if any balance were left, the Executive Committee would be pleased to make it over to the Committee of the Albert Temple of Science.

It was decided by the Executive Committee that the principle of devoting a portion of the fund, if available, to some useful work, should be accepted in the resolution, and the draft resolution was accordingly modified as follows:—

“Resolved that in the opinion of the Executive Committee the Reception to be provided for Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales do take the form of an entertainment on the Midland and that the entertainment do comprise many forms of Indian amusements as possible. It is also, in the opinion of the Committee, desirable that Calcutta schools should participate in the entertainment, and funds permit the surplus may be devoted to some permanent object of public utility.”

The Resolution was proposed by the Maharaja-Dhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan, and seconded by the Hon'ble Mr. A. A. Apeas, President Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Babu Moti Lal Ghose's proposal to make over the balance of the Fund, after meeting the cost of the entertainment, to the Committee of the Albert Temple of Science was postponed for future consideration.

A small Sub-committee was appointed to draw up a scheme for the entertainment of their Royal Highnesses and place the same before the Executive Committee as soon as possible.

A SENSATIONAL ABDUCTION CASE

The following sensational case is reported from Ferozepore to the "Tribune"—It is alleged that Gurdial Singh, son of late R. Bahadur Sodhi Hukam Singh, First Class Honorary Magistrate, went to the Police Officer in charge of the Delhi Gate Chowk, Ferozepore City, and obtained permission for 2 policemen to accompany him to his father's house. It seems that the policemen were already in his secret, because he took them to his father he took them to a Brahmin's house. He stood in the street and sent the two guardians of the peace inside the house, with the order that the young Brahmin girl was wanted by the District Superintendent, Police, in connection with some enquiry in a case, and the Kotwali Sahib (Gurdial Singh) was standing outside to take her to Sahib's bungalow. The guardians of the girl were not permitted to go with her. The false and self-styled Kotwali Sahib and two real policemen in the Khaki uniform, instead of taking the innocent girl to Sahib's bungalow, took her to the garage of Lala Ram Nadda, trader, and were there for 4 or 5 hours. Meanwhile the guardians of the girl went to the bungalow of the District Superintendent of Police, but she was not there. They went to the Kotwali, but the Kotwali never knew any of the matter about her. In the evening the girl went home and told her guardians as to how she was seduced and dishonoured. Thereupon they went to the Kotwali, but no one would take down their report, because the girl had complained against was the son of a man and Magistrate. No one would listen to them for 3 or 4 days, till the matter came to the notice of members of the Bar. Almost all the Pleaders present in person to the District Superintendent of Police, and explained to him the whole story. The energetic and good-natured District Superintendent of Police himself investigated the case and the result is that Gurdial Singh is sent to the lock-up and awaits his trial, which is to take place the 7th instant. The Pleaders have shown a moral courage in not accepting this case from the side of Gurdial Singh. Only one Pleader, who taken up the case for the accused, is mentioned.

Bombay Legislative Council.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Poona, July 8.

The Bombay Legislative Council met today at the Council Hall, Lord Lamington presiding. The Hon. Sir James Montagu laid the financial statement of the Bombay Government for 1905-06, on the table. The statement shows that the accounts for year 1903-04 opened with a credit balance of Rs. 340,000 and closed with a credit balance of Rs. 327,700 owing to the improvement under several heads. The special imperial assignment which was originally intended to close the account with a balance of Rs. 2,00,000 decreased from Rs. 285,100 in the budget to Rs. 160,900 in the accounts. The increase was due to improved receipts chiefly under the heads of land revenue, excise forest assessed taxes and civil works and to the imperial contribution of Rs. 127,700 which was made before the close of the year 1903-04 and included in the accounts though intended for expenditure in 1904-05 for the completion of the St. George's hospital, for ordinary expenditure under various heads, also for desirable objects of public utility, partially counterbalanced by smaller receipts on account of land revenue and the reduction of the imperial assignment in aid of the provincial balance. The total provincial expenditure amounted to Rs. 4,630,900 against Rs. 4,656,600 and Rs. 4,590,800 shown in the budget; a small sum on account of direct famine charges representing the payment of arrears for the past year was debited to provincial revenues. The budget for 1904-05 opened with a balance of Rs. 327,700 and the Government of India undertook as in 1903-04 to make a special assignment sufficient to close the account of the year with a balance of Rs. 200,000. The budget did not include any provision for famine charges which ever are now estimated at Rs. 26,000, the plague, however are now estimated at Rs. 26,000. The plague charges are estimated at Rs. 40,200 against Rs. 41,000. The payment and recoveries of takavi and other loans in the provincial advance and loan account are estimated at Rs. 261,000 and Rs. 403,100. The Government of India, however, reserved the right to revise the provincial settlement and opened the account with a balance of Rs. 761,600 out of an initial grant of Rs. 500,000. The sum of Rs. 360,000 is calculated to meet the ordinary initial requirements and to enable the Presidency to start a new settlement on a favourable footing; the remaining Rs. 140,000 is a final allotment to cover future plague charges. The sum of Rs. 35,400 is distributed among local boards Rs. 50,000 being granted for police reorganization Rs. 50,000 for primary education Rs. 40,100 for plague Rs. 28,500 for the proposed Bombay Museum and Rs. 20,000 for St. George's Hospital. In the provincial advance and loan account for the current year payments and recoveries of takavi and other loans are estimated at Rs. 246,100 and Rs. 406,900.

In concluding the hon. gentleman pointed out that in the last financial statement the hope was expressed that if in the new settlement we got a reasonable share of growing revenues and had a cycle of good years there might be an opportunity of affecting more extensive and beneficial reforms than had been possible for many years past. As regards the cycle of good seasons we are still in the dark. When the last statement was presented the situation was exceedingly critical. The south west current has brought comparatively little rain and disappeared permanently, while there was great danger of an enormous multiplication of locusts. Some relief from anxiety was given by a heavy fall of rain in September; there was practically no more and in some parts of the Presidency there was a serious failure of crops. Fortunately through strenuous exertions locusts were got rid of without causing much damage to the crops and it is hoped that the swarms which are now reported from the Southern Mahratta country will be effectually disposed of. The growing revenues for the Presidency will now profit twice as much as before by the growth of two very important branches of income, land, revenue and excise. Another prominent feature of the settlement is the large initial grant, the treatment of which calls for some remarks. It can most appropriately be utilized for public works or other non-recurring expenditure and there are large arrears of requirements which should be met with as little further delay as possible, but we are also dependent on it for meeting famine charges, and it is a misfortune that in the very first year of the working of the settlement we were constrained to provide no less than 16½ lakhs out of the revenue expected to accrue under the settlement terms. We hope to be able to make provision for rapid improvements for the welfare of the people. A scheme for the reorganization of the subordinate branches of the first establishment has already been formulated. Various improvements of land revenue establishments have been effected and most important of all the provision for the adequate remuneration of village accountants which is at the root of efficient land revenue administration is receiving close practical consideration. An advance in primary education has been rendered possible by the special assignment of five lakhs for aid to district boards. It is hoped it has been made clear that although we are not yet assured of a cycle of favourable seasons which past experience might lead us to expect after a long series of calamities, the opportunity of effecting more extensive and beneficial reforms than a few years ago would have been thought possible has given to us and that full advantage of the opportunity has so far as is practicable been taken.

The debate on the Budget continued yesterday. The Hon. Mr. Setalvad urged there should be more colleges in the Bombay Presidency after the modern style, and pleaded for an Art College and a Sind Chief Court in Sind, and hoped that the Government of India would arrive at an early decision in the matter. He concluded with a vigorous and touching reference to the resolution of the Government ostracising natives from Mahabeshwar. He did not see what authority or precedent the Government had for adopting so unpleasant an attitude. If the Government were anxious to provide quarters for their officers at Mahabeshwar, they were at liberty to purchase property or build, but it was going too far when they insisted on natives making room for Europeans. In the Bombay Presidency, Europeans and Indians had all along pulled well together, but a good deal of irritation and heart-burning would na-

turally occur over this Mahabeshwar business. The Hon. Mr. Mackersy Muljee, who represented the commercial interests, suggests an increase of cotton cultivation in Sind where the soil was admirably suited to the cultivation of cotton. He hoped that the Government would be able to secure a good portion of the twenty lakhs reserved by the Government of India for agricultural developments in the country, and recommended the starting of agricultural exhibitions in various parts of the Presidency, also commercial bureaus in Bombay. The Hon. Mr. Dixit deplored the attitude of the Government towards the ryots in the Deccan, whose condition was miserable and he asked if nothing could be done to minimise the evil of drink in the Presidency.

The Hon. Mr. Armstrong confined his remarks chiefly to the subject of local communications in Bombay. He proposed that this subject be referred to a thoroughly representative committee. The whole question was one of money, he said, and if no money was available Bombay would be fenced in by railways and every year would make the problem of the seacoast more difficult. He referred to the plague measures and advised further inoculations of the inhabitants.

DARING ESCAPE OF PRISONERS.

On the afternoon of 3rd July the Mysore Jail formed the scene of great consternation and confusion, consequent on the daring crime and escape of a couple of condemned prisoners. It may within the memory of the readers that some two months ago a horrible case of quadruple murder, which was committed at Abbur in Yedatore Taluk, was tried by the Sessions Judge of this place and of the four accused, two were sentenced to be hanged and two transported for life. Considering the simplicity of the cause of crime, viz., the cutting of grass in a plot of ground before the village temple, and the atrocity of the crime itself the accused may be stated to have fully merited the sentence. However, it went on appeal before the Chief Court and was very zealously conducted on behalf of the appellants. Still their fate remained the same and they were kept at Mysore awaiting execution. Knowing or not knowing this, both the prisoners, named Deva "alias" Doddada and Eera "alias" Puttasamy, must have premeditated and devised a plan of escaping from the confinement altogether. At half-past twelve the sentry in charge of the wards of these two answered the patrol, but at one he was not seen. On searching, however, his body was found inside one of the wards and lifeless. His own "puttie" was tightly drawn round his neck and on the side of his neck were revealed the mark of a very heavy blow, probably by the fist. Both his under garment and the livery were removed. On the outside of the high compound wall hung a rope made by tearing a "kumbal" lengthwise and knotting the pieces together. This was fastened inside to a pipe. And both the prisoners were gone.—"Mysore Standard."

THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK.

Simla, July 7.—Immense quantities of grain hitherto held as a precaution against famine are being released now that the rains have penetrated into Upper India, and the state of prices as disclosed in the official telegraphic crop reports for the past week shows that anxiety is not yet completely relieved. The Punjab Government state that the prices of all food grains show a tendency to rise, and the Central Provinces administration report them as considerably higher than these ruling in the corresponding week last year. In the United Provinces they are described as still high, and even in the Bengal and Madras Presidencies the tendency appears to continue upward.

INDIAN TRADE WITH PERSIA.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE.
Simla, July 8.—The correspondence is published which has passed between the Government of India and the British Consul at Kerman upon the subject of encouraging the development of Indian trade in the south-east of Persia. From this it appears that the Government of India have sanctioned the formation and upkeep of a sample room attached to the Kerman Consulate for the exhibition of samples of goods which are likely to sell in Persia. A small allowance is to be paid by Government to a local British Indian merchant to look after the exhibits, and the Consul has been empowered to spend a third, or any larger portion, of his toshakana grant on goods of Indian manufacture suitable for presentation purposes, the Government of India informing him that they will view with approval any change which would have the effect of substituting Indian-made goods for foreign wares. The local merchant in charge will be allowed to be also the agent of firms in India who send goods to the sample room, so he will be directly interested in developing and pushing trade. Major Sykes, upon whose recommendation the scheme has been adopted, writes that he has discussed it with the President of the Commercial Mission, who fully approves, and he adds that Mr. Newcomen is arranging for various Indian firms to send samples, some of them bulky, to Kerman. The sample room is to contain, to start with, miniature tents pitched upon a table, saddles and bridles, gaiters, boots, specimens of various Indian teas, bales of cloth, rugs, blankets, jerseys, and other Indian products, for which a ready market is expected. Separate tables are to be devoted to advertisements, and the room is to be roughly furnished partly with camp chairs and tables which will all have their prices shown in Persian. Major Sykes proposed to spend Rs. 500 of the toshakana allowance on such articles as saddles, writing desks, cloth, gaiters, and teapots suitable for Indian tea, with infusers, and he adds: "I am constantly visited by all classes at Kerman, and a sample room, if carefully arranged, would prove most attractive to the Persians who, like the Greeks of old, love anything new."

Major General Sir Edmund Barrow, who is mentioned as likely to be appointed as Member of Council for Military Supplies has arrived at Simla and is staying with Sir Edmund Elles. Major-General Sir Edmund Barrow will probably proceed home this week on leave, which will be only slightly curtailed if he has to return to take up his post of Member in charge of the Military Supply Department, his appointment to which is generally considered assured on October 1st.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Council was held at the Council Chamber, Writers' Buildings, on Saturday. The Hon'ble Sir Andrew Fraser, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, presided.

CALCUTTA IMPROVEMENT SCHEME.

The Hon. Babu Bhubendra Nath Basu asked the following question:—Will the Government be pleased to state what progress has been made with the scheme for the improvement of Calcutta; and, if any legislation is necessary in connection with such scheme, when is the same to be undertaken?

The Hon. Mr. Gait replied as follows:—The proposals regarding the structural improvement of Calcutta are still before the Government of India, and the Lieutenant-Governor is not in a position to make any statement regarding them.

MAHOMEDAN METHOD OF EDUCATION.

The Hon. Babu Bhubendra Nath Basu asked the following question:—Considering the fact that no reference has been made to the Mahomedan method of education in the Senior Teachers' Manual under the new scheme, and the large number of Mahomedan students under vernacular instruction, will the Government be pleased to add a Chapter on the "Mahomedan Method" in Part I under the heading of "Introduction" in the said Manual?

The Hon. Mr. Carnduff replied as follows:—Hitherto "Mahomedan Method" has not been dealt with separately, apparently on the principle that the methods of teaching most subjects in the ordinary school course are the same whether the pupils are to be taught as Mahomedans or Hindus. But, in view of the special scheme for establishing model "makatabs" and improving Mahomedan education generally, which has recently been sanctioned, an additional chapter dealing with such points as may seem to require attention will probably be included in the next edition of the Senior Teachers' Manual.

SUB-DIVISION AT GOPALGUNGE.

The Hon. Babu Bhubendra Nath Basu asked the following questions: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the progress made in establishing a sub-division at Gopalgunge, in the district of Faridpur, as proposed and sanctioned by the late Sir John Woodburn? (b) In view of the fact that most of the villages within the jurisdiction of Gopalgunge lie very far away from the district headquarters, and also of the absence of any means of communication between this part of the district and the headquarters station for the greater part of the year, either by land or by water, and of the consequent prevalence of crime and the hardships and inconveniences to litigants in the villages under that thana, will the Government be pleased to consider the expediency of transferring this tract of land from Faridpur to Khulna, the headquarters of which district is within very easy reach from the area in question?

The Hon. Mr. Carlyle replied as follows:—Reports from the Commissioners of the Dacca and Presidency Divisions have just been received and are under consideration.

BOARD OF REVENUE APPOINTMENTS.

The Hon. Babu Bhubendra Nath Basu asked the following questions: (1) Is it a fact that the Government has reserved 30 per cent of the subordinate appointments in the Board of Revenue for Europeans and Eurasians? (2) Will the Government be pleased to explain the reasons which have led to the special reservation of appointments for a particular class in the Board of Revenue apart from any question of merit or ability? (3) Does the Government think such reservation consistent with the terms of the Proclamation of Her late Majesty?

The Hon. Mr. Carlyle replied as follows:—(1) Yes. (2) That it has been held to be important to have a considerable proportion of Europeans or Eurasians in the Board's office, in connection with the work of certain departments (e.g. Opium and Salt). (3) There appears to be nothing inconsistent with the Proclamation of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria in reserving a certain number of appointments for a particular class of the community.

THE NEW POLICE SCHEME.

The Hon. Babu Ambica Charan Mazumdar asked the following questions:—(a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to certain paragraphs which appeared in the 'Bengalee' of the 8th June, 1905 (Dak Edition), touching the appointment of Police Inspectors under the new scheme? Is it true, as stated in the said paragraphs, that out of twenty-four appointments made only four have been given to Indian candidates, whose number was no less than 293, and 16 of whom had been selected and summoned by wire to attend the office of the Inspector-General of Police? If only four of the appointments have been given to Indians, who have received, or are intended to receive the remaining twenty? Is it true that they have all been given away to Europeans or Eurasians? (b) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of all the twenty-four appointments made as noticed above, giving the names of the persons appointed, their race or nationality, and their educational qualification together with any other recommendation that they may possess?

The Hon. Mr. Carlyle replied as follows:—The Lieutenant-Governor has perused the paragraphs of the 'Bengalee' referred to in the Hon. Member's question. They are misleading and inaccurate. It is not true that out of twenty-four new appointments of Inspectors of Police four have been given to Natives of India and the rest are reserved for Europeans and Eurasians. Out of the increase in the cadre of Inspectors of Civil Police, sanctioned on the recommendation of the Police Commission, twenty-nine appointments have been made. Five have been made direct and twenty-four by the promotion of deserving Sub-Inspectors. All twenty-nine appointments have been given to Natives of India. The newspaper extract, which forms the basis of the Hon. Member's question, omits to mention the twenty-four new appointments which have been conferred on Natives of India already in the Police. For service in the Armed Police, twenty-two European Inspectors have been appointed. It has been decided that for the Armed Police to perform the duties required of it in the event of a widespread disturbance, the force attached to each district must be officered by a European Inspector. Training the Armed Police in drill and discipline is the main duty of these Inspectors; and they are quite distinct from the Civil or Investigating staff. The men appointed are all Europeans, who have been

trained in the Army; and they are the only persons for filling these appointments. The second question of the Hon. Member does not require a separate answer at the above explanation.

MALARIAL FEVER IN FARIDPUR.

The Hon. Babu Ambica Charan Mazumdar asked the following question:—It appears that in 1897 the late Dr. P. M. Gupta, then Civil Surgeon of Faridpur, reported that the ever-increasing mortality in the district from malarial fever was referable, among other causes, to the objectionable practice of steeping jute in every available pool or stagnant water; and in paragraph 11 of the Government Resolution on the annual report of the Sanitary Commissioner for the same year, it was directed that the attention of the Civil Surgeons should be drawn to the remarks made by the Civil Surgeon of Faridpur, and that they should be requested to consider what effect the said practices had on the health of their respective districts. Will the Government be pleased to state what action was taken upon this Resolution? And will the Government be further pleased to publish all the reports and opinions received in connection with this question?

The Hon. Mr. Gait replied as follows:—A summary of the opinions of the Medical Officers who were asked to inquire regarding the alleged injurious effects of jute-steeping on the public health will be found in paragraph 44 of the Sanitary Commissioner's Report for the year 1898. The Sanitary Commissioner and most of the Civil Surgeons consulted by him were of opinion that the practice, though disagreeable, is not proved to be specially favourable to the development of malaria. The fever mortality is lowest during the season when jute-steeping is carried on. The operation is a necessary one and cannot be wholly prohibited, but District Boards and Municipalities have power to set apart public springs and reservoirs for drinking and culinary purposes and to prevent their pollution in this or in any other manner.

DISORDERLY HOUSES BILL.

The Hon. Mr. Carnduff said: Sir,—I have to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the discontinuance of brothels and disorderly houses in the vicinity of educational institutions or in the immediate neighbourhood of cantonments in Bengal. In March, 1903, a question was asked in this Council as to whether the Government was aware of the existence in a number of stations in the mofussil of houses of ill-fame in close proximity to colleges, schools and hostels; and it was suggested that measures should be taken to enforce their removal from such localities. The reply then given was to the effect that the Government was aware of the evil referred to and the danger indicated; but that the question raised was one of great difficulty, as it appeared that of the removal of such houses of ill-fame could not be enforced. The matter was not, however, allowed to drop: on the contrary, careful inquiries were at once instituted and the problem has since been examined from every point of view. It appears that a "disorderly" house may be, and frequently is, kept in a perfectly quiet and orderly manner, and that, when this is so, although its presence is none the less a source of temptation to students attending colleges and schools in the neighbourhood, neither it nor its inmates can be interfered with under the law as it stands. Moreover, where interference is possible, it rests with private persons to take the initiative; and there is often a reluctance on the part of respectable men and women to come forward as complainants or witnesses in cases of the kind. The expediency of dealing with the evil can hardly be gainsaid, and the necessity for legislating afresh has, therefore, been faced. A Bill has been drafted on the lines of the provisions in force on the subject in the Punjab and the Central Provinces; the opportunity has been taken to include within its scope brothels in the immediate neighbourhood of military cantonments; and it is proposed that, while power should be taken in wide terms to direct the discontinuance of the use of a house as a brothel, or by disorderly persons, that power should be conferred only upon Magistrates of the first class acting either with the sanction of the District Magistrate or on the complaint of three or more residents of the locality concerned. As to the operation of the measure, it is thought that it should extend in the first instance to mofussil municipalities only, but should be capable of extension to other than municipal areas, in which, indeed, the evil may, owing to the absence of any local authority and any public opinion, be even more pronounced than in the larger towns. Such, Sir, is the Bill which I seek leave to introduce to-day.

[The observations of the Hon'ble Babus B. N. Bose, A. C. Majumdar and J. Chowdhury while dealing with this matter are published in the article headed "Partition in the Council".]

The Hon. the President said: I wish simply to say this. I have not interrupted hon. members in talking about a subject which is absolutely irrelevant to the subject now under discussion, because I have no desire whatsoever to appear to fail in sympathy with hon. members who feel as they do feel, and also because I think that under the peculiar circumstances of the case it is only natural that they should wish to say a few words; but I think I must ask hon. members not to abuse the patience of the Council and not to abuse the privilege given and use language which cannot be approved from this chair.

The Hon. Mr. Chowdhury said: Sir,—As we consider you, as not only the representative of our Sovereign but the representative of our people as well, my humble prayer to you to-day is that you would convey to the Sovereign our unanimous feeling and deliberate opinion that His Majesty's Ministers have been ill-advised in adopting the scheme, and that His Majesty may be yet pleased to stay the hands of his Ministers. With this prayer I resume my seat.

The Hon. Mr. Carnduff said: In reply to the Hon. Babu Bhubendra Nath Basu I wish to say that the question of legislating to meet in Calcutta the evils which this Bill is intended to meet in the mofussil is now under consideration.

The motion was then put and agreed to, and the Secretary read the title of the Bill. The Council then adjourned sine die.

It is understood that the Bengal Government has received a consignment of excellent oil paintings of the King and Queen to be hung up in the important public buildings in Bengal. These paintings are from W. and D. Downey.

INDIA NOTES.

JEWISH SHOPKEEPERS IN AFGHAN TURKISTAN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
There are in Afghan Turkistan a number of Jewish shopkeepers and traders whose presence has hitherto been tolerated by the authorities. These men have now fallen under suspicion of being spies in the pay of Russia and the Governor of the Province has summarily ordered them to quit the country. They have had to close their shops and are kept under surveillance pending settlement of accounts with their customers.

THE RAILWAY CONFERENCE.

Simla, July 7.
The Conference of Railway Managers and Agents of Railway lines in India, which has usually been held here in the autumn, will take place at the end of July. The Conference will be run entirely by railway lines outside of Government control, though it will take place in the old Public Works Building here. The two principal points which are likely to be discussed are the revision of the general rules of the regulations governing railways and the question of providing machinery for the possible revision of the goods tariff in India. It is expected that Mr. Douglas, E. I. Railway, will preside at the conference.

UNEASINESS IN SOMALILAND.

Allahabad, July 9.
Reports from Somaliland speak of some uneasiness being felt there as to the present condition of affairs. The four men who were supposed to be duly accredited peace envoys of the Mullah are said to have been repudiated by him and to be little more than ordinary bazar wafers. Haler Juris from whom the sixth King's African Rifles are largely recruited have been giving a certain amount of trouble and it is believed that if the Indian Regiment, the 33rd Punjab were withdrawn from Somaliland there would be considerable chance of a rising.

FISHING LICENCES.

Cotacumund, July 5.—The gist of the late publications in the 'Fort St. George Gazette' on the above subject is as follows. Up to the present, licences for fishing have not been necessary on the Nilgiris, although trout-fishing is at present closed altogether, and it has always been in the power of the Collector to close any particular river or stream to angling for all introduced fish. Under the new regime, a fishing and shooting licence is embodied in one document, the charge being the same as it has always been for the ordinary shooting licence. But it is now necessary to take out a shooting licence in order to be able to fish. Licences will also in future be issued from the 16th September to the 15th of the following September instead of from June to June, as was formerly the case. In parenthesis, and whilst on the subject of fishing, it may be remarked that although the consignments of trout ova received this year were to a very large extent spoilt, there were a few rain-bow fry saved, and these are being kept in the hope that they may eventually breed. Last year some 1,700 fry were turned out.

PROSECUTION OF A VERNAULAR PAPER.

The adjourned hearing came off on the 3rd instant, before the Deputy Magistrate of Tanjore, of the case in which the Editor of "Jamanankulan," a Tamil weekly paper published in Tanjore, is being prosecuted for publishing an alleged defamation against Rao Bahadur V. Prangasa Naidu, Inspector of the City Police, Tanjore, particulars of which have already appeared in these columns. Before the enquiry was resumed, Mr. N. K. Ramasamy Iyer, Pleader for the accused, applied for an adjournment to enable the Editor to move the High Court for the transfer of the case from the file of this Court, as its action in connection with the proposed reward of Rs. 500 to the complainant by the District Board in connection with a criminal case was animadverted upon in the journal, and thus the Court might have to be examined as a witness for the defence. It will be remembered that at the last hearing of the case the Inspector complained that the attitude of the Editor in opposing the reward of Rs. 500 to be given to him for his work in the Gravel Frauds Case, as recommended by the District Board was an instance of malice. The Deputy Magistrate as a member of the District Board was present at the meeting at which the reward was unanimously recommended. The Pleader added that in order to disprove malice in that instance it might be necessary to examine the Deputy Magistrate on behalf of the accused. An adjournment was granted till the 24th instant.

A group of agriculturists and merchant in the State of Simla, Mexico, are promoting a scheme for exploiting the fibre obtained from the common mallow. It is said that the larger part of the agricultural zone of Simla is eminently adapted for growing mallow, and it is proposed to establish industrial centres for the treatment of fibre in various districts throughout the State.

Professor Guilo Tizzoni, of the Bologna University, has informed the Academy of Science there of the result of the experiments recently made by him on rabbits. After inoculation with the virus of hydrophobia he subjected them periodically, for several days, to the action of radium rays. While the animals inoculated, but not treated with radium, all died by the sixth day, those subjected to the rays were all cured, even in the cases when the treatment was begun after the disease had fully developed. The professor has left for Rome to confer with scientists there, and to ask for an audience of the King.

The wood and charcoal sellers of the Sunder Bazaar, Lucknow, have submitted a petition to the Cantonment Committee against the proposal to levy a tax on land utilised for storing wood and charcoal. They urge that the imposition of such a tax would be illegal, as no tax is to be levied in any Cantonment which is not enforced in the Municipality and which has not received the previous sanction of the Local Government.

While in some respects the administration of the Central Provinces Jails during the last year was not perhaps as good as it might have been, in the matter of health their record was an excellent one. The death-rate both for convicts and under-trial prisoners was under 14 per mille, a considerable improvement on the previous year. Great efforts were made in every case to keep plague outside the prison buildings. In the Nagpur Central Jail plague-infected rats were actually discovered in the grain godowns, but owing to the prompt measures taken, the Jail population escaped infection.

