

Amrita Bazar Patrika

BI-WEEKLY EDITION---PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

VOL XXXVI

CALCUTTA, THURSDAY JULY 20 1905

NO. 56

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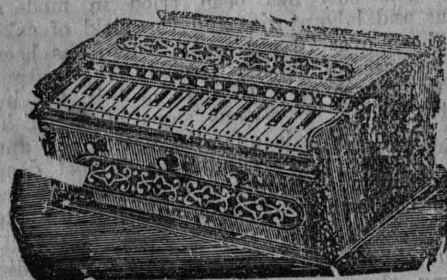
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Ranaghat

21 May 1904.

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Babu Bepin Behari Dhar of Rampur-Boalia, Rajshahi is a jeweller of high reputation. He designs excellent and he executes orders with precision, promptitude, and integrity. I had some Rs. 500 to a 600 worth of ornaments prepared by him and had the gold tested by an expert at Calcutta and was glad to find that he was honest as regards the price of gold and rate of labour.

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Dy. Magte.

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DEAR SIR,—The ornaments which you have supplied to me on order on the occasion of my daughter's marriage, have all been of approved design and of neat workmanship. I cannot but too highly recommend the promptitude with which my order was complied with. Thanking you for the same and wishing you success, I remain (Sd.) Kedar Nath Sanyal, Ex. Asst. Commr. Habiganj, Sylhet. Dated 3rd January 1890.

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India and Far East in Parliament.

Monday, June 26.

British Ships Seized by Russian Cruisers.—Mr. C. McCarthy asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he was in a position to make any statement with respect to the demands made by his Majesty's Government on behalf of the owners and crews of British merchant ships unjustifiably seized, detained, or destroyed by Russian cruisers, or with respect to measures taken to prevent a repetition of these outrages.

Mr. Gibson Bowles asked whether the Prime Minister could now answer a question with regard to the "Knight Commander," which was sunk in July last, and with respect to which he said in August last that he expected reparation would be made.

Mr. Balfour: I have no doubt there will be reparation; but I do not think it would be possible to give in answer to a question a general statement entirely fulfilling the intention or the phraseology of the question of the hon. member; and I am glad to be able to inform him and the House that we have the best reason for knowing that the Russian Government disapproves of the course taken by these cruisers, and that orders have been transmitted to the "Dauphin" at Jibuti which will render it quite impossible for any repetition on the part of that vessel of these outrages, as we think, on international law.

Tuesday, June 27.

The Military Charge for India.—Mr. Lambert asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether, seeing that in 1901 the military charge for India was a little over 15,000,000, it having increased since then to over 20,500,000, the Government of India have signified their approval of this further increase of 2,440,000 per year in the military expenditure of India.

Mr. Brodick: In 1900-1901 the net charge falling on the revenues of India for military services was 15,019,176; in 1905-1906 it is estimated at 20,711,900, including grants of 2,499,900, on reorganisation. These grants have been made in accordance with the wishes of the Government of India and include expenditure from an unspent balance brought forward from 1904-1905. It is contemplated that the expenditure on reorganisation will be at the rate of 2,000,000 a year for the next few years, and this will be in accordance with a proposal initiated by the Government of India.

The Tibetan Treaty.—Mr. Lambert asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the Chinese Government have assented to the Tibetan Treaty; whether he can state what is the exact amount of the indemnity that is to be paid by the Tibetan people; and whether there are at present any British or Indian troops in occupation of Tibetan territory.

Mr. Brodick: 1. The negotiations as to the admission of China to the Tibet convention are still proceeding. 2. The indemnity to be paid by Tibet is 25 lacs of rupees, as stated in the declaration appended to the ratified copy of the Tibet convention, published at page 93 of the last Tibet Blue Book. 3. I am not aware of any change in the number of troops which I informed the hon. member on April 10 were being maintained in Tibetan territory—namely, two and-a-half companies of native infantry in Chumbi and an escort of 50 men with the Trade Agent at Gyantse.

Mr. Lambert: Can the right hon. gentleman say when the negotiations will end?

Mr. Brodick: As the hon. member is aware, things do not travel very quickly in China.

Russian Cruisers.—Mr. Robson asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he was aware that the crew of the British steamship "Allanton," which was unlawfully captured on June 16, 1904, by a Russian warship, had as yet received no compensation from the Russian Government for the losses, risks, and hardships imposed on them by reason of the capture, and particularly for their enforced detention of nearly five months at Vladivostok; and whether it was the intention of the Government to present any claim to the Russian Government on behalf of these men.

Earl Percy: The answer to the earlier portion of the question is in the affirmative. With reference to the concluding portion I am informed that the crew were in receipt of wages throughout the period of the vessel's detention at Vladivostok, and up to the present sufficient claims have not been brought to the notice of his Majesty's Government to justify a claim being presented to the Russian Government on behalf of the members of the crew.

Mr. Austin Taylor: May I ask whether representations have been made to the Russian Government with regard to the sinking of the "Ikona" and whether instructions are being sent to the commander of the Russian cruiser "Teret" similar to those which have been sent to the commander of the "Dnieper"?

Earl Percy: I do not think that arises out of the question, but my impression is that our Ambassador at St. Petersburg has been instructed to bring this matter to the notice of the Russian Government in the same way as the "Dnieper".

Wednesday, June 28.

Lord Curzon.—Mr. Dalziel asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Viceroy of India had stated his intention of resigning his office in the event of the powers of the Commander-in-Chief being largely increased; whether any communication expressing dissatisfaction with the decision of the Government in this matter had been received from Lord Curzon; and whether the Secretary of State was in a position to give a denial to the report that the resignation of the Viceroy was impending.

Mr. Brodick: The House is aware that the despatches placed before Parliament show that a difference of opinion has arisen between the Commander-in-Chief in India and the Governor-General in Council with regard to certain points of Army administration in India. I have nothing to add to what has been placed on the table of this House except to say that in respect of certain questions which have arisen since the receipt of the recent despatch conveying the decision of the Government on the question at issue between the two authorities in India a communication has been received from the Viceroy suggesting certain modifications in the proposed arrangement, which are now under the consideration of the Government. The Viceroy has not tendered his resignation.

Mr. Dalziel: With regard to the suggested modifications, may I ask (cries of "No, no") if Lord Curzon has indicated that in the event of his view not being adopted he will tender his resignation?

Mr. Brodick made no reply.

Mr. Dalziel: I presume I may take it that is so? ("Order, order.")

Mr. Brodick shook his head.

General Elles.—Mr. MacVeagh asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether any communication had reached the India Office on the subject of the resignation, transfer, or recall of General Sir E. R. Elles.

Mr. Brodick: I have really nothing to add to the answer I gave yesterday. I have had no communication on the subject except the despatch which was published to the House, in which Sir E. Elles stated that he had but a few months to serve, but if any changes were contemplated in his department he would desire to offer his resignation. Those changes are contemplated, and, that being so, he will probably desire to offer his resignation. In that case care will be taken that he will not be the loser by any changes.

Mr. MacVeagh: It was stated in the newspapers that General Elles has stated that he has resigned, and that he understands that his resignation has been accepted. Has he resigned, and does the Secretary for India understand that he has resigned and that his resignation has been accepted?

Mr. Brodick: He has indicated his intention of resigning if certain changes were made. Since then I have received no communication from General Elles, but it has been intimated to the Government of India that certain changes will be made which will, no doubt, involve General Elle's resignation.

Mr. MacVeagh: Has any communication been received from Lord Kitchener on this matter?

No answer was given.

Thursday, June 29.

The Viceroy of India.—Mr. Buchanan asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Viceroy had, unconditionally accepted the proposals contained in the Secretary of State's despatch of May 31, or whether he had requested that certain modifications should be made in them before he could accept them; and what were the nature and extent of these suggested modifications.

Mr. Brodick: I have nothing to add to what I stated yesterday on this subject.

Mr. Buchanan gave notice that he would repeat the question next week.

Europeans and Natives in War Material Manufactories.—Mr. Weir asked the Secretary of State for India: Having regard to the fact that there are 11 factories in India engaged in the manufacture of war material, will he state the number of Europeans and Natives respectively employed in each factory.

Mr. Brodick: I am unable to state the number of Europeans and natives respectively employed in each factory, but the total number employed in all the 11 factories is as follows:—Europeans and Eurasians, 389; natives, 14,152.

The Rolt Case.—Mr. Weir asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he has yet received from the Government of India a report of the proceedings in the case of Emperor v. A. O. Rolt, tried in the Calcutta High Court on Dec. 20; and will he lay papers on the subject upon the table of the House.

Mr. Brodick: I have not received the report of the Government of India on the case.

Indian Labour for the Sudan.—Sir Edward Sassoon asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether, in view of the scarcity of employment in India, and the recorded disinclination of the Indian Government to countenance coolie importation into the Transvaal, he will consider the expediency of arranging with the Sudan Government for drafting Indian labour into the Sudan for the purpose of cotton culture and for the development of that country generally.

Mr. Brodick: I am not aware that employment is scarce in India; but if the Sudan Government should desire to import Indian labour, and make an application to the Indian Government to that effect, it would receive due consideration.

TEMPLE DISPUTE AT TINNEVELLY.

For sometime past there were certain disputes between the Collector of the district and Reverend Father Superior of the Roman Catholic Mission regarding a plot of land in Palamcottah known as Kottayadi Pottal. The Collector claimed it on behalf of Government and the Father on behalf of the Mission. After a good deal of protracted correspondence the Government of Madras decided that a portion of the land belonged to the Mission but that the rest should be surveyed and a decision come to by the District Surveyor. The suit which was instituted by the rate-payers of the Palamcottah Municipality from acquiring the disputed plot of ground for recreation purposes was withdrawn. Side by side with these disputes two prosecutions were instituted by the Municipal Council against Father Consensal for the infringement of Municipal laws i. e. for building a wall on the side of the road and for building a pukka building without the necessary sanction of the Municipal authorities. The cases were first launched before the Second Class Magistrate of Palamcottah and were filed in the Bench division. They were subsequently transferred to the Head Quarter Deputy Magistrate and thence to the Joint Magistrate, Tuticorin division. An application for transfer of these criminal cases was made before their Lordships the High Court Judges on the ground that the Chief Executive officer of the district is in bad terms with the Roman Catholic Missionary and that therefore no fair and impartial trial could be had anywhere in the district. The District Magistrate was served with a notice to show cause why the transfer application should not be made. The District Magistrate replied that the transfer will entail expense. The High Court after hearing both sides ordered that the cases be transferred to the Madras District Magistrate. The cases were posted to the 29th of June but as the case was not ready it is adjourned to the 12th of July at Madras.—"S. I. Mail."

Some little time ago, Revd. Mr. Markby, the former Chaplain of the Malabar Church of England, prosecuted, through the Police, the leader of a Tiyya wedding procession which went past the Church with music while service was going on. The case was partly heard, when Revd. Mr. Markby left the station on leave. His successor, Revd. Mr. Wright, has taken a common sense view of the matter and has had the case withdrawn by the Police. Apparently, Mr. Wright does not belong to that Church Militant, which is some times a little too much to the fore in this land of make-believe religious neutrality.

A TUSSEL WITH A THIEF.

On the 9th instant, at about 2 a.m. in the morning, a very daring theft was committed in the house of the Rev. Mr. Douglas of Barisal. The reverend gentleman sleeps at night with the doors of his room wide open and a hurricane lantern burning inside it. So thieves were always welcome in his room if they could only have the necessary courage and cleverness to carry on their work of ransacking in the bright blaze of the lantern. The temptation was too great and a gang of burglars yielded to it on the night referred to above. They were five in number and they somehow or other knew where the key of the iron chest was kept. They got hold of the key from the pocket of a coat belonging to the Padre in the bath-room, opened it, secured a bag of money containing 350 Rupees in cash. Sakuli Sardar, probably the ringleader of the party, handed over the bag to an accomplice and was just going to draw out a second when, as ill luck would have it, the lid of the chest accidentally fell with a crash and up sat Mr. Douglas as his bed at the sound! To jump down and to clasp round Sakuli by his waist was the work of a minute for Mr. Douglas, but it occupied still less time for the other thieves to take to their heels with the booty already in their possession.

A hard tussel ensued between the thief and the Padre. The former was by far the stronger of the two, but ere he could get an advantage over his adversary, the latter dealt a blow to his breast which stunned the man down on the ground for a while. Mr. Douglas, out of his scruple to disturb Mr. Strong, who was locked up in the arms of sleep in the next room, did not hitherto utter forth even a word; but now that he found that the thief was more than a match for him Mr. Strong was disturbed. But before the latter could get hold of his pistol and come out of his room the thief issued forth from the house, and plunged himself precipitately into the pond beyond. Mr. Douglas followed him and had again a tug-of-war with him in water, but unaccustomed as he was to swimming, he had to give up the struggle.

Meanwhile "Thief, thief, quick" was sounded and people gathered together on the bank of the pond, but no trace of the thief could be found. It was however at last noticed that the thief had poised himself in the middle of the pond with this nose protruding out of the surface of the water. He could not remain longer in this uneasy situation as he grew weary and at last giving up every idea of escape deliberately swam across to the bank. He was now captured and handed over to the Police. The other thieves are still at large nor has any trace been found out of the money bag. So say the "Barisal Hitachi."

THE SPIRIT OF THE JAPANESE NAVY

A Japanese gentleman sends us the following translation of a letter received by him a week ago from a friend in command of a first-class torpedo-boat in Admiral Togo's fleet:

"Dear O: A thousand apologies for my lengthy silence. We have been and are still busy, busy preparing a royal reception for the guests from Baltic."

"(When we of Suraidau (Torpedo Corps) meet ashore, we discuss and often wonder if after all the Russians will come or will they fail us. Do they know that we are ready? To northwest lies the harbour of Masampho, to south that of Sasebo, while Moji is on our east, and here we are waiting, waiting, and waiting for the enemy. Will he never come?"

"If you do not hear from me when a meeting has taken place, take this as my farewell. I do not expect to see you again in this life, except perhaps in your dreams. When my boat goes down, I shall go too and a Russian ship with us."

"It takes her weight in shells to sink a torpedo-boat—it's marvellous how they, the shells, do not hit."

"I have seen, not one, but many torpedo actions, and I know. With six compartments in the boat we ought to be able to close in within twenty yards of the target before she is sunk. If we hit, we shall go down with the Russians; if we are hit the Russians shall come with us, for the last man alive will steer the spare torpedo in the water. What is life but a dream of summer's night? Can one choose more glorious an exit than to die fighting for one's own country and for the Emperor who is a ruler and leader to the nation's heart? Does not many a worthy man end his life's chapter obscure for want of opportunity? Then let us uphold the honor and the duty of being Japanese. By going down with them we shall, in a measure, pay the debt we owe for the slaughter of these poor innocent peasants. They too are fighting for their country, so shall Bushi honor Bushi. There are more torpedo-boats and torpedo-boat destroyers than the number of ships in the whole fleet of Admiral Rozhdensky, and if each of them destroys or disables one of the enemy's vessel, it ought to do."

"Father Togo, now gray-haired, walks quietly to and fro on the bridge of the Mikasa and keeps silence, so all will go well. Do you remember the story when he went up to Tokio for the first time since the commencement of this war? Some public school boys were determined to unharass the horses of his carriage, at the instigation of the Asahi, I believe, and themselves draw it up to the gate of the imperial palace. Well, Father Togo got wind of this, and so he sent his chief-of-staff in the carriage, while he was seen, but not recognized, to be quietly walking towards Nijubashi, with his little daughter's hand in his. Will he play another trick upon the poor unsuspecting Russians when they come?"

"I bid you again farewell. Work, work, and work, for the coming Japan depends on you young fellows, I remain your ever humble brother."—T. N., in London Times."

CONTRACTED CHRONIC DIARRHOEA WHILE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

"While with 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, 212 N. Union Ave., Pueblo, Colorado, U. S. A. For sale by

All Chemists and Store-keepers. Price 1/6, 2/6, 3/6.

INSPECTION OF MINES IN BRITISH INDIA.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1904.

The report of Mr. W. H. Pickering, Chief Inspector of Mines in India, for the year 1904, confines itself to the mines regulated under the Indian Mines Act, 1901, which extends to the whole of British India, including Burma, British Baluchistan, the Santhal Parganas and the Pargana of Spiti. In other years a few statistical tables relating to mines in Native States and other workings not regulated by the Act have also been included in the report. But as it was not possible, to give either approximately complete or accurate statistics of these workings they have been omitted from the present report.

The report shows that during the year 1904 the average number of persons working daily in and about mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act was 107,382, of whom 71,510 worked underground and 35,872 on the surface. 70,320 of the persons working were adult males, 31,828 adult females and 5,234 children under 12 years of age.

With the exception of Manganese ore, there has been a substantial increase in the output of every important mineral from mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act. From the figures quoted in the report it is evident that Indian Mining is making a very good progress. Fluctuations in the output of coal have the greatest commercial significance, for it is by far the most important mineral raised, both relatively and potentially. Compared with the preceding year the large increase of 748,631 tons raised is shown, or an expansion at the rate of over 9 per cent. The growth of the industry appears to be healthy and natural. The coal is used principally for the railway locomotives, for bunker coal for steamers and for raising steam at mills. Very little is used for household purposes, except the allowance coal given to the coal-cutters at the Collieries. A coal-cutter is usually allowed to take a basket of coal home with him for every shift he works. He seldom fails to take advantage of this though he has to cut the coal himself and he or his wife or other assistant carry it to the surface. The Manager of a colliery employing 1,000 persons, estimated that the consumption from this cause was 10,000 tons a year. These facts show that an Indian will quickly acquire a taste for coal and will prefer it to the sticks and charcoal which he has hitherto used. Coke to the amount of 228,214 tons was carried by Indian Railways during the year under review, and the figure substantially represents the output. There are a few old fashioned "Welsh ovens" in the Giridih Coal-field, but the bulk of the coke is made in open ovens. The coke is surprisingly good, but the process is very wasteful, for though no very reliable figures are available, it may be safely said that only 40 tons of hard coke will on the average be produced from 100 tons of coal used in these open ovens. In addition, there will be perhaps 5 tons of "dressings" suitable for smithy use. The coal has been tried in modern ovens and laboratories and the yield of coke has been over 70 per cent. There has been a decrease of 32,490 tons in the output of Manganese ore. In spite of this, the industry shows no serious signs of languishing. Manganese is quarried not mined and the output for quarries under 20 feet deep is not included, for the Act does not require the owners of such quarries to make returns.

The export of manganese ore from India during the year 1904 was 154,829 tons. Mica mining continues to flourish and expand. There was an increase of 61 tons raised in 1904 as compared with the preceding year. Mica is so valuable a mineral that it would perhaps be more fitting to record the output in cwt. instead of in tons. Limestone shows an increase of 15,609 tons. Most of the limestone is obtained from quarries at Katni in the Central Provinces. Large quantities of lime are made in various parts of India from highly calcareous surface soil for which statistics are not available. This lime when mixed with proper proportions of sand makes most excellent mortar. Salt is an important mineral in India. During the year under review 107,413 tons were raised from mines and quarries or an increase of 16,746 tons over that of the preceding year. Over 88 per cent of the Indian salt, however, is obtained from sea water or from salt lakes by evaporation. Among other minerals fire-clay appears for the first time amongst the minerals raised in India. It is worked in connection with the coal at Warona Colliery in the Central Provinces. Excellent fire-bricks are made from it. Fire-clay is also obtained from shallow quarries in the Bengal Coal Fields, but the Act does not apply to them.

During the year under review, there were 60 separate fatal accidents involving the loss of 78 lives. Compared with the average of the preceding three years this is a decrease of 10 in the number of accidents and a decrease of 12 in the number of deaths. Of the persons killed 61 were males and 12 females. There were two explosions of fire-damp with fatal results. Both were due to the use of naked lights. In the second case which occurred at Chota Dheho Mine a miner went beyond a fence into a gallery where there was an accumulation of fire-damp and was fatally injured by the explosion which followed. The ventilation of the mine was unsatisfactory, for the ventilating power was not adequate and no means were taken to nurse the feeble air-current through the workings. Gas had previously been found and had been removed either by the barbarous practice of dispersing the accumulations by fanning them with a piece of cloth, or by the still more dangerous practice of setting fire to the gas. In these circumstances it may be counted fortunate that an explosion involving the loss of a large number of lives did not result. There were 17 fatal accidents and 22 deaths from these causes in coal mines. Five lives were lost by shaft accidents. Explosives are not much used in Indian coal mines, and the four deaths recorded are sufficiently explained in Appendix I.

CAUTION.

Persons when travelling should exercise care in the use of drinking water. As a safeguard it is urged that every traveller secures a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy before leaving home, to be carried in the hand baggage. This may prevent distressing sickness and annoying delay. For sale by

All Chemists and Store-keepers. Price 1/6, 2/6, 3/6.

All the accidents classed under haulage happened on the inclined planes driven into the outcrops of the seams. The full tubs are hauled up these inclines by means of stationary engines, and the empty tubs pull the rope down the incline for the return journey. With a few exceptions, this is the only mechanical haulage used in Indian collieries. Several of the accidents might have been prevented if proper stop-blocks had been provided, or if drags had been fixed behind the full tubs going up the inclines. At some mines separate travelling roads are provided so that the work-people can walk to and from their work without having to pass along the haulage roads.

Of the 12 deaths aboveground at coal mines 7 were on railways and tramways. The system of loading wagons by hand at present practised at most Indian collieries requires the employment of a large number of persons on the sidings. When wagons are being pushed in front of the locomotive a shunter should accompany the leading wagon. When wagons are about to be moved the people likely to be endangered should be warned. A whistle should be blown by the engine driver when the locomotive is approaching places where people work, or when the driver's sight is intercepted. These simple precautions would prevent many accidents on the sidings.

The accident figures for Mica Mines are very unsatisfactory for no less than 12 persons lost their lives in them during the year giving a death-rate of 1.27 per 1,000 persons employed underground. Mica mining has made great advances during the past few years as regards the number of persons employed and the output, but there has been no corresponding advance in systematic work.

The most serious mining accident in India during the year happened at a Mica mine. On 26th September at 2-30 in the afternoon an open cutting was being cleaned out for a mine pit. Sixteen persons were at work in the excavation when there was a heavy fall of loose gravelly earth from the side above them and nine were buried of whom only two were rescued alive. The earth fell from a slip on the hanging side of the excavation. This slip had evidently been visible for several days, but the men had been allowed to work under it without any precautions whatever being taken. When Mr. Grundy investigated the accident he found that the agent and manager were apparently unable to understand how to work such a place in safety. The "mate" or overman who was actually in charge of the work lost his life in the accident. He was said to have been a capable and experienced miner, but if this were so, it is difficult to understand why he worked and allowed others to work in such obvious danger. No timber was provided and no other means taken to make the side safe, and it is probable that the soft earth at one side of the excavation had been undermined. If accidents of this class are to be avoided in future, it will be necessary to place the Mica mines under the control of qualified managers and to formulate rules to regulate the work. The question is under consideration.

Section IV. re Prosecutions, discipline, and additions to the Act was considered superfluous as regards prosecutions for no legal proceedings were instituted against either owners, or agents or managers or work-people for violation of the Act during the year under review.

During the year under review four Indian students who have been given Government scholarships are at present studying mining at Birmingham University. This is a new departure and should be of great benefit to India, but it does not reach the masses, and the arrangements which are being made to teach mining at Indian colleges will only benefit those students who have the leisure and means to enable them to leave their distant homes to attend the college terms. A student with only brains and ambition as assets, and employed in an Indian mining district, and desirous of becoming a qualified mining engineer has little opportunity of learning the theory of the profession. The delivery of lectures and the organisation of evening mining classes in colliery districts would give such men their opportunity. This method of spreading mining knowledge would be of the nature of an experiment in India, but it seems to be worth trying. It has been previously advocated and has the approval of the Committee and Technical sub-committee of the Indian Mining Association. The only Mining Board at present constituted under Section 9 of the Act is for Lower Bengal. That district is the most important as regards mining, for it contains coal mines which give 93 per cent. of the output of coal from British India. The Board held 5 meetings during the year, and gave valuable advice upon the many important questions which were referred to it.

THE LABOUR QUESTION IN ASSAM.

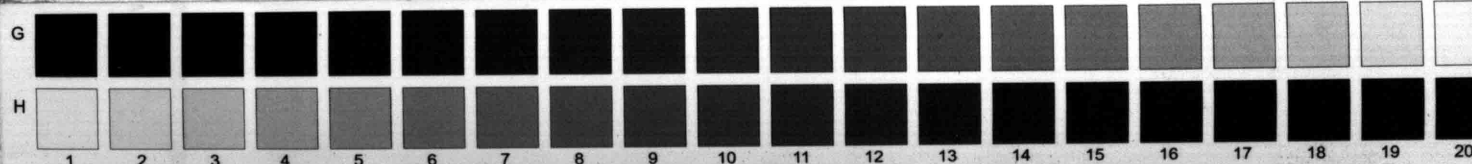
Sibangar, July 16.—The Commissioner of the Assam Valley has arrived at Jorhat on tour. It is understood that he has come to ascertain the state of feeling amongst planters concerning Mr. Fuller's proposals, in his circular which the Association has not yet replied to, representing to the Government that the gravity of the suggestions requires time for due consideration. The proposals of the Chief Commissioner are (1) to do away with the powers of arrest of absconders without warrant; (2) to do away with Act 6 altogether. Both proposals are contemplated with much disfavour and alarm by the industry, as beneficial only to the unscrupulous and dishonest amongst the planters, and as being positively injurious to the best interests of the labourers.

A Tanjore correspondent writes to the "Hindu":—A case of dacoity was tried in the July Sessions by the new District Judge, Mr. Moberley. In the course of the trial, the Judge remarked that the really guilty persons had been let off by the Police and advised the Public Prosecutor to withdraw the prosecution. The Public Prosecutor and Mr. N. K. Ramasamy Aiyar, High Court Vakils, who appeared for the defence did not think it worth while to argue the case, but left the summing up to the Court. The Judge admonished on the unreliable nature of the evidence for the prosecution for identification. The case was from Mannargudi and more than Rs. 1,500 worth of property was lost, but nothing was recovered.

WHERE.

Mr. M. Links, a storekeeper at Coochab, 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 Store-keepers. Price 1/6, 2/6, 3/6.



number of His Excellency's good works for the people of India? I pause for a reply. Bobban Alla! It is almost a cipher!"

There was a time when plague measures were more dreadful than the disease itself, but after untold sufferings had been wrought and followed by bloodshed Government came to realize its mistake and changed its plague policy. But it seems from a recent meeting held at Madras that the citizens have a serious grievance against the way in which plague measures are being enforced there. The meeting was presided over by a European missionary gentleman and was very largely attended, representing all sections of the public. The president Father Hood made a strong indictment against those who are enforcing the measures. The Revd. gentleman strengthened his position by narrating some concrete cases. To quote an instance, he reported that a girl was forcibly dragged by the hair and when her husband came up and remonstrated, he was so severely belaboured that he bled profusely by the mouth and the wounds on his face and body. Quite a number of similar cases occur every now and then. The effect of the meeting has been, we are told, that the head of the plague department is just now busily engaged in prosecuting the missionary gentleman.

SCRAPS.

The annual report of the Burdwan Experimental Farm for the year 1903-1904 observes that the soil is poor in phosphates and that explains why bone-meal gives such good results. The Farm covers an area of about 31 acres of which about 5 acres are covered by roads, buildings, water channels, tanks etc.; 7 acres are settled with some neighbouring ryots on produce rent. The rest was under experimental cultivation—paddy more or less 12 acres, jute 3.5 acres, potatoes (after jute) 2.5 acres, sugarcane 1.5 acres. Wheat, oats, fodder, jute, rape and gram were also grown to a small extent. Barring a narrow strip of high ground which is covered by jute in rotation with potatoes every year, there is not much land available for sugarcane in the Farm. The actual rainfall in the year under review was 53.78 as compared with the normal rainfall 57.53.

As in previous years, the operations carried out during the year were (1) experiments with manures; (2) trial of improved agricultural implements; (3) experiments in methods of cultivation; (4) comparison of different varieties of crops; (5) conservation of cattle manure and (6) distribution of seeds and manures and under all the above heads the return of crops was better than the year previous. The financial results of the sugarcane return were not satisfactory owing chiefly to heavy expense of watering. Besides, the canes were blown down by high winds in September and October. In potato cultivation too the financial result was not satisfactory owing partly to heavy cost of irrigation and partly to low price of potatoes. On an average there were only 64 head of plough cattle on the Farm during the year under export. It was roughly estimated that each animal produces 200 maunds of manure per year. The food of the animals consisted of paddy, straw, green food, and oil-cake besides grazing. Out of this refuse was added to the manure. The experiment as to the quantity of dry matter consumed by each cattle in food and the amount of manure it yields is under further consideration. Forty "Kahans" of sugarcane cuttings for planting, five and one third mds. of Bombay paddy seeds and some jute seeds were purchased by the public from the farm. The overseer distributed, at the cost of the department, a few maunds of bone meal and saltpetre among the ryots. They have given good results especially with paddy and their distribution on a larger scale is under contemplation. The total receipts for the year was Rs. 2,041-5-9 and the disbursements Rs. 4,388-14-0; so the net cost was Rs. 2,346-8-3.

The five lakhs pauper suit recently brought against Sethumbram Reddy, a wealthy boat owner of Rangoon, by a plaintiff who claimed that he had a half share in profits amounting to ten lakhs of rupees, has been dismissed with five gold mohurs costs on the ground that the claim was barred by limitation, and was also "res judicata" by reason of former proceedings in the Recorder's Court and Chief Court. The plaintiff was also ordered to pay Rs. 3,000, the amount of Court fees which would have been payable in the case had he not been allowed to sue as a pauper.

A Menagerie Menu.—Catering to animals requires both a plentiful and varied supply of foods, as can be seen from this report of material used at the London Zoological Gardens last year. For the flesh-eating animals there were supplied 144 tons of horse-flesh, nearly nine tons of goat-flesh, and 9,530 chicken heads. Fourteen and a half tons of fish, in addition to 1,260 pints of shrimps, furnished the warfowl with their daily fare, while 297 loads of hay and 6,030 bunches of greens supplied the ruminants. Other items on the list were 972lb. of grapes, 498lb. of sugar, 6,262 loaves of bread, 5,086 quarts of milk, 3,03lb. of crackers, and more than 33,000 eggs. The chicken heads were for the members of the rat family, the eggs for the birds, and the shrimps formed the easiest way to the attractions of the flamingoes.

On Thursday evening Mr. F. G. Richardson, a planter of Peermad, Travancore, was produced before Mr. W. E. Clarke, Chief Presidency Magistrate, Egmore Madras, and was released on bail in respect of a charge of assaulting a coolie in Travancore. The accused was put up for trial on the above charge, some months ago, before Mr. Verne, special Magistrate, who at that time found that the accused was of unsound mind and incapable of making his defence. He was sent on to the Lunatic Asylum, Madras, where he had been an inmate since April last. Last week Captain Chalmers, I. M. S., the Superintendent, certified that the patient was of sound mind and he was brought up before the Junior Presidency Magistrate, who ordered his discharge, but upon a telegram received from Travancore he was detained till Thursday, when he was released upon his executing a bond for Rs. 500 and furnishing one surety in a like sum.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

London, June 30.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

"Thou would'st be hero? Wait not, then, For fields of fine romance, which no day ever brings; The finest life lies oft in doing finely A multitude of unromantic things."

—ANON.

THE TUG OF WAR IN INDIA.

Last week India had a whole day in the House of Commons, and although the morning papers, for the most part, devoted more of their Parliamentary notes on the following day to the brief discussion on the war stores scandal than to the Indian debate, India did come prominently before the British public. In the earlier part of this week, too, India has afforded, the sensation of the moment, so much so, in fact, that the Contents' Bills of morning and evening papers came out with such lines as "Critical Situation in India," "The Viceroy and Lord Kitchener," "Rumoured Resignations." Of course it is the military question that has thus agitated the British public; earthquake, plague, and famine may involve the lives of thousands and thousands of British subjects in India, but it is only when the military question assumes the proportions of the present controversy that Indian affairs take precedence in our newspapers of happenings in other parts of the world. Indeed, it must be added, that even now the mutiny at Odessa, and certain home affairs have driven the Curzon-Kitchener question to less prominent positions in the news columns of our dailies. So the world wags, my masters. Events of importance happen day by day and the sensation of Monday is forgotten in that of Thursday.

Resignations have been in the air, and the fact that the two chief men in India, the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief, are understood to have threatened to resign unless their views are accepted is a matter of the utmost importance. As to Sir Edmund Elles, whose resignation Mr. Brodick first denied and then admitted in a round about sort of way, his name was until a few weeks ago unknown to the general public here, and even now the prevailing opinion is that the office he holds is one which has seriously handicapped military matters in India. It would take more than a nine days' wonder to prove to the British public that the financial side of the Indian military question is the one which most seriously presses upon the already over-burdened people of India who are compelled to find the necessary rupees.

Both sides of the controversy have been set forth, briefly or at greater length, according to the size and character of the different journals. On Saturday last the "Times" devoted almost four columns of small type to Lord Kitchener's Minute, and Viceroy's Minute, and Lord Kitchener's Minute of Dissent. A great many papers, of course, followed up the publication of the Minutes and the Blue Book by editorial comment. I subjoin a few quotations:

The "Times," in a long article mainly supporting Mr. Brodick's compromise, says, "The responsibility which it imposes on Lord Kitchener at his own request is so heavy that, with all the confidence which the nation repose in his energy and genius, they can scarcely look forward without some anxiety on the experiment he has initiated. We believe that, on the whole, the decision of the Government is a wise decision, but, at the same time, we cannot make light of the strong arguments and the grave authorities arrayed against it."

Yesterday, too, the "Times," evidently feeling that something was due to Lord Curzon for the "blow" which he is considered to have received through the decision of the Home Government, takes hold of the Simla telegram that arrangements are being submitted to the Secretary of State that seem likely to settle the question without further friction, and champions the Viceroy in its accustomed manner. It declares that it was at the earnest request of the Imperial Government that Lord Curzon returned to India to take up again the heavy burden of administration and reform in that country. "It would be a serious loss," it observes, "to India and to the Empire were they to be prematurely deprived of his invaluable services," and, emphasising the fact that the Viceroy's sense of duty is to high for him to allow his action to be governed merely by personal considerations, it adds that "it clearly behoves Ministers at home to do everything that lies in their power to diminish the difficulties of the position in which their action, however right it may be in substance, has placed him."

The "Standard," the new possession of Mr. Chamberlain's "hustling" friend, Mr. G. Arthur Pearson, owner of the "Express," "St. James Gazette," and other journals, has for some time taken up an attitude entirely in favour of the "forward" military policy in India. Consequently its comments on the controversy are all on the Kitchener side. It finds occasion to magnify Mr. Brodick's ability and statesmanship, talks of his "high reputation," "his masterly despatch," and "his admirable speech," and declares that "Lord Curzon cannot complain that his countrymen in England are blind to his abilities, but in this matter he has found himself in opposition to men with wider experience than his own." When a great commander like Lord Kitchener formulates an indictment of India's military system, "we shall not be persuaded," says the "Standard," "by Lord Curzon that the system is perfect." Other journals are commenting on the fact that Lord Kitchener's experience of India is only short, and Lord Curzon himself, in his Minute, refers to his long experience as Viceroy. Still, as I have intimated, the "Standard" now champions the idea of India's great military danger through Russian aggressiveness, and no expense must stand in the way of keeping back an enemy whose defeats in the Far East and internal rebellion will not affect her military strength in Central Asia. This is the opinion of many who are desirous of seeing military expenditure in time of peace kept up to the war height.

The "Morning Post" says that "if there is to be a division of labour the plane of cleavage followed in Mr. Brodick's despatch is certainly better than the old one between a Commander-in-Chief with the bit in this mouth and a Military Member holding the reins." A similar expression of opinion is found in other Conservative and Unionist journals.

The Liberal papers take an opposite view. Commenting yesterday on the crisis, the "Daily News" adds another to the many services it has rendered to the people of India, and draws attention to the fact that a principle of profound importance is at stake. For this reason, it says, "We earnestly hope that Parliament and the people will follow this matter closely; we cannot admit that the sacrifice of important principle is necessary to place the military control on a satisfactory basis."

The "Manchester Guardian" points out that though the danger of military despotism is great in England, where we have a Parliament, organised public opinion, and some humour, in India the danger is very great and grave. It considers that Lord Kitchener has very badly the worst of the arguments, and condemns his "very amateurish and ill-digested view of frontier policy." Commenting on his words regarding the "life-and-death struggle in which the armed might of the Empire would be engaged," the "Manchester Guardian" says: "Really after the battles of Liaoyang and Mukden this kind of writing betrays a rhetorical vice of mind of which we never suspected Lord Kitchener. Longer acquaintance with the problem of the Indian frontier will doubtless change his views; but in the meantime we must concert measures to safeguard India and the Empire from the grave additional risks to which his increased powers have exposed it."

The "Echo" is brief and scathing in its relevant criticism. If Russia had invaded India, captured Simla, and threatened the fabric of the Indian Empire, then, it says, it might be necessary to suspend constitutional considerations and make Lord Kitchener military dictator. But with India at peace, and Russia well-nigh demoralised, could a more senseless moment be chosen, it asks, for this military scare? "An anaemic Government has surrendered not to the necessities of the situation or the menace of a real danger, but simply to the angry and masterful personality of Lord Kitchener."

Enough of editorial comments, but, knowing the vital importance of the whole controversy to India and its people, I must not omit to mention that, as usual, journalists have had recourse to Sir Henry Cotton for an expression of opinion on the matter. The "Daily Chronicle," the "Morning Advertiser," and the "Daily News" publish his criticism, and Sir Henry's Indian friends will not need to be assured that he has characterised the Government's action as "a dangerous concession" to the Forward School. He maintains that there is no justification for the enormous military outlay demanded of India. "At no period, that I can recall," he says, "has there been less danger on our Indian frontier than there is now. To seize the present moment to spend millions because the money happens to be available is, in my view, wrong, and it would be much better to devote it to the reduction of taxation." With this view there is no doubt that Indians will be in deep accord, and it is the view which appeals to India's friends in England. Sir Henry pays tribute to Lord Kitchener's ability and describes him as "the most capable general officer for action in the Army," but he emphatically declares that in the present time of peace it would be very unjust to give him a free hand in money matters.

Sir Charles Dilke, who is a recognised authority on military matters and who is probably the best acquainted civilian in England with the affairs of India's North-West frontier, considers that a change in purely Indian war administration made in opposition to the unanimous opinion of the Indian Government at the wish of a general who has had no Indian experience is "very startling." He admits that it is galling to a strong Commander-in-Chief when the Military Member of the Council does not see eye to eye with him, but maintains that the word must always rest with the controller of the money. "Military questions are limited by finances."

To one more comment only can I refer, and that is one which is scarcely likely to reach the majority of your readers. It is from the pen of Mr. Martin Wood, well known as a journalist in India years ago, and one who follows very closely in his retirement the trend of Indian affairs. In the publication of the International Arbitration and Peace Association which appears every month under the title of "Concord," Mr. Martin Wood contributes an article with the suggestive heading, "Making War With Other People's Money." The article appeared before the Indian Budget debate of last week, and is a strong protest against the tendencies, that have recently concentrated into a kind of inter-departmental crisis, to force on the Indian Government increased military expenditure mainly in its aggressive character. It was rightly foreseen some three years ago, says Mr. Wood, that at the end of the South African war a reasonable demand would be made for large reduction in military and naval armaments, but he maintains that imperial defence and aggression have worked against the rising tide of retrenchment and the exhaustive bleeding of the taxpayer goes on. The concentration of the attention of the public on the "only vulnerable land frontier" of the Empire, India's North-West frontier—was part of the outward working of this military policy; Lord Kitchener's appointment was "the next chance that helped on this subtle design" and now the onslaught on to the civil control of Indian army affairs adds to the force of the movement. Mr. Wood protests against the adoption, "en bloc" of Lord Kitchener's redistribution proposals. Even in India details are not known and the High Court of Parliament has had no opportunity of understanding the administrative scheme it is asked to sanction, much less of discussing it. "As to the permanent results of this revolutionary suppression of such autonomy and self-reliance as are still retained by the Supreme Council in India, it suffices here to assert," says Mr. Wood, "that, should it be carried out there will be no hope of India's already ruinous Army charges being checked, even though the Indian people, in every form open to them, have protested constantly and energetically against the cruel exactions which grow year by year into a terrible burden."

We await with keenest interest the proposals from Simla which are, according to the "Times" Correspondent, to settle the momentous question without further friction, without necessitating the resignation of the Viceroy or of Lord Kitchener. It is to be hoped that some force will have been which will safeguard the people of the country, and that the attitude taken up by the Viceroy and the Indian Government,

supported by practically the whole press of India, will not be ignored by those with whom the final decision rests.

WELCOME INTEREST IN INDIA.

I am very pleased to be able to tell you from time to time of interest evinced in India; sometimes this interest shows itself in unexpected quarters, but this can hardly be said of the organisation to which I am very glad to refer to-day. It is an Association of Women Liberals and on Wednesday next the principal subject to be brought forward for their consideration is India. There are Women's Liberal Associations all over the kingdom, and it usually happens that one or more counties of England strengthen each other's hands by a union of Associations. This has been done in the case of the Kent, Surrey, and Sussex Women's Liberal Associations, and it is this Union which has decided to give the lion's share of their next meeting to India. It is a Council meeting of the Associations of the three counties, and will be attended by about two hundred delegates, representing the women Liberals of both towns and country districts. The President of the Union is Mrs. Walter McLaren, whose husband has made a name in the House of Commons. Other prominent workers are Mrs. Heron-Maxwell, Miss Somerville, Mrs. Aldrich, and Miss Martineau. The meeting will be held at the house of Mrs. Powell, at Reigate, in Surrey; in the drawing room should the weather not be favourable, but in the garden if fine and warm. The speakers chosen by the Council are Shaikh Abdul Kadir and Mr. Lajpat Rai, and they have been requested to deal with the questions of Taxation, Irrigation, Plague, Famine, and frontier warfare. The Reigate meeting will, I believe, be the first at which Mr. Lajpat Rai will speak since his arrival in England; of course, the Shaikh is now becoming well known here. Not only has he lectured in various places, and spoken at many meetings, but his able contributions on Indian questions to the "Westminster Gazette" are not only useful in themselves; they are winning him a recognised position as an authority who speaks from personal experience and wide knowledge. I hope to be present at the meeting, and will send you a report of it in my next Letter. I am told that the ladies who attend the meetings are usually very keen on asking questions when subjects are brought before them with which they are not familiar. The Council make a point of getting members of the Associations to take a personal interest in all political questions, so it is to be hoped that they will come prepared with many and varied questions, in which case much useful information regarding the true condition of India will be disseminated throughout Kent, Surrey and Sussex from the Reigate garden. Other Associations of Women Liberals in various parts of the country might well follow the example of the Kent, Surrey, and Sussex Union.

THE DISAPPOINTING RESULTS OF THE KABUL MISSION.

The article on Indian Affairs in the "Times" this week is devoted to a consideration of the results of the Kabul Mission, and the conclusion of the writer is that the British envoy came off decidedly second best. It would be interesting, he remarks, to know who was responsible for the "silly infant," that is, the Mission, whether the Viceroy or the Secretary of State, and he maintains that orientals have little respect for negotiations which leave matters in *status quo*. If the present Amir had been an adventurer who had won his way to the throne by arms or by assassination, the case would have been different, but as Habibullah succeeded peacefully to the responsibilities of his father, it is difficult, says the writer, to understand Lord Lansdowne's view as to the urgency of reaffirming the agreements. It is easy to see throughout the article that keen disappointment is felt, and in the end the scapegoat is announced: it is Mr. Brodick. The argument is that, remembering the treatment meted out to Sir Francis Younghusband with regard to the Tibet Treaty, other officers responsible for important negotiations are reluctant "to act with the promptitude and decision so essential in Eastern diplomacy." In fact the article concludes with a picture in dark outline of the disastrous effect of Mr. Brodick's abandonment of his envoy in Tibet. The Dalai Lama is supposed to be encouraged to return to power at Lhasa, but meanwhile he is intriguing at Urga. And the new Russian Minister to China has actually had to bad taste to find Urga a convenient halting place on his way to Peking, and has talked with the Dalai Lama about something else than the weather. In a leading article, too, in yesterday's "Times" Mr. Brodick is lectured for the manner in which he has treated the Indian Government. Here is one of the sentences: "It is certainly to be regretted that, in this as in some other matters, Mr. Brodick has shown a tendency to treat the Indian Government and the distinguished statesman who presides over it with less consideration than has usually been practised by those who have held the office of Secretary of State for India. Mr. Brodick in the House of Commons last week had to maintain that the Kabul Mission had been a success, but it is hardly likely, as has been already remarked that the Forwards will be pleased when no policy of railway construction or Europeanised military policy has been sanctioned. It is irritating and curtailing to ambition when an Afghan ruler who is now called 'Your Majesty' gets this new title, the accumulated misery due to his ruler, and makes no concession to British demands." The Calcutta Correspondent of the "World" is even more explicit than the writer in the "Times." The former boldly declares that now the text of the treaty concluded with such a flourish of trumpets between Afghanistan and India is available, "we are forced to the conclusion that the Amir has been too much for Mr. Louis Dane, and the Mission has been more or less of a failure from our point of view. The wily Afghan is, indeed, a past master in diplomacy." After all, one is tempted to ask again, Why this expenditure of Indian resources when the matter might have been settled in a much simpler manner?

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN AFGHANISTAN.

Allahabad, July 16.

Regarding Russian aggression against Afghanistan, the situation now in Russia proper but in the Caucasus it should be taken note of that the province is not only saturated with nihilism with its principal centres in large towns such as Tiflis and Batoum but has in its Mahomedan population a most dangerous element hostile to Government. Troops even in time of peace are almost as numerous as the British garrison of India and the present time of peace is believed to be over 100,000. Not a man of these can be spared and it is more than likely that reinforcements will have to be sent before long.

Calcutta and Environs.

A Durbar in Bankipur.—His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor will hold a Durbar at the Patna College Hall on the 1st August next.

The Barakar Defamation Case.—"The curtain has at last been drawn over this rather sensational case," writes our Barakar correspondent. "In this case Mrs. Cooper, wife of Railway guard Cooper was accused of defaming the character of one Mr. Weskin in a registered letter in which it was alleged to be stated that the accused's husband's behaviour with Mr. Weskin was improper. It was tried under sec. 500 I.P.O. and the trying Magistrate on the evidence adduced acquitted the accused."

The Chitpore Road Tragedy.—On Tuesday before Mr. D. H. Kingsford, Chief Presidency Magistrate, a man named Makhan Lal Dey who is said to have been implicated in the Benetola double murder case, was placed on his trial on a charge of wilful murder of two old ladies Kristo Kamini Dassi and Sowdhamini Dabe and also with house-breaking and theft of silver utensils and G.C. notes to the value of Rs. 20,000. After some witnesses had been examined the case was adjourned till to-day.

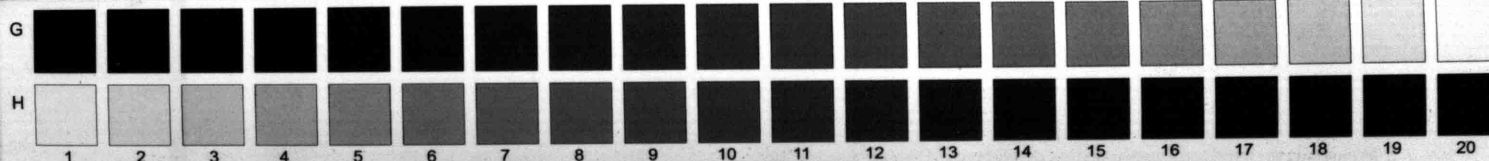
Elopement and Illegal Marriage.—Bhuban Mohini, a Hindu married woman of Mymen sing (village Lamkini), degraded so low as to elope with the Mahomedan servant of the house and ultimately married him under a Mahomedan name. The husband sought the help of Law and as a consequence the Mahomedan and his priest, who solemnized the nuptials, now enjoy the rigours of incarceration for a pretty good period of time. The latter was also fined Rupees hundred in addition to imprisonment.

Alleged Assault by a Sahib.—On Tuesday, before Mr. D. H. Kingsford, Chief Presidency Magistrate, Babu Asutosh Seal on behalf of a woman named Nassibun applied for a process against Mr. Archer on a charge of having assaulted her. The allegations were that the applicant had been sent by the land lord of the defendant to execute certain repairs in the house. The defendant would not allow her to do the work. On this an altercation ensued and she was assaulted. The court ordered her to produce witnesses on the 1st proximo.

Serious Allegations.—Mrs. Lantwar, of 5, Elliott Road, through her pleader, Babu K. M. Dutt, applied to Mr. Kingsford, that a Mr. Papaghika and Mr. Simmons, who are stated to live opposite the complainant, might be warned by the Police. The complainant alleged that both the defendants for about a week past had been annoying her by purposely dressing and undressing themselves near a window facing her house. She stated that she had young daughters living with her and the defendants behaved in this way when the young ladies are on the terrace of the house. The complainant further alleged that the conduct of the defendants was highly objectionable and calculated to insult the modesty of the complainant's daughters. The Court examined the complainant at some length. The complainant was advised to write to the defendants and ask them to desist. If that failed, she might come back.

Alleged Defamation.—On Saturday Babu Jotindra Mohan Ghose, vakil, applied on behalf of one Abraham Rahim for process against two Mahomedans, named Abdul Kadir and Samsuddin, for having defamed the complainant's legal married wife Sarah Moses (now Sarah Abraham) under the following alleged circumstances. The complainant who works as a gunner went to Rangoon a month ago. While there, the complainant received a telegram purporting to have been sent by accused No. 1 to the effect that his wife was carrying on an intrigue with one Indrit, a Jamadar of the Calcutta Police Reserve Force. The complainant thereupon came down to Calcutta, and saw the two accused and asked them whether they knew anything about the telegram. They admitted to have sent the telegram and told him that "his wife carried on immoral intimacy with a Jamadar of the Reserve Force and she is unchaste etc." The accused made similar false imputations of unchastity against the complainant's wife to other persons and in the presence of others. His Worship, Mr. Kingsford, after examining the complainant granted summonses against both the accused under section 500, I. P. Code, returnable on the 28th instant.

Shocking Street Fatality.—What proved a shocking accident terminating fatally occurred on Thursday night to a European named Hicks, an engineer in the employ of Messrs Burn and Co. About 9 o'clock in the evening Mr. Hicks and three other European gentlemen, having come out of Hotel Continental, got into a first-class tica phaeton, and ordered the coachman to drive to the Howrah Railway station. The coachman under instructions took a circuitous route, driving up Chowringhi and turning into Mayo Road. The carriage was proceeding at a great speed, and on entering the junction with the Red Road bumped violently against a curbstone throwing off the coachman and sycos on the road. The horses taking fright bolted, when three of the European occupants apprehending that the carriage would come to grief jumped out. Mr. Hicks, on the other hand climbed up the coach-box, got hold of the reins, and endeavoured to bring the horses under control when the horses ran the carriage against a lamp post in Government Place. Against a lamp post in Government Place the ground and rendering him senseless. The horses continued their frantic career, eventually getting into Esplanade Row, where the carriage colliding with a tree near the firm of Messrs. Hobbs and Co. was smashed up. Not many minutes after Sergeant Phillips of the Calcutta Police, and another European policeman, while proceeding to the Theatre Royal for duty came across Mr. Hicks who was bleeding profusely from injuries on the head. Sergeant Phillips attempted to render "first aid" but finding the case very serious removed the injured gentleman to Messrs. Scott Thomson's Dispensary. News of the occurrence having been conveyed to the Central Police Station, Lal Bazar, an ambulance was promptly despatched in charge of two European policemen to whence Mr. Hicks was carefully conveyed to the European General Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on Saturday forenoon without regaining consciousness. The coachman and sycos of the gharry appear to have escaped uninjured. The former stated that he was urged to drive quickly to the Howrah Railway Station to catch the train.



TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

Suit for recovery of Money.—At the High Court before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sale, counsel applied for the admission of a plaint on behalf of alias Pancel Winter for the recovery of Rs. 1000 from R.N. Mathewson, being the balance of the purchase money in respect of certain press and two journals. The plaintiff was the proprietress of a press and two journals, The "Indian Scotsman" and the "Indian Medical Records." It was agreed between the plaintiff and the defendant that the former was to sell the press and the two journals for Rs. 4000. She was paid certain sums of money. The present suit was for the recovery of the balance. His Lordship admitted the plaint.

Inquest.—On Tuesday afternoon Mr. D. H. Kingsford, offg. Coroner of the city held an inquest touching the death of Giribala Dassi, who died on the 20th ultimo. Evidence went on to show that the deceased sent her husband to fetch her daughter from Baranagore. He went there but did not bring the daughter as he had been desired by the deceased. The husband instead of returning home direct that night drank liquor witnessed the performance of a jatra and passed the rest of the night in bad company. The following morning when he returned home, he found his wife hanging dead. The post mortem disclosed that the death had been due to hanging. The Jury returned a verdict of suicide.

Suit on a Promissory Note.—At the High Court, on Tuesday, before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sale, the case of G. C. Allen and others vs. Panna Lal Rustajee and others came on for hearing. The plaintiffs in this case carried on business under the name of Messrs. Allen Brothers and the defendants under the name of Mayers and Co. The present suit was for the recovery of Rs. 9500, being the principal and interest. The defendant firm executed a promissory note and a deed of assignment in favour of the plaintiff company. His Lordship decreed the case in favour of the plaintiff for Rs. 9000 and directed that an account would be taken as to what was due by the plaintiff company.

A Murder Case.—The Sessions Court at Patna decided on 14th instant the case of murder at Kunbhar in Patna an account of which appeared sometime ago. The accused, one Mitun Dhanuk who was charged with the murder of his wife was acquitted by the unanimous verdict of the jury. The prosecution was instituted on the discovery of the headless trunk of a woman who was alleged to be the wife of the accused. The defence, contended that the body was not sufficiently identified, that the medical evidence proved that the dead was committed long after the time alleged by the prosecution and that there was no motive for the murder. "Behar Herald."

Suit Against a Nawab.—At the High Court before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sale, Mr. Lisle applied on behalf of the plaintiff in the suit of G. H. Ramkan vs. the Nawab of Dacca for an order to compel the defendant Nawab to file his written statements within twenty-four hours. The plaintiff was appointed as an Engineer by the Nawab on a salary of Rs. 400 a month. The present suit was for the recovery of four months' salary and Rs. 200 and odd for disbursement. Babu Dhanu Lal Agarwalla, on behalf of the defendant, asked for a fortnight's time to enable him to file his written statements. His Lordship after hearing both sides granted a week's time. In the event of the defendant failing to file his written statements within that time, the case will be transferred on the undefended list.

A Charge of theft Against the late Printer of the "Hitabadi".—On Tuesday before Mr. D. H. Kingsford, Chief Presidency Magistrate, the case in which Suresh Chander Sanjal charged Aswini Kumar Haldar, late Printer of the "Hitabadi," a vernacular weekly, with the theft of certain manuscript copies of advertisement, was called on for hearing. Babu Tarak Nath Sahu and Suresh Chander Mitter appeared for the prosecution and Mr. K. N. Chowdhry, Barrister-at-law, with Babu Gyan Chander Guha and Sukumar Chatterjee, instructed by Babu Kumud Nath Gangooly attorney of the High Court, for the defence. The case being called on Babu Tarak Nath applied for an adjournment on the ground of the absence of an important witness. Mr. Chowdhry urged that this case should be postponed till the High Court case was disposed of. Babu Tarak Nath strongly opposed to this and submitted that this case should be proceeded with, although there was a suit pending in the High Court. The court observed that this case should be proceeded with if the High Court case was not finished on the 27th instant and accordingly adjourned it to the 1st proximo.

Robbery by a Noted Character.—A case is under investigation by the Government Railway Police, Sealdah, in which a respectable Hindu woman, named Mrinalini Debi, was decoyed and robbed of all her jewellery, money and some clothes, valued in all about Rs. 500, by one Abinash Mukerjee, a noted character, who had been under police surveillance, but had been untraced since 1904, when he was released from jail. The accused called on the complainant and, introducing himself as Gungadhar Karmakar, told her that he had been sent to fetch her by her mother, a resident in the village of Sheikpara, who was lying dangerously ill. He produced a letter in support of his statement. The complainant in hot haste packed up her jewellery, money and some clothes in a portmanteau and taking with her a maid servant left her home on the 25th of May last, accompanied by the accused, to whom she entrusted her portmanteau, believing him to be a trustworthy man, having been sent by her mother. The trio proceeded to the Dursona Station, on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, when the complainant with her maid servant got into the female compartment of the train. The accused was believed to have got into the next carriage, but he was found missing on the complainant alighting at the Madanpur Railway Station. The complainant proceeded to the residence of her mother, who was found in the best of health, and who denied having sent for her daughter, who then discovered that she had been cruelly hoaxed and robbed. The accused was traced to Naihatti, but before the police could get there, he absconded to Chandernagore. An extradition warrant was obtained, but, before it could be executed, the accused disappeared from that place, and is said to be on the move from British into French territory and "vice versa" by which means he has up till now eluded the vigilance of the police.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

Official news published at Tokio states that eighty prisoners and five guns were captured at Dalnyey. The losses were seventy Japanese killed and wounded and 130 Russians. The victory ensures the complete occupation of Southern Sakhalin by the Japanese.

GENERAL

A company of Cossacks at Zgierz near Lodz are mutinous, complaining of bad food and demanding arrears of pay. They were surrounded and disarmed. This is the first time the Cossacks have shown any disaffection.

Dr. Martin and the officers engaged in investigating the etiology of plague will remain in India until October. They are now engaged in research work at Bombay. No further news has been received regarding the fatal drowning accident to Lieutenant Garsia, Durham Light Infantry, in Kashmir. He is reported to have lost his life in the river between Batal and Sonamarg.

Major R. J. MacNamara, Superintendent of the Central Jail, Multan, succeeds Colonel Bate as Inspector-General of Prisons in the Punjab.

M. Delorsalues, one of M. Deroulede's co-exiles, has returned to Paris.

The Mikado has pardoned M. Bouguin and the Interpreter Maki. But it is understood that M. Bouguin returns permanently to France.

Sir Antony Macdonnell has undergone a severe internal operation.

The War Stores Commission opened today, Mr. Brodick, who was the first witness to be called, dwelt upon the enormous amount of work the War Office had to cope with during the war, and the difficulty of obtaining adequate financial advice.

Mr. Brodick further stated that Lord Curzon's recommendations related to four points.

First, that the Military Supply Member should always be a soldier. Government replied that it was prepared to appoint a soldier for the impending vacancy, but it was unable to fetter the future discretion of the Crown.

Secondly, that the Supply Member be always available for consultation with the Viceroy on all military questions in which Government was concerned, but no special claim could exist for the Supply Member to be consulted upon the proposals of the Commander-in-Chief or "vice versa."

Thirdly, the Secretary to Government in the Army Department should receive the local rank of Major-General. The Government assented to this.

Fourthly, important changes in military organisation, especially the Native Army, should be discussed by a mobilisation committee of which the Commander-in-Chief and the Supply Member be essential members.

The King and Pope have sent messages to Sir Antony Macdonnell. "Englishman."

The Premier has summoned the Unionist party to meet at the Foreign Office to-day. Dissolution rumours are prevalent but it is likely that an autumn Session is to be discussed. "Englishman."

Mr. Lyttelton, replying to Mr. Schwann, said he had no information regarding the working of the law for the imprisonment for debt in Ceylon, but he will ask the Governor for a report.

Mr. Balfour withdraws his redistribution resolution mentioned on the 11th instant, and proceeds with the Bill next session.

Captain Watson, who was a passenger from Japan by the steamer "Eastern," states that she would be glad to bring it to an end. Thousands of sick and wounded soldiers are, he declares, streaming back to Japan, and business is being carried on under great difficulties. Everyone spoken to by him said that the country was determined to go on until Russia gave way.

Russia, it is stated has informed China that Japan's resources would be exhausted before setting foot on Russian territory, and that she (Japan) therefore prompted President Roosevelt's peace proposal, which Russia accepted out of courtesy to America.

General Linievitch reports:—"On the morning of the 29th ultimo a vigorous Japanese advance on Beho compelled the Russians to retreat until they were reinforced, when the Japanese retired."

He adds:—"The Japanese have advanced from Nanshan-chensi to Legatchan, and from Julantsi to Wankoku."

Referring to General Linievitch's telegram, the Japanese claim that their troops moving towards Baaling-cheng expelled three hundred Russians from Tashantan.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

EXPLORATION OF GLACIERS.

An expedition will start from Darjeeling early in September next to explore the glaciers of the Kanchenjunga. The members composing the party are Mr. A. Crowley, Doctor Jacob Guillard and Messrs Raymond and Packe and two surno amateur mountaineers, Doctor Guillard and Mr. Crowley are well known climbers and have had some Himalayan experience in the Balistan expedition. They will proceed via the Pamayachi Tongri over Kang La to Tseram, above 16000 feet from it. The sanction of the Nepal Durbar is now awaited. It is believed that the exploration is being made at the instance of a private syndicate and it is hoped that it will beat record in way of height.

I. G. OF ORDINANCE FACTORIES.

Allahabad, July 16. The additional expenditure involved by the appointment of an Inspector-General of Ordinance Factories in India will be about 46,000 per annum.

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MILITARY ADMINISTRATION IN INDIA.

LORD CURZON'S SPEECH.

His Excellency spoke as follows:—

The public will desire to be informed of the settlement that has been arrived at of the questions concerning our future military administration that have lately been under discussion between the Home Government and the Government of India. Seven months ago, this question was referred to us upon their own initiative by His Majesty's Government and the Government of India submitted their views to the home authorities in March last in papers which have since been published. The reply of His Majesty's Government reached Simla a month ago and has similarly been made public upon receipt of this despatch the Government of India learned to their regret that the advice which they had all but unanimously tendered to His Majesty's Government had not been so fortunate as to meet with the acceptance of the latter. They were instructed to introduce without delay a form of military administration of which they learned only for the first time in the despatch of the Secretary of State and they may be pardoned if they were somewhat surprised at the manner in which it was thought necessary to convey these orders with the utmost desire to carry out loyally a policy decided upon by His Majesty's Government I was unable conscientiously to assume the responsibility of introducing an organisation in the practicability of which I could not bring myself to believe and as to which I found that my colleagues were in agreement with myself. In these circumstances it became my duty respectfully to represent this position to His Majesty's Government and to urge upon them such modification as might remove the principal drawbacks from which the scheme appeared to us to suffer. These modifications have without exception been accepted by His Majesty's Government and it is desirable that I should now explain them in some little detail to the Indian public which is vitally concerned in the form and methods of our military administration and which has followed every phase of the recent discussion with absorbing interest.

If a reference be made to the despatch of 23rd March last and the accompanying Minutes in which the views of the Government of India were stated, it will be found that the points to which we attached the greatest importance in any system of Indian military administration were, firstly, that the statutory control over the Army of the Governor-General in Council should remain unimpaired; secondly, that the Government of India should possess independent expert advice to enable them to decide upon the merits of the military proposals brought before them and thirdly, that the head of the Government should not be placed in a position in which the responsibility of this decision should be shifted from the collective shoulders of the Government on to his. I may refer more particularly to paragraph 11 of our Despatch in which we wrote as follows:—

"The question may be thus stated. Is it desirable that the Government of India should possess only a single and supreme military adviser controlling the entire military organisation or is it desirable that they should continue as now to have a second expert opinion upon matters which in the ordinary course of administration come before them for decision? We feel no hesitation in answering this question. We cannot too strongly or emphatically express our conviction that the Military Member is an essential element in the Government of India and our reasons are the following:—As long as the Governor-General in Council continues to be responsible for the Government of the Army he requires expert advice in order to enable him to deal satisfactorily with the proposals that are submitted to him by the executive head of the Army. It is our experience that successive Commanders-in-Chief enter upon their duties with very different ideas and originate very different proposals. In these circumstances it is of extreme importance that the principles, the history and the tradition of each case should be presented to the members of the Government before they are called upon to decide."

Those were our recorded views and it was because the scheme sent out to us by the Secretary of State did not appear to us to satisfy these essential conditions that we felt bound to attempt to secure its amendment. We informed His Majesty's Government that unless modified in important particulars it would, in our opinion, be unworkable in operation, that it would imperil the control of the Governor-General in Council and that it would impose an undue burden upon the Viceroy while depriving him of indispensable advice. The manner in which we sought to remove these evils was as follows:—

In the first place it seemed to us that the new Military Supply Member as sketched in the Despatch of the Secretary of State might be without the authority and experience and would certainly be without the opportunities that would enable him to give to the Government of India the independent assistance of which I have spoken. We appeared to us that he would be little more than a purveyor of military stores and supplies and that his advisory functions on general military questions would not be called into existence until a case was brought before Council or in other words until it might be too late to be of practical use. The language of the Despatch appeared to us further to be ambiguous in respect of his military qualifications and powers for we were told that his functions were to be essentially those of a civilian administrator with military knowledge and experience—a definition that seemed on the whole to postulate a soldier; for, how could a civilian possess military experience and yet that his duties were to be more of a civilian than a military nature—a phrase that seemed to be not incompatible with the appointment of a civilian—and further that he was specially to advise the Governor-General in Council on questions of general policy as distinct from purely military questions—a distinction which seemed to contravene the previous definition of his duties and which we thought that it would not be possible in practice to maintain.

We accordingly represented to the Secretary of State that the functions which His Majesty's Government proposed to assign to the Military Supply Member could not properly be performed except by a soldier and that such, in our opinion, he ought always to be just as the Military Member has hitherto invariably been. We did

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not ask that any alteration should be made in the existing law that regulates the appointment of members of Council, but we represented that the nomination of a civilian would be fatal to the safeguards which we desired to create. His Majesty's Government have not of course the power to bind their successors except by the precedent which they are about to create. The first appointment, however, which will be that of Military Officer will set an example which I venture to think that no future Government will be found to depart from. For from the day that a civilian is appointed to the office the administrative system which is now being set up will in my judgment, even if it has lasted as long, be fated to disappear. Secondly in order to clear up the ambiguities in the position of the Military Supply Member and to place the full benefit of his military knowledge and experience at the disposal of the Viceroy and his colleagues. We proposed that outside the necessary functions of his department he should be available for official consultation by the head of the Government on all military questions without distinction and not only upon questions of general policy but upon questions of detail. We proposed that identical conditions should apply to both military department and that upon the submission of any case from either department the Viceroy should, if he considers it necessary, refer it to the head of the other department for advice. We informed the Secretary of State that we did not anticipate that this would become the general practice in either case but that the power of reference was required in order to relieve the Viceroy of a burden of some responsibility and that in our view it would, when resorted to, tend to promote co-ordination.

His Majesty's Government informed us in reply that these proposals were consistent with the right of the Viceroy to consult any member of his Council on any subject and that there would therefore be no objection to concede them without giving to either member any special right to be consulted or to note upon the proposals of the other. How important this concession is may be seen by a contrast with the terms of the Secretary of State's despatch in paragraph 25 of which we had been informed that in future the Commander-in-Chief would be the sole expert adviser of the Government on purely military questions. I am myself of opinion that with two Military Officers of distinction upon the Executive Council nothing could be more unwise than to separate them so to speak into watertight compartments and compel each to work in complete detachment from the other. The more they co-operate and know of each other's policy and views the better it will be both for the Government of India and for the Indian Army. It was with the same object in view namely to secure complete co-operation of all important military questions by both our military advisers and to ensure harmonious co-operation between the two departments and their heads that we made a further proposal.

The Secretary of State had suggested in his Despatch the revival of the Mobilisation Committee with the Military Supply Member sitting upon it. We proposed to lay down that all important changes in military organisation or conditions of service of all ranks or in customs affecting the Native Army or its departments which might originate from either military department must of necessity be submitted for discussion to this Committee or to an analogous committee such other more suitable designation as might be decided upon and that the Commander-in-Chief and Military Supply Member should be essential members of this Committee. This will mean that no important changes affecting the Native Army or any portion of the Army can be put forward without turning the gauntlet of a highly competent expert body upon which the principal military officers at the head quarters of Government will sit and at whose meetings both the military advisers of the Government of India must be present. This rule will provide for the exhaustive discussion from every point of view of all military proposals and should relieve the Governor-General in Council of a good deal of preliminary work which might otherwise fall either upon the Viceroy or upon his colleagues.

Our next proposals were directed to securing that the Government of India should be effectively and powerfully represented in the new Army Department and that means should be provided by which the head of the Government should be kept in the closest touch with its policy and proceeding. The Secretary of State's Despatch had been silent as to the rank of the new Secretary to Government in this department. It will be this officer who will be the ordinary channel of communication between the department and the Viceroy, who will possess the access to the latter enjoyed by all Secretaries to Government and who will be the custodian inside the department of the traditions and principles of the Government of India. We thought that it would be invidious if this officer were of lower rank than his colleagues at the head of other branches in the department. We accordingly proposed that he should be either a Major-General or if a Colonel that he should have the local rank of Major-General. This proposal was agreed to.

Finally we proposed to draw up a definite schedule of all cases in the Army Department which it should be the duty of the Secretary to Government in the department to submit to the Viceroy before orders could be passed upon them. This was intended as an additional safeguard to the full and complete knowledge and control by the Governor-General. The idea met with the approval of His Majesty's Government. The whole of the above proposal which were put forward with the concurrence of the Commander-in-Chief were submitted by us to the Secretary of State as the minimum which, in our judgment, was necessary in order to render the new organisation practicable. The Secretary of State informed us in his final reply that they did not contravene the provision of his Despatch and that some of them were in exact fulfilment of the wishes and intentions there conveyed. We were very glad to make this discovery since, while securing points to which we attached the utmost importance, we learned that we were at the same time acting in accordance with the desires of His Majesty's Government. Whether the system thus modified will be in any way superior to that with which we have hitherto been familiar or whether it will

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

possess any permanent vitality the future alone will show. We have seen so many schemes of military organisation rise and fall in recent years that prophecy is dangerous. The new scheme is not of our creation. All that we have been in a position to do is to effect the removal of some of its most apparent anomalies and to place its various parts in more scientific relation to each other. We have converted the position of the Military Supply Member into one of greater efficacy and utility. We have very considerably strengthened the guarantees for civil supervision and control. In the last resort I expect that the new system like the old will depend in the main upon the personal equation for its success or failure. It is only necessary for me to add upon the wider aspect of the case that the sole object which my colleagues and myself have had in view since the commencement of the present discussion has been the maintenance of the constitutional authority of the Government of India. Individual views or susceptibilities are of minor importance. We hold that it would be incompatible with the proper conduct of the Indian Government if the full degree of intelligent and informed (?) control over military matters conceded to the Governor-General in Council by the law were to be weakened. No one who has been responsible for the Government as long as I have can be blind to the importance of this consideration and that the Governor-General would in no judgment be untrue to his office who did not regard it as his bounden duty to sustain the prerogative which was conceded to the Government of India as far back as three quarters of a century ago.

Supreme Legislative Council,

SITTING AT SIMLA.

Simla, July 18.

INDIAN ARTICLES OF WAR.

At this morning's meeting of the Council, the bill to amend the Indian Articles of War was passed without discussion.

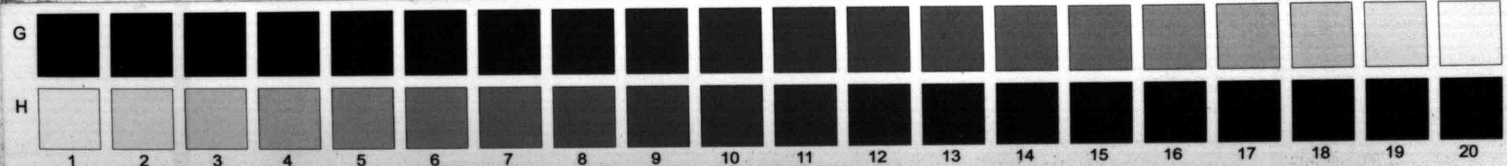
THE COINAGE ACT.

The Hon'ble Mr. Baker introduced a bill to amend the Coinage Act. He said:— I beg to move for leave to introduce a bill to amend and consolidate the Act relating to the coinage. The present Coinage Act was originally passed in 1870. Some of its provisions such as that which relates to the coinage of gold mohurs and other gold coins are obsolete and some others are not altogether appropriate to the conditions of the present time. It is proposed to make the necessary amendments in respect of these matters in the present bill. In addition to these points, however, which are of minor consequence there are three matters of importance with which it is proposed to deal in the bill. In the first place it is desired to take power to coin and issue a nickel coin of the value of one anna. We have already consulted public opinion on this project and have ascertained that it is entirely favourable. It is therefore unnecessary to dwell at length upon it. If the experiment should prove successful the question of extending the use of nickel to coins of the denominations of half an anna and two annas respectively will be for consideration hereafter but this step is not contemplated at present and no provision is made for it in the bill. Secondly, we desire to take power to substitute bronze coins for the copper subsidiary coinage now in use here also. We have already ascertained that public opinion is in favour of the change. We shall take power to continue to coin copper till the mints have been equipped for the production of bronze coins but that will not I hope be for more than a comparatively short time.

The third substantive alteration in the law which it is proposed to make relates to the treatment of light weight silver coins. The present law on the subject is contained in sections 16 and 17 of the Act of 1870 these provide that when a genuine coin which has lost more than 2 per cent. in weight by reasonable wear is tendered to a Government officer empowered under the Act, he shall cut or break it and shall pay for it at the rate of one rupee per tola. When the Act of 1870 was passed the mints were open to the free coinage of silver and a rupee of full weight was always necessarily worth exactly the same as the silver contained in it. If therefore a person presented short weight rupees the loss he suffered by cutting or breaking was exactly proportionate to the shortage in weight and it was not inequitable that he should suffer this loss but when the mints were closed and the rupees became a taken coin the value of the silver contained in it became widely different from and less than its face value. If therefore the provisions of the present Act were strictly applied the result would be to mulct the tenderer of short weight rupees not only of the proportion of value due to the shortage but also of the whole difference between the bullion value and the face value of the coin. This was productive of hardship to innocent holders and in order to minimize this in 1899, Government issued a notification declaring that they would receive rupees which were short weight by not more than 6 1/2 per cent. and had not been tampered with at their face value and also that they would receive the rupees which were short by more than 6 1/2 per cent. but not more than 25 per cent. at reduced rates ranging from 14 annas to 12 annas to the rupee. Under the Act as it stood the Government had no express authority to do this though its action was perfectly legal, being merely a relaxation in favour of the public of the strict letter of the law but it is manifestly undesirable to maintain on the Statute Book a provision which is admittedly harsh and inequitable and which is not enforced in practice. We, therefore, propose to modify the provisions of the existing law so as to conform to the practice which experience has shown to be appropriate. This was done in Clause 17 of the present Bill. We do not in this cause fix the actual percentages corresponding to the 6 1/2 per cent., and 25 per cent. to which I have referred, but we take power to determine them by rules subject always to the legal remedy.

RAIN IN THE PUNJAB.

Allahabad, July 18. A break in rains is reported from the Western Himalaya Region. This will be welcomed in several parts of the Punjab if it is not too prolonged.



Calcutta Gazette.—July 19,

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Babu Jnanendra Nath Choudhuri, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted temporarily to the head-quarters station of the Jessore district.

Babu Amrita Lal Mukherji, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Ranaghat, Nadia, is transferred temporarily to the head-quarters station of the Bogra district.

Babu Rajendra Chandra Ghose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Nadia, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Ranaghat subdivision of that district.

Maulvi Subhan Ali Khan, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is appointed to have charge of the Ranaghat subdivision of the Nadia district.

Babu Bhubendra Nath Mukerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Birbhum district.

Mr. R. B. Bainbridge, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Birbhum, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Faridpur district.

Babu Ajoy Chandra Das, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mymensingh, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Jessore district.

Babu Sasi Mohan Talukdar, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Backergunge, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Mymensingh district.

Babu Khirud Lal Mookerji, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Backergunge, is transferred temporarily to the Patuakhali subdivision of that district.

Mr. E. V. Levinge, Magistrate and Collector, Muzaffarpur, is appointed to act as Additional Commissioner of the Patna Division, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. C. R. Marriott.

Mr. J. Hezlett, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jamui, Monghyr, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Muzaffarpur.

Babu Sarada Prasad Sarkar, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dakshin Shahbazar, Backergunge, is appointed to have charge of the Jamui subdivision of the Monghyr district.

Babu Prakas Chandra Sinha, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Purnea, is appointed to have charge of the Dakshin Shahbazar subdivision of the Backergunge district.

Mr. J. F. Dickinson, Assistant Superintendent of Police, second grade, on probation, is confirmed in that grade with effect from the 28th April 1905.

Mr. E. P. Chapman, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Muzaffarpur, is appointed to act in the second grade of District and Sessions Judges.

Mr. E. G. Drake-Brockman, District and Sessions Judge, Midnapore, is appointed to act in the second grade of District and Sessions Judges.

Rai Narayan Chunder Naik Bahadur, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, who has been posted to Jessore, is allowed leave for two months.

Babu Prasanna Kumar Banerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Burdwan, is allowed leave for fifteen days.

Babu Chandra Narayan Gupta, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Sonthal Parganas, is allowed leave for two months.

Babu Sukumar Halder, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Faridpur, is allowed leave for three months.

Maulvi Syed Mahomed, Khan Bahadur, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24-Parganas, is allowed leave for five weeks.

Mr. C. R. Marriott, Additional Commissioner of the Patna Division, is allowed leave for two months.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Babu Nogenand Nath Chatterjee, Munsif of Munshiganj, in the district of Dacca, is allowed leave for one month.

Maulvi Syed Ghaleb Hasain, Munsif of Kishanganj, in the district of Purnea, is allowed leave for two months and five days.

Babu Harandra Narayan Guha, Munsif of Tamluk, in the district of Midnapore, is allowed leave for twenty-eight days.

Babu Jugul Kisor Das, Munsif of Barsat, in the district of the 24-Parganas, is allowed leave for forty-three days.

Babu Ashutosh Mukerjee, Munsif of Contai, in the district of Midnapore, is allowed leave for three months and seventeen days.

Babu Nripendra Nath Sarkar, Munsif of Kasba, in the district of Tippera, is allowed leave for two days.

Babu Debendra Nath Banerjee, Munsif of Howrah, in the district of Hooghly, is allowed leave for fifteen days.

Babu Satindra Nath Guha, Munsif of Munshiganj, in the district of Dacca, is allowed leave for fifteen days.

Babu Bonode Bahari Mitter, Munsif of Narayaniganj in the district of Dacca, is allowed an extension of leave for sixteen days.

Babu Banamali Sen, Munsif of Bhola, in the district of Backergunge, is allowed leave till the 26th September 1905.

Babu Khagendra Nath Bose, Munsif of Brahmanbaria, in the district of Tippera, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Bhuvan Mohan Ghose, Small Cause Court Judge, Howrah, Hooghly and Sreemangal, in the district of Hooghly, is allowed leave for four days.

SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICE.

Babu Uma Charan Roy Chowdhury, Sub-Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to the Keshitia subdivision of the Nadia district.

Babu Jotindra Kumar Roy, Sub-Deputy Collector, Burdwan, Division, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Hooghly district.

Babu Rash Bihari Mukerjee, Sub-Deputy Collector, Presidency Division, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Jessore district.

Maulvi Sujatali Ahmed, Sub-Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to the Dacca Division.

Maulvi Mahomed Sadiq, Sub-Deputy Collector, Patna Division, is posted to the head quarters station of the Saran district.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Babu Nabin Chandra Dutt, Civil Surgeon, stationed at Noakhali, is allowed privilege leave for one month.

First-grade Assistant Surgeon Surendra Nath Neogee, attached to the Pilgrim Hospital at Gaya, is appointed temporarily to act as a Civil Surgeon and is posted to Noakhali.

A case of defamation was brought by a Nair of Thiruvallur, Walluvanad, against some 'Vaidikas' on the ground that in a 'Kalavicharam' proceedings he too was outcasted without a notice to him on the allegation that he had also intimacy with the Nambudiri female. The accused denied the charge and pleaded that the complainant was not one of the persons they had declared outcastes. The complaint was dismissed by the Special Assistant Magistrate, Calicut.

POLICE HIGH-HANDEDNESS.

AN IMPORTANT JUDGMENT.

Here is the full text of the judgment in the case, Lakshmi Tanti and 4 others (female) (Sec. 34 Act V. 1861) referred to in our editorial column:—

It is alleged by the prosecution that on the 13th May last at about 7-30 a.m. the accused were washing themselves in the Suddar Ferry Ghat of Rajgram. The Head Constable Sabid Beg ordered their arrest and after they were allowed to go home followed by the three Constables who saw the occurrence, their guardians were called to the Thana to stand bail, which they refused. The accused were then summoned, but allowed to appear by Muktears.

The following are the points for decision to effect a proper identification of the accused:—

(i) Which of the Constables first asked the accused about the occurrence and did the accused stop at the Ghat.

(ii) The manner in which they went home followed by the Constables.

(iii) Were the accused veiled when at the Ghat and accosted by the Constables?

(iv) Who gave the names of the accused to the Head Constable who is in fact the most important factor in this case.

As regards the first point, P. W. I. says that P. W. II. asked the women as to why they were washing themselves in the River. P. W. III. and P. W. IV. however divide the first credit to (three) all the Constables. P. W. 2 says that the women stopped when asked the above question while he completed walking 30 cubits up to a distance of 15 cubits from the woman. P. W. 3 however says that the accused went away as soon as the above question was put to them.

Secondly P. W. I. says that the town Chowkidars (Constables) chased the women who were walking at a rapid pace. He is supported in this view by P. W. 3 and 4, but P. W. 2 contradicts him totally and says that the accused walked away slowly while they followed them at a similar speed.

Thirdly P. W. 2 says that the accused were veiled. P. W. 3 says accused had no veils, while P. W. 4 says only one of them was veiled. It is therefore uncertain whether the accused had veils according to the prosecution.

Fourthly P. W. I. says that P. W. III and P. W. IV gave him the names of the accused at the Thana. P. W. 2 deposes that the guardians of the accused at the Thana gave out their names. P. W. 3 however makes confusion worse confounded. He first of all said that the accused gave out their names at the Ghat to the three Constables. But perhaps thinking that it would be incompatible with the modesty of the women or the serene and sacred silence ascribed to them, he changed the story to having ascertained the names from a village woman of about three score and ten. Worst of all, he could not enlighten the prosecution by giving the name of the old woman and finding that it existed most in his fertile imagination, he changed his statement for the second time, and ascribed to P. W. II the important "role" of giving out the names to the Jemadar, though the latter sacrificed the honour to the guardians of the accused. The last witness P. W. 4 however claims all honor to himself in stating that he identified the women at the Ghat and named them to P. W. I then and there.

The above are the slender and unbelievable basis on which the prosecution rests. The case teems with absurdities, which the witnesses for the prosecution would have the court to believe in. The place where the occurrence took place is a Public Ferry Ghat where according to the prosecution numerous persons bathe. It is absurd that ladies of respectable family would flock there to wash themselves. P. W. I and P. W. IV say that at the time many males and females were bathing while P. W. 2 and 3 state that there were no males. Apart from the moon-light contradiction of the statements, it is impossible that the accused who are members of respectable families would expose themselves there.

Secondly no independent evidence has been adduced for the prosecution though P. W. I. says men of Rajgram and of other villages were bathing at the time of the occurrence. Though the prosecution witnesses were conversant with the names of the accused and some of them showed undue knowledge of them, yet the witnesses could not say the name of a single woman bathing at the Ghat, granting that this statement about their knowledge of the names of the women of the village was true, except those of the accused. This one fact alone is sufficient to discredit their story.

Thirdly it has been admitted both by the prosecution and by the defence that the accused have big tanks near or adjoining to their houses. It has also been proved that the distance between their houses and the place of occurrence was more than a mile. It is simply absurd and perhaps more than absurd that these ladies who belong to respectable households would trudge a mile for washing themselves in the river under public gaze.

Fourthly it comes out that P. W. 2 has been posted to the Ghat to see that occurrences like the present one do not happen. Certainly he was within sight of the persons bathing there, and supposing he was with the Inspector when he crossed the river, he must have been present all along but for a few minutes. Apart from the possibility of the present case happening at all owing to his being in sight of the bathers and the recent arrest of another batch of women for similar offences would alone have sent a thrill of horror through the hearts of the women of the place who would never have ventured following in their footsteps.

I have gone through the Register of Act V Cases and found that Cases like the present one and one recently decided never occurred before. It can not be contended that the Magistrate's order dated the 25th April 1905 was at all necessary or authoritative, as Rajgram is within Municipal limits. Either the Police neglected their duty before the passing of the above order or the Constables arrested the accused simply because Act V cases were rare at Rajgram, as so humorously suggested by P. W. IV.

In conclusion I can not express my regret at the deliberately false story concocted by the witnesses for the prosecution. It is clearly evident that the feelings between the Constables and the inhabitants are far from satisfactory. But that does not justify their action in getting up this case against pardanshin ladies of admittedly respectable families. I hope the District Superintendent of Police will kindly take appropriate action against the witnesses for the prosecution specially against the town Chowkidars.

I acquit all the accused under Sec. 245 C. P. C.

(Sd.) Charu Ch Mukherjee,
Dy. Magistrate.

Bankura,
19th June 1905.

MONKEYS AS MAID-SERVANTS.

The cleverness and imitative faculty of the monkey has been utilised by mankind in many ways during late years, and to-day this hairy animal acts as clerk, servant, labourer, and tea-packer in various parts of the world. A female chimpanzee once went out to service at Loango, and made the beds, swept the house, and assisted in the kitchen by peeling the potatoes and turning the spit.

These facts are equalled, if not surpassed, by a young monkey, the property of a sailor on one of Britain's ironclads. This animal can turn the capstan and turn the sails as well as anyone. He also assists the cook in preparing dinner, and is adept at boiling eggs. Luckily, the culinary arrangements on board a ship are quite as exacting as those in a London hotel, or the monkey assistant might find himself in somewhat of a quandary.

Chinese monkeys for years past have assisted the natives in tea-packing. Their labour is cheap, for they are more than contented with payment in the shape of sundry luscious morsels.

During the rush to the gold fields of Yukon, an enterprising miner carried five Chinese monkeys to help him in gold-washing. The monkeys had been used to severe cold and extremes of a vigorous climate, and the gold-seeker found his animal-workmen most useful.

Some years ago a number of British engineers employed monkeys to assist the workmen in carrying material to a railway extension in Cape Colony.

It appears that a score of monkeys came regularly every morning to the line to watch the labourers at work, and the engineers in charge, rightly believing that the imitative faculties of the creatures would render them useful in railway work, had them captured. They were immediately put in training, and soon proved themselves invaluable as carriers.

In Siam apes are now employed as cashiers. A year or two ago much base coin was circulated by a clique of coiners, and the tradesmen found that it was a very difficult matter to discriminate between good and bad money.

One large store kept a pet monkey, and one morning he was seen to take a coin from the cashier's desk and put it between his teeth. After biting it for some moments he threw it on the floor with a solemn grimace of dissatisfaction.

The proprietor of the store then landed the monkey, another coin, and after testing it with great deliberation he laid it on the cashier's desk. Apparently the creature could tell a counterfeit coin from a good one, and in order to ascertain whether other monkeys had the same extraordinary gift, a couple of apes belonging to a zoo were given the test, with satisfactory results.

From that day the majority of the business houses in Siam have kept monkeys as cashiers, and the gifted creatures have developed the faculty of discrimination between good and bad coin to such perfection that no human being can compete with them.

A little while ago a monkey employed by a firm of clothiers died, and his coffin, which was of polished oak, and conveyed to the cemetery in an open hearse, was followed by all the cashier monkeys in Siam.

In Batignolles, a suburb of Paris, a monkey used to sell newspapers in the streets, while another was employed as a window-cleaner and shoe-black in a hotel on Broadway, New York.

An exciting scene occurred on the main deck of an Ohio steamer during the transportation of 'Robinson's Exposition of Animals.'

A huge elephant and a monster rhinoceros managed to escape from their quarters, and, meeting on deck, they started fighting fiercely.

Horses were knocked down and trampled to death under the feet of the infuriated monsters. Cages were smashed into fragments, and the terrific shrieks of the dying and wounded animals filled the air as the battle raged fiercely.

Presently a huge ape came upon the scene, and, picking up a grapple-bar, rushed towards the combatants and attempted to part them, but without avail. He had, however, shown his bravery.

The elephant and rhinoceros were finally parted by being deluged with steam and hot water from the boiler-pipes.

There have been many other instances of monkeys being employed to do the work of human beings, and if only one could trust them a little more than their mischievous nature warrants, they might prove an excellent solution to the modern domestic servant problem.

The only difficulty would be to know what to do with a simian "general" if you desired to give her notice.

You would either have to poison her or put up with her vagaries.

THE ORIGIN OF LIFE.

Working at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, Mr. J. Butler Burke has arrived at some interesting results. By means of radium and sterilised bouillon placed together in a test tube he has succeeded in "creating" cultures which present many of the appearances of vitality, such as growth and subdivision. Has Mr. Burke solved what is familiarly known as the problem of "spontaneous generation"? As to the true interference to be drawn from his experiments we must wait awhile; but two considerations occur to us: (1) It may be that "sterilising" is only a provisionally absolute word, and that it becomes conditional as soon as radium is applied to the substance "sterilised."

(2) Possibly radium contains the germ of life—i. e., as on this hypothesis we should have to define it, the form of motion from which the differentiated forms of life can be evolved.

On this second supposition we get thrown back on to radium; the mystery of life becomes the mystery of radium, the mystery of the activities of radium. It is all-important to remember in this connexion that in recent times the whole conception of matter has been changed—your real scientist talks no longer of "dead" matter. We have witnessed the transformation of everything into the idea of motion—"Whence comes the motion?" That is as hard a question to answer as the older question—"Whence comes the life?"

THE HIGH COURT.

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justice Rampini and Mookerjee.)

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE PRIVATE CHARACTER OF A MAGISTRATE.

Babu Hemendra Nath Sen appeared in support of a rule issued, on behalf of one Shib Chandra Adhikari, upon the District Magistrate of Rajshaye to show cause why the case pending before Babu Haro Chandra Ghosh in which the petitioner is the complainant should not be transferred to some other Magistrate. The petitioner charged one Harakchand and 4 others before Mr. Jarbo the Deputy Magistrate in charge of the district alleging that the accused without giving any notice to the complainant and in collusion with the officers of Court broke open the outer door of his house and took away movable articles and account books belonging to the petitioner. Mr. Jarbo ordered a police enquiry. The police submitted a Form (false). The petitioner again applied to Mr. Jarbo imputing against the conduct of the police and Mr. Jarbo took up the case and issued processes against the accused. The accused then moved the District Magistrate and got the case transferred to the file of Babu Hara Chandra Ghose, Deputy Magistrate. The petitioner came to High Court and obtained the present rule. In his affidavit the petitioner alleged that Babu Hara Chandra Ghosh had a mistress in Rampur Boalia and that he in company with accused No. 3 used to pass every evening at the house of the said mistress. The petitioner made some other allegations against the private character of the trying Deputy Magistrate.

The Magistrate submitted an explanation denying in toto all the allegations made against him. The Deputy Magistrate further said that he had no objection to a transfer.

Babu Sirish Chandra Chowdhury, Junior Government Pleader, appeared to show cause and Babu Dasarathi Sanyal appeared for the opposite party.

Rampini, J.—You seem to be complaining against this officer and that. You complained against the Sub-Inspector, who inquired into the case, and Mr. Jarbo.

Hemendra Babu.—I did not complain against Mr. Jarbo. It was the accused who complained against him.

Their Lordships then read the explanation submitted by the Magistrate.

Rampini, J.—There seems to be no foundation of the allegations made against the Magistrate.

Hemendra Babu.—The petitioner is prepared to verify the allegations.

Rampini, J.—Because the Magistrate keeps a mistress, is he unfit to try your case?

Hemendra Babu.—Far from it. It shows that our imputations are correct.

Rampini, J.—We don't believe that the imputations made against him are correct.

Babu Sirish Chunder Chowdhury in showing cause said:—I should like that your Lordship should take serious notice of the aspersions made against the character of the Magistrate.

Rampini, J.—We don't believe those allegations that is enough.

Sirish Babu.—Charge has actually been framed and he has no ground of complaint.

Babu Dasarathi Sanyal on behalf of the opposite party said:—The transfer means a trial "de novo."

Rampini, J.—Not necessarily.

Dasarathi Babu.—For the interest of the accused the witnesses should be retried.

Rampini, J.—The complainant has nothing to do with it.

Dasarathi Babu.—Your Lordships should take note of the false and malicious statements made against the Magistrate.

Rampini, J.—What have you to do with them. Babu Sirish Chandra had said about it.

Dasarathi Babu.—Then every man can come and make imputations against the private character of any Magistrate and pray for the transfer of his case.

Rampini, J.—We have already said that we do not believe those imputations.

Dasarathi Babu.—I have never come across with such reckless and false statements.

Their Lordships in delivering judgment remarked that in their opinion there was no ground for the imputations made against the private character of the Magistrate. They were unfounded, malicious and vexatious. The Deputy Magistrate now preferred to have the case transferred and accordingly their Lordships passed orders transferring the case to some other Magistrate whom the District Magistrate thought proper. The rule was made absolute.

(Before Justices Pratt and Pargiter.)

HOWRAH HITAJSHI DEFAMATION CASE.

This is a Rule issued on behalf of Gispati Roy Chowdhury and Suresh Chandra Koyat calling upon the District Magistrate of Howrah to show cause why the conviction and sentence passed by the Joint-Magistrate of Howrah and modified on appeal by the Sessions Judge of Hooghly should not be set aside. On the 16th January last Moti Lal Bose, Sub-Inspector of Sankrail out-post, lodged a complaint before the Joint Magistrate of Howrah that the petitioners in publishing in the (Howrah) "Hitajshi" a vernacular weekly, certain articles had committed an offence under Section 500, I. P. Code. The allegations made in those articles referred to the death of one Fakir Das in the inquiry of which it was said that the Sub-Inspector extorted Rs. 50 from the brother-in-law of the deceased. The Joint Magistrate, after examining witnesses for both sides convicted the petitioners and sentenced them to pay Rs. 250 and Rs. 100 respectively. On appeal the conviction was confirmed but the fines were reduced to Rs. 200 and Rs. 50.

Their Lordships, after hearing Babu Atulya Churn Bose for the petitioners, did not think it proper to interfere. Accordingly the Rule was discharged.

RULE MADE ABSOLUTE.

This was a rule upon the District Magistrate of the Twenty-four Parganas to show cause why the case of the petitioner pending in the Court of the Sub-Divisional Officer of Diamond Harbour should not be transferred to some other Magistrate. The complainant in this case was a Native Christian. His wife was missing from his house for two months and discovering her in the house of the petitioner, a Mahomedan, he complained before the Sub-Divisional Officer

of Diamond Harbour, also a Native Christian, alleging that the petitioner had enticed away his wife. There was a preliminary enquiry before the Magistrate in which the Sub-Divisional Officer after taking some evidence in support of the complainant's case issued warrant against the petitioner. The woman also was arrested by a warrant for the purpose of being examined but nothing was done for her examination. The petitioner in moving the High Court stated that two persons, also Native Christians, were taking interest in the complainant's case, one of whom was the private tutor of the children of the Sub-Divisional Officer and the other was a protégé of the Magistrate and that they were talking about the locality that they would secure the conviction of the petitioner in this case.

Babu Shama Prosono Mazumder, who appeared in support of the rule, urged that under the circumstances the petitioner apprehended that he would not get a fair and impartial trial at the hands of the Magistrate and that for the ends of justice the case should be transferred to some other Magistrate.

Their Lordships after hearing the learned Vakils and going through the explanation submitted by the Magistrate remarked that such allegations against a trying Magistrate should be deprecated. At the same time that there might not be any doubt. Their Lordships ordered the case to be transferred to Alipur.

(Before Justices Pratt and Pargiter.)

BANALI RAJ EMBEZZLEMENT CASE.

This is an appeal preferred by one Hadiali Khan who was convicted by the Sessions Judge of Bhagalpur, differing from both the assessors, of 2 counts under section 408 I.P.O. and sentenced in all to three years rigorous imprisonment and fine of Rs. 1,000.

The appellant was a clerk on Rs. 10 a month in the record-room department of the Banali Raj Sadar Office. The Raj is a large estate owned by certain co-sharers with a head office at Bhagalpur. The Government demands were paid as a rule from the Sadar Office in Bhagalpur. The record department made account of the Government dues. It was the practice to draw money for Government demands from the Raj Treasury without any written pay order. It was alleged that the appellant used to draw money from the Raj Treasury and was entrusted with the payment of the same to the Collector's Office.

It was said that he systematically made short payments of the same for sometime and that in June 1904 the result was that the Raj was heavily in arrears in regard to cesses and that the clerks in the Cess Department had warned the appellant that a certificate would issue for the arrears. The appellant, it was alleged, for that reason in June 1904 represented to the record-keeper that the demand of one estate had been increased in that list by Rs. 9,000. The record-keeper believed this story and sanctioned the payment. Appellant took Rs. 9,000 and paid in Rs. 9 instead of Rs. 9,000 for revenue. It was said that he paid out of this money the old arrears and misappropriated the rest. On the above charge the appellant was placed on his trial with the result stated above.

Babu Dasarathi Sanyal, who appeared for the appellant, urged that the appellant had been prejudiced in his defence by the omission to frame any charge in respect of separate offences, that the misjoinder of charges was bad in law and that the Sessions Judge having practically disbelieved the principal prosecution witnesses should not have convicted the appellant of criminal misappropriation.

Their Lordships after hearing the other side dismissed the appeal.

WHAT A WIFE'S INFIDELITY CAN DO.

THE HUSBAND COMITS DOUBLE MURDER.

Gagan Chandra Sirdar of Kachui, Patia, Chitragong, suspected the fidelity of his wife and to test it practically Gagan, on Monday the 10th instant, having partaken of his dinner at noon gave his wife to understand that he was going out on a long journey and left home.

They say when the cat is away the mice will play; and true to this proverb as soon as the unfortunate husband went out of the compound of the house the wife entered her room in company with two of her husband's cousins Aparna Charan and Rasik Chandra. She had not been long in the enjoyment of their sweet company when her husband came back home, peeped in the room through the window and to his excruciating pain found his wife in the same bed with Rasik Chandra while Aparna Charan sat close by their side. The sight sent a dagger to Gagan's heart, he lost all control over his senses and rushed into the room like a mad man.

In the twinkling of an eye Rasik and Aparna jumped out of the room, but to seize hold of a bilhook which lay close by, to sever the head of his faithless wife from the trunk with one stroke of it and to speed after the characterless cousins was but the work of a minute for the injured husband. Gagan overtook Rasik in his own house, dealt him one fatal blow which fell him down a lifeless corpse on the ground and ran after Aparna. Ere Gagan could deal a death blow to Aparna's life, his uncle Kailash got hold of Gagan, but the several blows Aparna had received were too much for him.

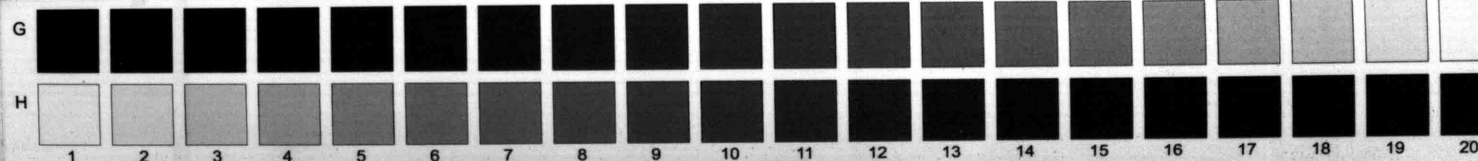
Gagan then sped on to the district town, saw Mr. Mullick, the District Judge, the next morning and told him what he had done. Mr. Mullick sent him over to the Sadar thana where the desperate man told the same story over again to the Sub-Inspector who caused his arrest, learnt by wire that his story was true to the letter and had his confession recorded by a Deputy Magistrate.

The dead bodies of Rasik and Gagan's wife have been challaned for post mortem examination and Aparna has been removed to hospital, where his condition is suspected to be critical. So says the "Jyoti."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

THE COMING SOLAR ECLIPSE.

The kingdom of Spain will be the Mecca of astronomers from all parts of Europe and America in August, the solar eclipse occurring on the 30th of that month (partial in England) being total in Spain. This eclipse is particularly important, combining an easily accessible region, long duration of totality, and a sunspot maximum. It will be many years before such conditions occur again. The centre of the shadow track will strike the Spanish coast near Cape Ortegal, and the shadow, some 120 miles wide, will cross the peninsula in a south-easterly direction, just missing the capital and reaching the Mediterranean, with Tortosa at its northern edge and Valencia at its southern edge. The shadow also passes over Majorca, Algeria, Tunis (where the Astronomer Royal is journeying), and Egypt, the eclipse ending in Southern Arabia at sunset.



CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

EXTENSION OF THE MEDICAL COURSE.

A Special Meeting of the Senate was held on the 8th July last, under the presidency of the Vice-Chancellor, to consider a proposal for the extension of the Medical Course from five to six years.

Surgeon-General Bomford moved that the Medical Course be extended to six years. He said that medical opinion was, for the most part, in favour of the extension. With the exception of the Principal of the Madras Medical College, the Principals of the Medical Colleges in India approved of his proposal. The majority of the Medical Faculty had voted for it, and even the minority would agree to an additional year of practical work, if the M. B. Degree was awarded at the end of five years, which could not very well be, as there was no law to restrain a passed M. B. from practising during the year intended for practical training. The importance of practical work was being more and more recognised in England, but here, even with the present course of studies, the lectures so crowded upon one another that very little time was left for practical work, and the difficulty would be greater, if the course was improved, as it was bound to be. Having regard to the class of F. A.'s with whom the College had to start, the first year had to be devoted to preliminary work and could hardly be counted as a medical year. The opinion of the Universities Commission that five years were sufficient, was of little value, as there was no medical expert on the Commission.

Lieutenant-Colonel Harris seconded the motion. He said that a larger proportion would pass, and pass creditably, if the course was extended to six years.

The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendranath Basu, moved, as an amendment, that the five years be retained. He said that if five years were sufficient in London, five years ought to be sufficient here. The five years system had turned out men, who adorned the profession and commanded the greatest confidence. The F. A.'s who joined the Medical College, far from being ill-qualified, had a competent knowledge of the fundamental subjects. The success in England, of students who failed in the Examinations here, showed that the real need was not more time, but better appliances and greater facilities.

Dr. Nilratan Sarkar seconded the amendment. He said that the proposal had been carried in the Medical Faculty by a very narrow majority. If five years sufficed in England five years ought to be sufficient here. What was really wanted, was the employment of subordinate professor to do tutorial work, and not the addition of a year to the course.

Sir Gooroo Dass Banerjee remarked that while it was true that there was no medical expert on the Universities Commission, Surgeon-General Bomford gave evidence before the Commission, and although, as an expert witness, he was perfectly free to make any statement he thought fit, he made no reference to the necessity for the extension of the Medical Course to six years.

Dr. Surendranath Sarbadhikari said he yielded to none in his desire for an improved Medical Course. But the way to secure it was not to add a year to the Course, but to provide for better teaching. He had a talk with the present Principal of the Medical College as to the causes of failure, and three times in the course of the conversation, the answer was, "bad teaching." The proposal was carried in the Medical Faculty by a majority of only seven to six, Surgeon-General Bomford being one of the seven. A session in the College practically extended only over seven months. A month and a half might easily be added to the working session, if more time was wanted. The routine was drawn up with an eye to the convenience of the professors rather than of the students. The proper remedy would be to provide the same appliances and facilities as in England.

Professor S. C. Mahalanabis said that F. A.'s here had fully the preliminary qualifications required in England. The fact was that students here had not the same opportunities. In the department of Physiology, for instance, no improvement had been made in the course of the fifteen years he had been away in England. Under such circumstances, the addition of a year would make no difference. Professors here could not devote the same time to their students as in England, as they had a large practice.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Asutosh Mukherjee said that, for the present state of affairs, two things must be responsible, viz., the antecedent training and the quality of the training now received. If the defect lay in the antecedent training, it was bound to be remedied by the new regulations for the Intermediate Examination, especially in Science. As regards the quality of the training now received, they had heard what the present Principal of the Medical College had to say. The teaching should be improved by providing qualified assistants and avoiding frequent transfers of Professors. Let this be done first, and then it would be time to judge whether an extension of the course was necessary.

Babu Herambachandra Maitra remarked that, in the opinion of Professor Huxley, the Medical Course should not exceed four years.

The Rev. E. M. Wheeler said that, while Surgeon-General Bomford had made out that things were not up to the mark, he had failed to satisfy them that a year's extension would put things right.

Dr. D. E. Ross remarked that the idea of a year of practical work after obtaining the M. B. Degree, with nothing to restrain the M. B.'s from practising during that year, did not commend itself to him. The safety of the country should be had in view. Surgeon-General Bomford, in replying, said that he had his six years' scheme with him, when he gave his evidence before the Universities Commission, but he did not place it before the Commission. It was not so much a defect in preliminary qualifications as the absence of a natural tendency to study natural science, that made a more extended course necessary.

On the amendment and the motion being put to the meeting, one after the other, 32 voted for the amendment, and 17 for the motion. The amendment was declared carried.

INSIDE THE RUSSIAN IMPERIAL TREASURY.

MARVELLOUS JEWELS WHICH FEW FOREIGNERS ARE EVER PERMITTED TO SEE.

"Moscow is the heart of Russia, and the Kremlin is the heart of Moscow," is an old Russian saying, and it is to the Kremlin we must go to see the truly Oriental opulence of the Russian Imperial House. Few Englishmen have been privileged to gaze on the magnificent Crown jewels of the Romanoffs safely housed in the Imperial Treasury adjoining the Great Palace of the Kremlin. The writer by special permission was recently allowed to examine the priceless treasures—jewels without number, wonderful specimens of the goldsmith's art, gems of fabulous value, rubies, diamonds, sapphires, emeralds, clustered together in masses of most exquisite workmanship.

Let the incredulous smile, it may be stated at the outset that the Russian State is one of the greatest economic units on the face of the earth; that it draws an annual net profit of £5,000,000 from its forests, mines, and agricultural property; that it receives annually £8,000,000 from its communities of ex-serve; that it owns 24,000 miles of railway; that the Czar is certainly one of the richest men living, having an official annual income of nearly £1,000,000 sterling and a private annual income of from four to five times this amount.

On entering the Imperial Treasury the duly accredited visitor is received by Court officials of charming manners and dignified courtesy, whose grace and versatility at once reveal Russia's cultured nobility. The first room contains all kinds of ancient and modern weapons, armour for men and horses, with explanatory notes and dates. Near by is the gorgeous baldachin under which the Emperor walked at his coronation. It is constructed of ebony and mother-of-pearl, covered with velvet and cloth of gold, surmounted by plumes of ostrich feathers in three colours—black, white, and yellow.

AN IMMENSE ROOM FULL OF THRONES.

Each representing a fortune! Single thrones, double thrones, and even triple ones! Specially quaint is the double throne made for Ivan and Peter, with an opening behind, through which the young monarchs could be secretly advised by their sister Sophia. Here also is the throne of Alexis, studded with 1,223 rubies, 876 diamonds, and other precious stones; the throne of Boris, presented to him by the Shah of Persia ornamented with hundreds of large pearls and turquoises; the magnificent ivory throne brought from Constantinople by Sophia on her marriage with Ivan the Great in 1472, and many others of imposing design and great historic associations.

The array of crowns is bewildering in number and brilliancy. Among the fifty-two titles of the Czar of All the Russias are—Czar of Kazan, of Astrakhan, of Poland, of Siberia, of Kherson; and the crowns of these once separate kingdoms now repose in the Russian Treasury.

The crown of the Crimea is a plain gold circlet—a modest violet among the sunflowers. The crown of Vladimir Monomachus is of special interest, as that monarch married the daughter of our own King Harold, succeeding to the throne of Kiev in 1113. It is of rare gold filigree work on sable, surmounted by a plain cross set with pearls. A topaz, a sapphire, and a ruby adorn the diadem, and the lower part is

ENCRUSTED WITH PEARLS, RUBIES, AND DIAMONDS.

The crown of Peter the Great is adorned with 900 diamonds, surmounted by a diamond cross rising from the centre of an immense uncut ruby, while that of the Empress Catherine II. is bedizened by no fewer than 2,636 diamonds and an enormous ruby, producing a rainbow of colour dazzling in its brilliancy. The crown of Michael Romanoff, the founder of the present Imperial House, is surrounded by 190 precious stones and surmounted by a gigantic emerald. The coronet of the present Empress is remarkable chiefly for the quality of its jewels, being bedecked with one hundred of the purest gems ever brought together in a single ornament, and is said to be unequalled in the world.

The crown of the present Emperor is domeshaped like a patriarchal mitre. Its chief gem is an immense ruby supporting a cross of five very large diamonds, while its base is ablaze with precious stones.

It is strange that at the coronation of Nicholas II the crown of Peter the Great was used, and when with great dignity and deliberation the Czar placed the crown on his head it tilted slightly and appeared too large, an omen readily seized upon by augurs of evil.

The Royal orb is decorated with diamonds set in two bands, encircling it at right angles. On its upper surface is a large sapphire surmounted by a diamond cross, while to the orthodox Russian not the least precious of its materials is a piece of the true cross of Christ. The Imperial sceptre has for its chief ornament the magnificent gem known as the Orloff diamond, one of the

LARGEST AND MOST VALUABLE IN EXISTENCE;

and the jewelled collars of the order of St. Andrew the great Sword of State, the Imperial seal, and the insignias of innumerable orders blink their animation in varicoloured lights.

The ancient practice of presenting bread and salt to the Czar as a sign of submission and fealty is still a ceremonious function at each Coronation. Envoys from Khiva, Bokhara, Samarkand, and far away Yakutsk have offered their allegiance to recent Czars on plates of pure gold, to which has sometimes been added, as a constituent part, a salt-cellar of rare design. At least 1,000 of these plates with their accompanying salt-

cellars are arranged as plaques on the walls or hidden in recesses by priceless tapestry. Many of the plates are

EMBOSSSED WITH THE EMPERORS' INITIALS IN GEMS.

The gold plate used at the Imperial banquets is truly regal. Its value is enormous owing to its abundance, the elegance of its design, its choice workmanship, and the quality of its material.

The jewelled dresses of former Empresses of Russia are carefully preserved, that of Catherine II. being so long and heavy with gems that it needed twelve chamberlains to support its train. The wedding dress of the present Empress is Imperial in texture and price, costing no less than £40,000.

In another room are a huge goblet cut out of a single enormous amethyst, with a hunting scene chased over its entire surface, and Coronation presents of fabulous value from the East and West, from emperors, kings, and princes, as well as from many municipalities and millionaires.

CAPTIVE CROCODILE IN A TANK.

His Lordship the Bishop of Madras continues his interesting "Diary" of tours in the last "Madras Diocesan Record." Following is one of the interesting extracts:—At 7-30 a.m., we started from Shiyali in a bullock coach for Nangur. The road was very soft and rough. About three-and-half miles from Shiyali, we came to a village where the people had a captive crocodile in a tank, kept in anticipation of our visit. It was dragged out of the water on the bank for us to see, an evil-looking beast, about eight feet long, with an iron muzzle on its jaws, and ropes round its body. The men turned it over on its side, and showed me two small eyes right under its jaws, as well as two eyes on the top of its head. I did not know before that a crocodile had four eyes. I asked what they were going to do with it, and they said they were going to kill it, cook the flesh, and dry it as a medicine for whooping-cough. I learnt something, at any rate, in that village that I did not know before.

THE MIRACULOUS HEALER.

"One who has seen" writes to the "Madras Times":—I beg of you to publish the following few lines in your most valuable and widespread journal for the benefit of the public.—On hearing of the arrival of Mr. W. F. Carroll, the miraculous healer from Hyderabad, who is at present treating people for various diseases at the Elphinstone Hotel, Mount Road, I advised some of my friends who were suffering for a long time with Rheumatism to go to him for treatment, and they have all to a man regained their health. The two most startling cures witnessed by me was that of a child entirely crippled who after a few passes of Mr. Carroll's hands on the affected parts, was made to walk instantly, which I must confess is most astonishing; and the other is that of a young lady who was suffering from nervous irritability of temper, bordering on insanity for the past four years, and whose behaviour was nothing short of a confirmed lunatic, was made to behave calmly and reasonably, as if nothing ailed her, after only touching her hands and head, which, I declare, most marvellous, and I feel it my duty as a Christian to give publication to the above facts with a view that the suffering populace may not be slow in embracing this golden opportunity to get rid of their sufferings so cheaply.

PUNJAB JAIL REPORT.

The year 1904, according to the Punjab Jail Report, shows a decline in the criminality of the province. The number of prisoners of all classes admitted to jail has fallen to 37,297—as compared with 39,750 in 1903 and 40,657 in 1902—while the daily average prison population has fallen from 11,199 to 10,752. The striking increase in the number of prisoners sentenced to transportation indicates greater attention paid by the judiciary to this type of criminal. The importance and, at the same time, the difficulty of effective segregation of the hardened criminal during the period spent in prison is emphasized in the report, and the suggestion put forward by the Inspector-General of Prisons for the segregation of the most confirmed criminals in a separate jail deserves serious consideration. The tendency also to relax discipline in the case of habitual offenders, in order to utilise their skill as handicraftsmen, is one which should be repressed. The decrease in the number of juveniles admitted during the year is satisfactory, so far as it goes, but there is still considerable room for improvement in this respect. The strikingly low death-rate, which formed a special feature of last year's report, has been maintained, and the rate of 19.88 per mille forms the best possible testimonial to the sanitary condition of the Punjab jails.

THE MYSORE ADMINISTRATION.

The three years for which the Mysore Consultative Council was provisionally constituted on the succession of the Maharajah to the gadi expires next month; and various reports have gained currency with regard to the reconstitution of the Administration on a different basis. It is rumoured that the Council is to be abolished, the Dewan remaining on as sole counsellor and Lieutenant of His Highness the Maharajah, while the Revenue work of the State is to be entrusted to a Revenue Board. Undoubtedly, there is some foundation for these reports, but we understand that no definite decision of any sort has yet been arrived at. During last year Mr. D. M. Narasinga Rao, of the Mysore Secretariat, was deputed to examine the Boards of Revenue in Madras, Bengal and the United Provinces and their working. He submitted an exhaustive Report a short time ago, including proposals for the creation of such a Board in Mysore and the abolition of the present Consultative Council. The whole matter, however, is still under careful consideration and it cannot yet be said whether the present constitution will be continued or not. In any case, there is no probability of any material modification being introduced in the immediate future.—"M. M."

BE FIRM.

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

All Chemists and Store-keepers Price 1 Rs. 2 Rs.

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All Chemists and Store-keepers Price 1 Rs. 2 Rs.

SEASON AND CROP IN ASSAM.

REPORT FOR 1904-1905.

The report shows that the rainfall was above the normal in Cachar, the Lushai Hills and in all districts of the Assam Valley except Lakhimpur, Sibsagar and the Sadar Subdivision of Goalpara. In April and May it was considerably in excess of the normal in almost every plains district and interfered with the sowing of early rice (ahu). Rainfall was deficient in parts of the Assam Valley in the early autumn and below the normal generally throughout the province in the winter months. In the Khasi Hills the total rainfall was remarkably in defect. A heavy flood from the Ranganadi in North Lakhimpur occurred in June, but did little damage to crops. In July and August the Kopili floods in Nowgong interfered with rice cultivation, but not to any serious extent. The estimates of outturn based on the reports of district officers represent percentages on the normal which is taken as 100. Early broadcast rice (ahu) gave a fair yield in most districts and a good crop in Darrang. The area under this crop, however, was less than usual almost everywhere owing to excessive rains in April and May which interfered with sowing and in some districts injured the growing crop. The year was unusually favourable for late transplanted rice (sali) in both the Surma and Brahmaputra Valleys, except in the district of Lakhimpur where deficiency in rainfall in October resulted in a rather poor harvest. The peculiarity of the season which checked "ahu" cultivation evidently induced cultivators to extend the transplantation of late rice. The area under this crop increased in almost every district, except Sylhet and Goalpara; and except in Lakhimpur the harvest was distinctly good. The cultivation of mustard expanded slightly in the Surma Valley but decreased everywhere in the Brahmaputra Valley, particularly in Kamrup and Nowgong, where this crop is largely grown for sale to wholesale dealers. The season is reported to have been rather unfavourable. The yield of sugarcane is reported to have been 85 per cent. of the normal in Sylhet. Jute is estimated to have yielded 65 per cent. in Sylhet and 50 per cent. in Goalpara. It was damaged by rain.

In the Naga Hills the chief crops grown are rice, job's tears, millet, and Indian corn. Crops are reported to have been generally very good, particularly in the Angami country. The winter season both in the hills and the plains was one of extraordinary coldness. In the Khasi Hills, bamboos and mango and other trees were in many places killed: frost, said to have been unknown before in the plains, damaged winter crops and vegetables in Sylhet, Kamrup and Goalpara.

The only irrigated tract for which statistics are available is in North Kamrup, where 35,321 acres are under irrigation. Transplanted rice is the only crop raised on this area.

A STARTLING EXPERIENCE.

Mr. C. Cornelius writes to the Lucknow paper with reference to the occurrence at York House, Mussoorie, which was struck by lightning on the evening of the 24th June.—Last Saturday evening my two sisters, mother and myself were seated in the dining room after dinner. My eldest sister, who was watching the storm coming on closed the door, drew a low canvas chair near the dining table, and took up a newspaper to read. My youngest sister had a big darning needle in her hand working. My mother was seated quietly on rather a high chair quite close to the table with her foot on a stool and I was seated on a chair near the door; but just a second before the house was struck, I got up and went across to where my younger sister was. If I had not moved away I would have been killed, as the dreadful crash came just overhead. We were all thrown down. I just saw my mother stand up and then fall to the ground. My eldest sister had fainted on her chair. I found her head hanging back very low, as if her neck was breaking, so I lifted her up and put her down for dead under a table and went to my mother, who was still struggling about in the dark room, in search of my eldest sister, who we all thought was dead. Some of the electricity or fluid must have come down the iron rod on which the lamp hung, but fortunately that evening we had lamp on the table. The lamp, as well as the table were upset, and we were in total darkness. My youngest sister went into the pantry where there was a lantern and in the confusion tripped over my eldest sister and upset the lantern, putting it out. Then a servant boy rushed down to the bed-room and got a lantern. We then dragged ourselves into the drawing-room away from the dreadful sulphur smell which was suffocating us. On examination we found my mother's knee was burnt and marked as if she had been branded with a hot iron. My eldest sister was stripped red all over her neck and back as if branded. I was the only one that had escaped, and was able to help my poor mother and sisters. The next morning we saw where the house had been struck, and in three different places we could see the damage done. Dr. Merchant was sent for, and has been untiring in care of my mother and sister who, I am thankful to say, are getting well quickly. We have in the other half of York House some good friends who came at once and helped us in nursing and doing all we could for my mother and sister.

During the recent abnormal heat in the Punjab a number of bad cases of heat apoplexy occurred in the British garrison at Peshawar. The rain, which has extended over the Province generally, has caused a welcome lowering of the temperature.

COURT MARTIAL AT SECUNDERABAD.

Secunderabad, July 16.—The general Court Martial on Sepoy Harnam Singh, 76th Punjab, who, it will be remembered, murderously attacked Captain Lyne with a sword, was concluded last evening. Lieutenant-Colonel Churchill, Sst. Pioneer, was President with five officers as members. The prosecutor was Captain Bryce, and Captain Lyne came from hospital to give evidence. After the unimportant evidence of a Hindu the prosecution closed the case. There were no witnesses for defence. The Judge Advocate-General summed up and directed the members as to the verdict. The Court deliberated for a few minutes and the prisoner was marched back. The sentence will be promulgated after being confirmed from India.

JOTTINGS FROM THE INDIAN PLANTING AND GARDENING.

Nicotiana Sanderae.—This is now in flower in several greenhouses, and it is universally conceded, says the "Journal of Horticulture," that nothing too good can be said of it. "It is really a beautiful object with its brilliant flowers brightening everything near it. It will be used as a greenhouse plant, a bedding plant, and for planting to cut from exclusively. One thing, however, that is already noticeable about it is that the flowers are a brighter red when the plants are grown in a moderate temperature, a fact that still further adds to its value as a plant to be universally grown, because it will therefore thrive better in the open ground in the summer. Those wishing to have a constant supply of Nicotiana Sanderae should sow some more seed, for the reason that as it seems to be a persistent bloomer from the start, the plants may get played out before the end of the season. Thus a succession of seed sowing will ensure a succession of blooming plants." Nicotianas grow and bloom freely in India, especially in Calcutta, and amateur gardeners should make it a point of raising a stock of these new strains during the coming cold season.

Influence of Scion on Stock.—Mr. T. Pickett, the well-known Curator of the Malvern Gardens, writes as follows to the Melbourne "Weekly Times":—"I am sending you a few notes re the peculiarities connected with a sport of the Rose Fortuniana. You are aware that many theories have been advanced at various times on the origin of 'sports,' more especially as regards the variation in the colour of the flowers, but little has been written (as far as I know) of variegated leaves suddenly appearing on plants that were previously covered with green leaves. In December last I obtained some buds of the variegated Rose Souvenir de Louis Veuillot, and placed them on a young shoot of Rose Fortuniana, which was situated about 1 ft. from the ground. About two months after budding, I shortened the Fortuniana growth; that was budbed to within 6 in. or 9 in. of the bud. The latter started to make a nice growth, and the variegation became well defined, but the most extraordinary thing that happened. The whole of the stock containing every particle of the Fortuniana had become variegated, the variegation being the same as the growth from the bud referred to. This is the first time that I have seen or heard of a sport produced by the influence of the scion." The editor's comment on the note is that Mr. Pickett's communication is very interesting. "We have read of stocks influencing the scion to a slight degree, but this is the first time that the influence of the scion has been brought under our notice."

Bananas.—The trade in bananas is increasing "by leaps and bounds." Four years ago, says a home paper, we consumed in the United Kingdom 2,000,000 bunches. Last year 5,000,000 bunches were brought here, and it is estimated that this year, owing to the improved facilities which are being offered in the way of transport another million will have to be added to these figures. The growth of the banana trade within the past five years no doubt results mainly from the opening of new sources of supply in Jamaica, Costa Rica, and elsewhere. This in turn is due largely to the enterprise of Messrs. Elder & Rylands (Shipping Limited, in establishing regular steamship service with those islands. In the Canary Islands the value of the land has increased almost incredibly. A piece of land which was pointed out to me, says an authority on the subject, was valued some years ago at 300 pesetas (a peseta being equal to about 7d. English money and now it would fetch at least 30,000 pesetas. In the parts known as the banana districts, where the bananas extend for miles, and wherever the eye rests, the end could not be bought for less than £1,000 per acre.

The Recent Linnean Banquet.—At the banquet given to the new Lady Fellows at Princess's Galleries, the chairman, Mr. Frank Crisp, treasurer of the Linnean Society, told the tale of the ladies' victory, which was much appreciated by the distinguished gathering. Fifteen years ago no monastery in Europe held its doors more tightly closed against women than did the Linnean Society. But then it was decided that if ladies were conducted into the meeting room when their papers were read, and were conducted out as soon as the discussion was over, justice would be done. Then it was conceded that ladies might bring their friends; and so it went on until Mrs. Farquharson presented a memorial that ladies should be admitted to Fellowship. Three hundred and one voted for, and one hundred and twenty-six against, and the ladies triumphed. But there was an early trouble. A by-law was passed that matinee hats should not be worn by lady Fellows of the Society. But the by-law nearly came to grief, for the reason that "matinee hat" was not a scientific term, and any lady could maneuver headgear of Gainsborough dimensions through the description. An ingenious member suggested the following by-law, which was adopted:—"No member shall interfere with the comfort or convenience of any other member at the meetings of the society."

Acetylene Light as an Agent for Forcing Plants.—During the past winter experiments have been conducted by M. J. Jorns, a graduate student in the Department of Horticulture at the forcing houses of Cornell University, having for their purpose a comparison of the influence of acetylene and electric light on plant growth under different temperatures. In a recent number of the Acetylene Journal a condensed statement of the gross results obtained are presented. It was found that acetylene light, approximating closely the quality of the sun's spectrum, exerted an energetic influence on plant growth. Plants grown under acetylene light vegetated much more rapidly than others not under its influence, and those grown for cut flowers reached the blooming stage considerably in advance of their competitors grown under ordinary sunlight only. Easter lilies grew twice as high and bloomed ten days to two weeks in advance of those outside of the acetylene lighted area. The growth of radish and lettuce was greatly hastened, and the yield in a given time much increased. The branches of flowering shrubs responded in a marked degree to the influence of the light. Those under acetylene light bloomed several days in advance of those in the same temperature and influenced by day-light only. It was also proved that the plants under the influence of acetylene light only would form chlorophyll as if grown in sunlight. Whether there is a commercial future for acetylene in the forcing of plants is a problem that awaits solution in the light of more comprehensive investigation.—"The National Nurseriesman."

