

Amrita Bazar Patrika

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CALCUTTA THURSDAY JULY 27 1905

NO 58

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Notable Utterances at the National Gatherings of December, 1904

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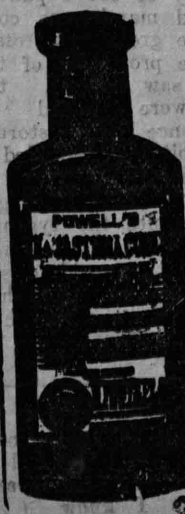
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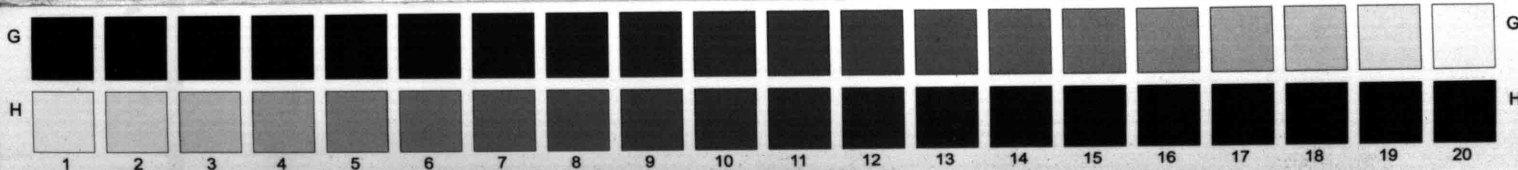
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THE Amrita Bazar Patrika

Calcutta, 25th July, 1905.

THE PARTITION PROCLAMATION.

COST AND CONFUSION OF THE UNDERTAKING.

We pointed out the other day, that it would take some time before the partition of Bengal could be effected as there were various difficulties in the way. The "Pioneer" now makes the announcement that, "it is not expected that the proclamation declaring the formation of the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam will be issued for some time as a multitude of details, connected with legal and financial administration, have yet to be settled. These are now being worked out by the various departments of the Government of India." In other countries the Government give reasons first, and introduce a measure afterwards. In India they introduce a measure first and seek reasons afterwards. Similarly, in other countries, they settle legal and financial difficulties relating to a public measure before it is passed; in India, the heads of departments have to find out the means of removing these difficulties after the measure has received the sanction of the final authority. Now, suppose, if these legal and financial difficulties are found to be insurmountable will the Government give up the project of partition?

One cannot but be agitated at the contemplation of the cost and confusion that is bound to arise out of this violent disruption of an established order of things existing for the last 150 years or more. Before deciding the dismemberment of Bengal, if the Government had just taken the trouble of finding out the nature of the cost and confusion that would follow it, the discovery would have simply staggered the authors of the project. The Government apparently never cared to do it. In his speeches in East Bengal, Lord Curzon did not refer to this matter at all, though, in our public and private capacity, we humbly brought it pointedly to His Excellency's notice before he left for Chittagong. Indeed, his Private Secretary very courteously undertook to bring the question of cost and confusion to the attention of the Viceroy, and he was good enough to write to us to say that he had done it.

But, it seems, Lord Curzon was at the time engrossed with the single idea of partitioning the Province at any sacrifice, and there was no room in his mind to give attention to any other subject. Even in his Resolution he does not say a word about these matters. He remembered "the multitude of details, connected with legal and financial administration" only when he was about to issue the necessary partition proclamation! And it is in this reckless and heartless manner that the affairs of tens of millions of human beings are managed by the English rulers of the country!

As regards the inevitable confusion, let the authorities enquire of some of those officials and non-officials who took part in the partition business in 1874, when Sylhet and Cachar were separated from Bengal and amalgamated with Assam, and they will learn valuable lessons. Heaps of important papers belonging to the Bengal Board of Revenue and some other offices were either lost or stolen during their transit to the Assam Secretariat. In this way, many men were ruined, and the interests of Government also suffered seriously. It was confusion all along the line, and it took many years to restore order in these two districts. Yet Sylhet and Cachar were on the outskirts of Assam, and their inhabitants in constant touch with the Assamese.

We know Sir Patrick Playfair was in Assam at the time. Will the Viceroy or the Lieutenant-Governor or Mr. Risley enquire of him on this point? Would not the confusion be now hundred-fold more than what it was in the seventies, as more than a dozen advanced districts of Bengal are going to be amalgamated with a backward province like Assam? There is no doubt that every thing will be turned upside down in old and new Bengal when the partition is carried out in right earnest, and it will take an age, after untold injury has been done, before chaos will be replaced again by order. Can any body say after this, why such a wanton waste of energy, wanton waste of money, and wanton creation of needless misery and excitement!

The undertaking, from an administrative point of view, must result in utter confusion. In proof of this we shall refer to one point. The land settlements in Bengal and Assam are of a different character. Even some of the Bengal districts have their special land settlements. Though the Bengal Board of Revenue was manned by the most experienced Revenue Officers of the Province, yet it did not venture to introduce the Road Cess Act into the Chittagong district, so complex, so intricate, and so peculiar were its landed questions. The Noabad settlements of Chittagong alone have a history of their own, which very few Bengal Civilians have been able to master.

It would, therefore, be something like a disaster to have such questions, complicated also by a cadastral survey, settled by a newly-created Board of Revenue, the members whereof being imported from outside, will have no knowledge of these things, and which have to be dealt along with the landed questions of Assam. Even Mr. Risley will not care to say that the landed interests of the Bengal districts and Assam are the same in tradition, custom, and ethnology, though he was pleased to state that, the people of Chittagong who are Bengalees, and the people of Assam who are distinct of Mongolian type, come from the same stock.

As for the cost, one can easily understand it will be enormous. The new Province will require almost as many buildings as the present Government of Bengal does. Has the reader an idea of the value of the various public buildings in Calcutta under the Local Government? Well, in reply to an interpellation on the subject last year, it transpired that the value of these public buildings is one crore and forty-three lakhs, and the average amount of cost of the maintenance of the same is over one lakh and thirty-seven thousand. So the mere initial cost of making necessary buildings will require more than crores of rupees. If the opening out of only 15½ miles of broad roads in Calcutta will require seven crores of Rupees, one can fairly draw the inference that the building up of a big Province under an enlightened Government will cost many times seven crores.

As regards the permanent cost of administration it will be almost doubled. In other words, while the people of old Bengal, reduced to fifty-four millions, will have to bear alone the entire cost of the present administration, the inhabitants of the new Province numbering thirty-one millions, will have also to carry a similar burden upon their shoulders, besides financing an enormous amount of money for building up another Bengal! Is it then an exaggeration to say that, on the financial ground alone, the partition measure will cause the ruin of the Bengalee nation!

TWENTY-TWO APPOINTMENTS FOR POOR WHITES AND FIVE ONLY FOR INDIANS.

Our Suri (Beerbhumi) correspondent writes to us:—

"We have got another white man here in the person of Mr. W. Hume who has been posted here as City Inspector, or 'Armed Inspector' as he is called, on a monthly salary of Rs. 150. We are quite in the dark as to what he is or will be his duties or functions except the supervision of drilling of the town constabulary which was hitherto done by a Head Constable who had of course other duties to perform. We do not know what is the necessity of this needless burden upon the poor people."

From the Government's reply to an interpellation at the last meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council, it appears, that twenty-two such European Inspectors have been let loose in the interior! And what is their duty? It is to train the armed Police in drill and discipline, for one or two hours, and eat, play, and be merry all the rest of the day. Now, as our correspondent points out, it was a Head Constable getting Rs. 10 or 15 a month who had been doing this duty quite efficiently all these fifty years; and the Armed Police, thus drilled and disciplined, had been quite able to quell any disturbance, local or wide-spread. Why then this heavy and unnecessary burden upon the country, specially when it has been thoroughly pacified, and the chances of serious disturbance in every part of the Province removed?

Lord Curzon's heart breaks at the sight of a cluster of Europeans sucking the moisture of the soil which should sustain its children. Here, however, we find his Lieutenant fastening twenty-two Drill Inspectors, on a salary of Rs. 150 each, upon the poor people of Bengal, for a duty which practically does not exist, and which can be very well performed by a 10 or 15-Rupee Head Constable!

In order to be able to hold a post carrying Rs. 30 or 50, an Indian, as a rule, must be a graduate of the University. Nay, there are even apprentices in various departments under the Government who are P. A.'s and B. A.'s. They must serve as such for several years and then enter into a 20 or 30-Rupee grade. But, in the present case, what we find is that, Europeans, whose only qualification is that they know how to teach drilling, are at once appointed in the Police department on Rs. 150 per month!

Will Sir Andrew Fraser, whose sense of justice must be very keen, for he is a devout Christian, be pleased to explain why should an Indian be required to pass University examinations to serve as an apprentice, or hold a petty post, and an apparently uneducated Poor White be directly given a 150-Rupee appointment?

Is Sir Andrew aware how long it takes an Indian, however highly educated, to secure an appointment carrying Rs. 150 a month? He is rarely appointed directly to such a post. Even as a Deputy Magistrate he must begin as a probationer on Rs. 50 a month. At least two couple of years must elapse before he is confirmed in his post after having passed a severe departmental examination, and then promoted to the next higher grade. Then take the case of Sub-Deputy Collectors. They enter the service as a probationer on Rs. 30 a month and they must be also graduates of the University. It takes them at least ten years to reach the grade carrying Rs. 150 a month.

As regards such departments as Finance, Secretariat &c, the majority of Indian employees begin as apprentices, and retire, after a lifelong service, before they have risen to the 75-Rupee grade; and they are all fairly educated men. This is the lot of an educated Indian. But a white drill man, who is no better than a Constable or a Head Constable, is installed at once to a post carrying Rs. 150! Who will after this deny that white colour in this country possesses omnipotent virtue!

So twenty-two "Poor Whites" have been directly appointed to the Rs. 150 grade as Drill Inspectors. How many Bengalees have been provided with posts carrying same salaries? The reply of the Government to this question is: "Five have been made (Police Inspectors) direct and twenty-four by the promotion of deserving Sub-Inspectors." As these deserving Sub-Inspectors would have been in due course promoted to Inspectorships, so only five Bengalees have been given the post of the Police Inspector

directly. Thus against twenty-two Europeans and Eurasians there are only five Bengalees who have got 150-Rupee appointments in the Police department directly! Is not this atrocious?

Numerically the Eurasians and Europeans are a mere drop in the ocean when compared with the Indian population in Bengal. As regards education, culture and respectability, the former are also nowhere when compared with those of the latter. As a matter of fact, for one really educated man among the Eurasians and "Poor Whites," there are hundreds in Indian society. Fancy then the nature of the wrong, namely, that while only five Bengalees have been appointed directly as Police Inspectors, more than four times that number, recruited from a very small and not very highly educated community, have been provided similarly!

Then compare the duties and the salaries attached to each class of Inspectors. The white or semi-white Drill Inspector will have to do only the most insignificant part of a Head Constable's duty and pocket Rs. 150 per month; the Indian Police Inspector, on the other hand, will have to perform all the onerous duties of the Police department and draw the same salary! This is the *bichar*,—a word more expressive than justice,—as the devout Christian, Mr. Monro has it, of the Government of Bengal under another devout Christian, Sir A. Fraser!

As President of the Police Commission, Sir Andrew Fraser should not have permitted the wrong, of recruiting Drill Inspectors from the "Poor White" community on Rs. 150 a month,—to be perpetrated when he knew that their work could be as efficiently performed by 10 or 15-Rupee Head Constables or Subaddars. This was all the more surprising as there was ample evidence before the Police Commission to show that, excepting perhaps one or two districts of Bengal, there was absolutely no necessity for an armed police anywhere else, the ordinary police being quite competent to keep the peace of the whole Province. But, it was felt, that many ordinary Police Inspectors could not be conferred on the members of the "Poor White" community, who, as a rule, are totally unfit to hold these responsible posts. Hence a new class of officers under the designation of "Drill Inspectors," was unnecessarily created, and it was deliberately laid down that they should be recruited only from among the Europeans and Eurasians and allowed such a high salary as Rs. 150 per month.

This was the initial wrong, and it has been followed by a further wrong, namely, while twenty-two such Drill Inspectors have been appointed from among the Europeans and Eurasians, only five Indians have been appointed as Police Inspectors. Considering the vast preponderance of the educated Indians over the "Poor Whites" in this country, the Government should have given at least one hundred Police Inspectors to the former, when it gave twenty-two similar appointments to the latter. But now-a-days not only has all sense of justice, but even of decency been cast to the wind.

Is this, retributive justice, or what? Like the "Times," Reuter's agency is a great supporter of Lord Curzon. If the "Times" has never lost an opportunity of singing the praise of his Lordship, the agreeable business of the other has ever been to suppress all information disparaging to Lord Curzon and flash all over the world only such intelligence as is complimentary to him. Indeed, the "Times" and Reuter's agency have done an amount of service to Lord Curzon which cannot be over-estimated. And yet, his Lordship owes his second humiliation at the hands of Mr. Brodriek to the same Reuter's agency. It is now quite clear that the condensed version of the Viceroy's speech on Tuesday last which was telegraphed to England by Reuter was the source of all mischief. In order to save money, Reuter had to eliminate those portions of the speech in which Lord Curzon had cooed like a dove, and the compressed form in which the Viceroyal utterance was wired conveyed the blunt and naked truth that His Excellency had been "karkastie," and that he had vented his spleen upon Mr. Brodriek. When Sir Henry Fowler, therefore, drew the attention of the Secretary of State to the speech, Mr. Brodriek could not help being angry. The full text of the speech, which has been subsequently telegraphed to England, has not, however, altered the previous public opinion in England; so either Mr. Brodriek must forgive Lord Curzon, or make the position of the latter still more intolerable.

The good star of Lord Curzon, however, seems to be somewhat in the ascendant; for, the Ministry is tottering, and if Mr. Balfour resigns, then His Excellency will get rid of his tormentor temporarily, and no doubt stick to his post till the end of his term, even if the Liberals come into power. Those who ask Lord Curzon to resign are a little unreasonable. If his Lordship loves anything in the world, it is pomp and pageant. To make an exhibition of himself is a part and parcel of his constitution. Life is dreary to him without pomp and show; he will make almost any sacrifice. The Prince of Wales is coming, and His Excellency will have an opportunity of playing the great Moghul again. Surely, he is not going to let slip such an opportunity of riding along the biggest elephant in India, robed in imperial dress, the "pariat umbrella" unfurled over his head, for the sake of Mr. Brodriek or any body else! And yet who knows that there is yet greater humiliation in store for the rumour is that, if he were to stay on? For the rumour is that, the Royal Highnesses will not be that, the guests of the Viceroy in Calcutta, but they will accept the hospitality of Lord Kitchener at Delhi.

How the possession of power turns, the head of a man, however cultured he may be, will appear from the conduct of the responsible ministers who are now conducting the affairs of the British Empire. Who was more courteous gentleman than Mr. Balfour when out of office? But, when Mr. Winston Churchill, the other day, accused the Prime Minister of "treating the House with contempt," Mr. Balfour not only did not repudiate the charge but had no hesitation in declaring that "he could not honestly say that there were no individuals in the House for whom he might not entertain contempt." Similarly there is no doubt that Lord Curzon is also a cultured man; yet, having been vested with the powers of an Indian Viceroy and Governor-General, he thinks he has acquired the right of trampling down the sentiments of a whole nation and treating them like cattle. But, in rudeness, Mr. Brodriek perhaps beats every one of his colleagues hollow. We all know how he has made the life of Lord Curzon miserable by heaping insults upon him. But just see how all the M. P.'s shared the same fate when they dared to interpellate the Indian Secretary of State during the week the mail to hand left England. To Mr. Buchanan M. P. his reply was:

"Mr. Brodriek: I have nothing to add to what I said on this subject last Thursday." To Mr. Churchill his reply was:

"Mr. Brodriek: I do not know what the hon. gentleman means by opportunity."

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more courteous gentleman than Mr. Balfour when out of office? But, when Mr. Winston Churchill, the other day, accused the Prime Minister of "treating the House with contempt," Mr. Balfour not only did not repudiate the charge but had no hesitation in declaring that "he could not honestly say that there were no individuals in the House for whom he might not entertain contempt." Similarly there is no doubt that Lord Curzon is also a cultured man; yet, having been vested with the powers of an Indian Viceroy and Governor-General, he thinks he has acquired the right of trampling down the sentiments of a whole nation and treating them like cattle. But, in rudeness, Mr. Brodriek perhaps beats every one of his colleagues hollow. We all know how he has made the life of Lord Curzon miserable by heaping insults upon him. But just see how all the M. P.'s shared the same fate when they dared to interpellate the Indian Secretary of State during the week the mail to hand left England. To Mr. Buchanan M. P. his reply was:

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The "Morning Leader" does not comment on the speech of Lord Curzon as other papers did, but strongly urges the necessity for the effective control of military expenditure. Lord Curzon's Government, it says, cannot be accused of meanness with regard to the same; but if the Commander-in-Chief is given a blank cheque, the prospect of an overtaxed country is gloomy indeed. All other papers forgot to think how the Kitchener scheme would affect the three hundred millions of India. The only thing that interested them in this controversy was whether Lord Curzon was justified in defying Mr. Brodriek, or the latter was justified in lording it over the former. The "Morning Leader," however, was the only paper which fingered the plague-spot. It overlooked the question whether Lord Curzon had shown insubordination, or Mr. Brodriek had insulted the Viceroy, but pointed out prominently the disaster that would befall India if a military autocracy were established there by making the Commander-in-Chief supreme.

The reader is aware that Maharajah Sir J. M. Tagore had sent a long telegram to the Secretary of State and the Viceroy, about ten days ago, praying that the proclamation relating to the Partition of Bengal might be suspended till the public had been given an opportunity of discussing the wider scheme. The Viceroy, as we have already informed the reader, has expressed his regret for his inability to comply with the request. The Secretary of State has not as yet sent any reply. In the meantime another telegram to the same effect was sent to the Secretary of State last Saturday by the Maharajah of Natore, Maharajah of Dinapore, the Nawab of Bogra, the Rajah of Dighapattia, the Raja of Dimia and the Rajah of Kakina, all belonging to the Rajshahi Division. It will be remembered that the people of this division were never consulted with regard to the Partition question. When Zemindars like the above who, as a rule, do not take part in political agitations, are approaching the highest authorities with such representations, could there be any doubt as regards the genuineness of the deep feeling which the measure has created in the country?

MR. LAL MOHAN GHOSH was approached, while at Dinapore, by some leading men of the place, to advise them as to what they should do to avert the partition of Bengal; and the result was a public meeting at the residence of Rai Sahab Radha Govind Roy, the Maharajah of Dinapore, presiding, to hear his views. Babu Lal Mohan observed that

"More words would not do and suggested two proposals: firstly, that all persons holding honorary offices, members of the Supreme and Provincial Councils, Honorary Magistrates, Municipal Commissioners, District Board Members and Village Panchayets should resign in a body. Secondly, that people of Bengal, a national calamity, should observe mourning for twelve months during which the people would not participate in public festivals."

The advice, given above, not by a young political agitator, but an elderly man of sober judgment and mild temperament, who once almost won a seat in Parliament, will show the character of the deep feeling that the partition measure has evoked. Lord Curzon, by this violent act, will no doubt create a few scores of fat berths for his countrymen, but at what tremendous cost! The future alone can show. What is the best reward of a ruler? It is the satisfaction that he has earned the good opinions of those placed under his charge. There is, however, not a single soul in Bengal, or in any part of India, who is satisfied with the government of Lord Curzon. His Lordship will thus leave this country unregretted and untouching the blessings of the people. We do not thus envy the position of the present Viceroy. The millions of India accorded him a most hearty welcome on his first arrival here, and would have invoked the choicest blessings of God upon him on the eve of his departure from this country, if he had permitted them to do it. His hearty, however, revolts at their good wishes, and apparently rejoices at their agonizing distress.

Is there one man in the country, excepting of course the interested officials, who does not consider the project of partition a mistake? Even Lord Curzon, we believe, curses, in his sober moments, the evil genius that led him to take such a gigantic and revolutionary work in hand. Every body must feel that there was no need of creating such a convulsion in the country. The Anglo-Indian papers, being more in touch with the people than the official classes, have realized the blunder more vividly. A good many officers, also, think in the same way, but they are not permitted to speak out their minds. We believe there is not one Judge of the High Court who does not condemn the partition proposal; but their Lordships were utterly ignored, and their opinions not invited. The "Englishman" and the "Statesman" are actively sympathetic. As regards the "Pioneer," that paper has also a sympathetic word for the Bengalees in their distress. The "Indian Daily News," which has ever sided with popular cause, with occasional breaks, has, in this matter, adopted a hostile attitude. This paper, under its present regime, is making, we are glad to see, gigantic efforts to improve its condition. But it must never expect success if, forgetting its past traditions, it descends to become an anti-Indian or a Government paper. In days gone by no Anglo-Indian paper could succeed which was not anti-Indian in its tone, and thus the "Friend of India" of Serampore became the leading Anglo-Indian paper in India. It so happened that Mr. Routledge, a thoroughly honest and independent man, was appointed its editor. He held the scales even when discussing an Indo-European question, and the "Friend of India" was well-nigh ruined. But later the Indians learnt to patronize Anglo-Indian papers; and, therefore, when Mr. Robert Knight founded his paper, the "Statesman," with which the "Friend of India" was incorporated, and made no racial distinction when dealing with public questions, it became one of the most largely-circulated papers in this country. The "Indian Daily News," to command respect and achieve success, must follow its old traditions.

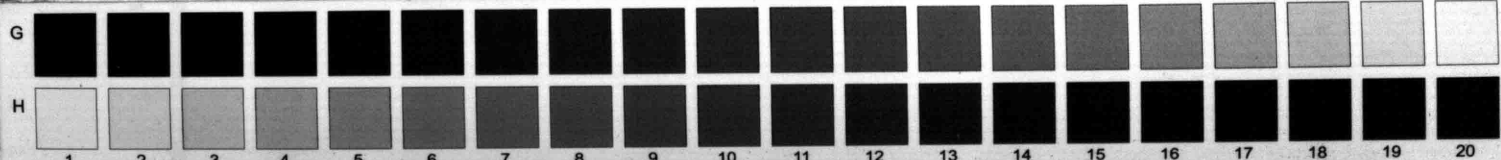
SCRAPS.

In view of the every day growing interest of our countrymen in plantain fibre industry we record here a process whereby fibre may be extracted from plantain trees with rather little difficulty. Every banana tree will yield fibres, but the species which is known in Bengal as "Ento-Kala" yields the best in length, strength and number. Take a piece of the coating of the trunk, cut it into several pieces lengthwise, reject the inner side and keep the outer one. Steep the same in water for five or six days and the fibre will loosen of themselves and the back part will look like white tape. Neither of them will discolor when steeped in water. Now, wash the loose fibre in water and dry up the tape-like part in the sun. Rub the fibre while wet with cloth and they will look like silver wires. Dry fibres when steeped in lime water assume yellow colour. The process has been tried more than once, and, says the "Swadeshi Sampad," if properly followed, it is sure to yield good results.

A respectable correspondent writes to us from Chupra on the sensational Saran Outrage Case as follows:—"The accused was mixed with a number of Europeans similarly dressed and was shewn to the complainant and her 3 witnesses one after another by the trying Magistrate. The complainant and her two witnesses successfully picked out and identified the accused which only astonished the Magistrate and the spectators. It was only P. W. No. 4 Mushammatt Damni who could not identify the accused in the 1st instance but she too did identify the accused latterly. This woman Damni looked something like one of a cracked brain. Notwithstanding all this it was only a pity that the trying Magistrate did not accept the identification that was according to him made in broad daylight." After this one naturally wonders that Mr. Bonham-Carter could not have accepted the identification as satisfactory. It is meet and proper that the Government should without further loss of time call for the records of the case and see that the real culprit is brought to justice.

We welcome the establishment of the Jain Society for the Protection of Orphans, Hissar, (Meerut). The noble objects of which are:—1. (a) To provide for the maintenance of the orphans, helpless widows and invalids of the Jain Community throughout India, as well as to bring up the orphans belonging to twice born classes and the Saparash Shudra class; (b) To impart to the orphans, religious, secular and technical education, and to teach them other useful arts;—2. To help the famine-stricken people with food and raiments; 3. To invite attention of the people of the country to the support and care of the orphans, and to encourage such people as take some interest in this noble cause, by means of rewards and expression of good wishes; and 4. To do such other acts which the managing committee of this society may from time to time deem fit, for the realisation of the objects of this Society. It will be registered and its rules and regulations published very soon. We wish a long lease of life to it.

Sibsagar, July 19.—A correspondent writes: In my account last week of the murder of a suspected witch, you have accidentally omitted two or three lines of my manuscript which stated that the boy whom the woman was supposed to have bewitched died two or three days after the feast; and that the woman in consequence of the father's previously expressed threat that, if the child died he would certainly kill her, thereupon fled from the village. How the woman's son-in-law was induced to bring her back again is not quite clear, but it is certain that the father of the dead child took a leading part in all the cruelty that followed.—"Times of Assam."



ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

London, July 7.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

"The bureaucracy that governs India has no one to whom it is absolutely responsible. Englishmen are too busy with their own affairs to heed what is being done in India. In India public opinion is disregarded. Unchecked and unrestricted control makes for demoralisation. It is so with individuals, however virtuous they may be; it is even more so with an administration, however paternal its intentions. Where power, money, and advantages are concerned demoralisation soon comes."

—MR. LAJPAT RAI, at Reigate, Surrey, July 5, 1905.

A SECOND NOTABLE SPEECH IN LONDON BY THE GAEKWAR OF BARODA.

Yesterday's meeting of the East India Association derived its real and living interest from the presence in the Chair of His Highness the Maharaja of Baroda. True the subject for consideration was a paper by Sir David Barr, the recently returned Resident at the Court of the Nizam, on "Hyderabad, Past and Present." The paper was interesting in its own way, but it was strictly official, and the only "live" passages in it were those that had reference to the work of a former British Resident, Major Achilles Fitzpatrick, who married in romantic circumstances the daughter of one of the Nobles of the Nizam's Court. The lecturer's references to that distinguished Indian statesman, Sir Salar Jung and his admirable work, were received with loud applause; it was some vindication of that notable man that twenty years or more after his death a gathering of Anglo-Indian officials in London should bear witness to his great ability, his administrative talent, and to his unswerving loyalty to the British, and that an ex-Resident at Hyderabad, with other officials, including Dr. Thornton, sometime Foreign Secretary and biographer of Sir Richard Meade—in which work Sir Salar Jung was ungraciously attacked—should testify to the progress that has been made in Hyderabad largely through the work of the Minister who was at one time officially discredited. Time has its revenge! Sir David Barr approved the Nizam's assertion of his own authority in the State some few years ago, and characterised the results of the last four years as "most happy." "It is evident to all concerned," he observed, "that the Nizam is by far the shrewdest and most capable man in the State, and that he is determined to exercise the functions of a Ruler not, as previously, in name only, but in very deed and with distinct purpose."

Sir Lepel Griffin, it must be noted, paid a remarkable tribute to the speech of the Gaekwar as Chairman; he expressed the hope that it would be reported "unmutilated" in the Press, so that all England might know the high ideas placed by His Highness before the Ruling Princes and the peoples of India. His Highness' many engagements just now had precluded any attempt to prepare his speech; his words, therefore, came straight from his heart and were called forth by the impressions of the moment. If goes without saying that his direct, forceful, and earnest manner of speech, free from all straining after effect or flights of rhetoric, simple and earnest in intense conviction, goes straight home to those who hear him, and wins not only their applause for the excellent English in which his thoughts are expressed, but enthusiastic support for his noble ideals and his wise and weighty words.

His Highness emphasised the importance of the question of the Native States of India; in area and population they formed no inconsiderable part of the Empire, and their rulers would be judged by the efforts they made for the advancement and good of their peoples. After the break up of the Mogul Power all Indian States had gone through critical periods, but such periods in similar circumstances were not peculiar to India alone, and should not be taken to prove the assertion that the Indian people were unable to manage their own State concerns. He said it would be an interesting, though useless, speculation to imagine what would have happened in India if neither the French nor the British had established themselves in that country; he seemed to incline to the conviction that a powerful confederacy of States would have been the result. Given equal advantages with the rest of the world, the natural ability of the people would have asserted itself.

In very earnest words he expressed the hope that the time would soon come when a real appreciation of their duty towards the people over whom they ruled would be the mainspring of the lives of Indian princes. Education, he maintained, was the chief necessity, and to make reform permanent it was necessary not only that education should reach the Princes but also the lowest level of the people. On the rulers of the States was the responsibility of setting a noble example to their people of devotion to duty and a high standard of that duty. He urged upon Western critics the need for a tolerant spirit to those Princes who did not reach the highest standard; only those who knew the inner life of Indian Princes could understand the difficulties that lay in their way; sometimes the best efforts for reform bore little fruit, and often the Prince had to sacrifice himself for the sake of promoting the happiness of his people. But no personal sacrifice ought to stand in the way of reform. His Highness said that it was a pity some Princes gave up the struggle, but harsh criticism

of their conduct should be tempered by appreciation of their difficulties. He gave high praise to the progress gained in the Hyderabad State and to the developments which have been encouraged by His Highness the Nizam. The words of a Prince who in his own State has accomplished so much in the direction of wise and progressive administration bear an intensely importance, and his hearers could recognise that even the reformer has to suffer in his efforts for the good of his people, but, in spite of his intimations in this respect, His Highness the Gaekwar held up with a most moving earnestness the noble ideal that a Ruler exists for the happiness of his people, and that no personal sacrifice must count in the effort to attain the end in view—the well-being of the many.

THE "RUSSIANISED PRESS OF INDIA."

This title is not given by an ardent reformer of affairs in India, but by one of our "yellow press" journals. It certainly made one rub one's eyes on Monday last to find the "Daily Express"—a Pearson daily—devoting its leading article, under the heading of "Matters of Moment" to a consideration of the subject of "The Manufacture of Public Opinion in India," and strongly denouncing the bureaucratic control which withholds news from those journals that do not subscribe to the official opinion in India. It will probably be at once recognised by Indian readers that it is the Curzon-Kitchener controversy that inspires the "Express" to strong remarks in its support of the Commander-in-Chief's policy, but that does not alter the very emphatic utterances which are made against the gagging of the press and the manufacture of public opinion by the "Olympian sway of the secretariat." The actual fact which moved the paper belonging to Mr. Chamberlain's "hustling" friend, Mr. A. J. Pearson, to indignation was the cabling of a long extract from the "Times of India," special number giving Anglo-Indian opinion and its own commentary. The "Express" goes so far as to count the words and the cost of the message: 936 words, costing at press rates £56; at full rates £117, and declares that "this 936-words message" is devoted to an attack on Lord Kitchener which is so bitter as to suggest that it has been officially inspired. It is no doubt a good thing for the "Express" that it is a London not an Indian newspaper.

However, the Simla Correspondent of the paper in question writes very strongly on the state of affairs in journalistic circles in India; he frankly declares that those Correspondents who send news which the Government does not wish to be known are "black-listed" and debarred from getting further information. The Correspondent himself has suffered for he observes that since telegraphing some time ago the news of the friction between Lord Kitchener and Sir Edmund Elles on April 20 last, he has been in a difficulty about sending official news except by the mail. Here is one of his emphatic sentences: "Newspapers at home have long been familiar with the methods of the Press Censor in Russia, but I do not think they are aware that the Indian Government has a system of dealing with the Indian newspapers which approximates very closely to that of St. Petersburg." The Official Secrets Act is explained for the enlightenment of unenlightened British readers, and the writer then affirms that in its working the act has led to worse irregularities than it was intended to remedy, namely a boycotting of Indian newspapers who fail to print what the Government desires to make public. "It also leads," he adds, "to the manufacture of opinion representative of nothing but the Department which inspires it." It is well that the actual state of things concerning official news in India should be better understood in England, and for this reason, India may welcome the indignant outburst of the "Express" when it asks, "Is the British Government aware of the almost Russian rigidity of the censorship which gags the press in India? Is it aware that 'official' news and 'official' views backed by authority which is, in one sense, indisputable, are dealt out to the Indian Press as a whole under circumstances which practically amount to compulsion? It is when people in England are affected by some Indian regulation that an outcry is heard; the outcry of the 'Express' is long and loud.

THE SYMPATHY OF ENGLISH LIBERAL WOMEN WITH INDIA.

It would be easy to fill the whole space available to me in the columns of the "Patrika" this week with a chat about the most interesting gathering that took place at Reigate last Wednesday afternoon and the most cordial welcome extended to Mr. Laipat Rai and the Shaikh Abdul Quadir by the Liberal women of Kent, Surrey, and Sussex. Last week I referred to this meeting and explained that the Women Liberals of the three counties had determined to give the lion's share of their July meeting to the question of India. I felt sure that the occasion would be most useful and successful, but I did not imagine that the excellent speeches made by the two Indian gentlemen would arouse the tremendous enthusiasm for which Wednesday's meeting was remarkable. Yet such was the case; the only word applicable to the gathering is the word "unique."

I must give you an idea of the scene. Imagine a perfect July afternoon, warm and sunny, but not oppressively hot; a country house, ideal in its unostentatious beauty and charm; the mistress of this beautiful home, Mrs. James Powell, is the moving spirit among the women Liberals of the district, and adds to her many services to the good cause the further one of entertaining more than two hundred delegates to the conference to tea and of putting her house and lovely garden at their

disposal. In addition to this kindness, Mrs. Powell shows herself to be not only a perfect hostess but a most sympathetic listener to the statement of India's needs.

A word or two, I must add, about other ladies who play prominent parts in this Union of Liberal Women. Mrs. Eva McLaren, President of the Union, very kindly and thoughtfully invited the Indian speakers to lunch with her at Reigate before the meeting; three students, friends of the speakers, and Your Correspondent were included in the invitation, and the hospitality thus offered gave an excellent opportunity to all for learning something of the energetic lady, who so faithfully discharges her duties as President because she has the cause of Liberalism, and woman's share in it, so close to her heart. Mrs. McLaren knows a good deal about India, but was very glad to talk over things quietly with both Mr. Rai and the Shaikh before the formal speeches were given. Her charm of manner and her enthusiasm quickly overcame all strangeness, and her friendly attitude was at once responded to by all the Indian gentlemen. She was ably seconded, too, by the two honorary secretaries, Mrs. Heron Maxwell and Miss Somerville, so that you may imagine the luncheon party was an entirely enjoyable one.

On reaching Mrs. Powell's house, we found that the delegates were arriving from all parts of the three counties, and they appeared to find the comfortable chairs on the shady lawn very inviting. Far to right and left stretched this beautiful green velvet carpet, with tall trees and graceful shrubs affording welcome coolness. The many eager faces which the Indian gentlemen saw before them and the charm of the surroundings inspired both speakers to notable efforts; half an hour was allotted to each, with time for discussion and questions after the speeches. In her few introductory remarks, introducing the Shaikh and Mr. Laipat Rai to the members of the Union, Mrs. McLaren declared that though, generally speaking little was known about India in England, more ought to be known, and a practical opportunity would be afforded for making a good start in the quest of knowledge by the presence of two Indian gentlemen who were ready to tell as much as could be squeezed into the time with regard to their own country.

Mr. Laipat Rai was the first speaker, and the subjects allotted to him were taxation and frontier warfare. It was not easy to severely compress all needful remarks on these wide subjects into the space of half an hour, but Mr. Rai acquitted himself extremely well. With regard to taxation he explained that the people of the country have no voice in the matter; all they have to do is to pay. It is not a question of India of representation and taxation; it is exactly the reverse. He told of the land tax and its terrible pressure, a tax which is unknown in other civilised countries; of the income tax and the difficulty of the agriculturists to meet it; of land cesses, education tax (with, however, no compulsory and free education), of the many costs attendant on litigation, and of the microscopic incomes out of which these imposts have to be met. And then came the crushing military burdens, increasing in time of peace, and when Russia is severely crippled, by leaps and bounds, to the enormous total of 23 millions sterling this year. Mr. Rai declared that Indian people are loyal to the British rule; that they hate Russia, and would not submit to her overlordship in India; but he emphasised the fact that the discontent that exists with regard to many grievances may grow to serious proportions unless met in a sympathetic and wise spirit by the rulers of the country. Such consequences would be deplorable for both Britain and India. He urged on the English women who were listening to him to use their great influence with the men of England and to arouse in them a sense of their responsibilities towards India so that much needed reforms might be carried out and his heavy burdens raised from the poverty-stricken people of his country. It was an excellent speech; but I can only give you an outline of it here. The applause which followed the absolute stillness that had prevailed whilst he was speaking, showed that Mr. Laipat Rai's words had gone home.

The same intense attention was given to Shaikh Abdul Quadir's speech. His subjects were irrigation, famine, and plague. He explained to the audience the strange coincidence that although he and Mr. Laipat Rai had been friends for many years, although they both lived in the city of Lahore, although they had very much in common in their ideas regarding India and her needs, their spheres of activity lay so much apart one from another that it was reserved for the tactful hand of the Women's Liberal Association of South-Eastern England to bring them together on the same platform. Two men, professing different creeds, representing different sets of views, but standing side by side on a common platform proved that the mass of intelligent opinion in India is converging to unanimity on many important points and that minor differences can be sunk in the one great aim which all Indians have in view the progress of their country. In discussing irrigation, the Shaikh referred to the official reports which set forth the progress of works already taken in hand, but they are silent, he observed, with regard to the immense area still undeveloped, in spite of the fact that canals are a paying concern and a sound business investment. He showed, however, that in the administration of the new irrigation colonies and other works very burdensome conditions are often imposed, and he urged that a fairer method should be adopted, for irrigation, under existing conditions, does

not yield to the cultivator all the good it might do and which it was designed to bring to him. Then he brought home to his hearers some idea of the poverty of the people and their helplessness to resist famine; he told how a crust of bread with a piece of garlic or onion is all that the tiller of the soil can earn; that butter and cheese are luxuries of a superior class of peasantry, but when the sun is hot, the wells run dry, and the parched ground refuses to yield even the onion, all that the labourer can do is to lie down and die. His old stores of grain are gone, and the money gained by the sale of reserve grain does not reach his pocket. As to plague, he declared that only after many failures in coping with the disease, had the authorities condescended to take the leaders of the people into their confidence. With the co-operation of the leaders preventive measures are carried out, but the manner in which they were thrust on the people in the early days of the outbreak was so tactless as to lose all benefit. He pleaded for the help of the women of England in gaining India a hearing in this country and for convincing the people of England of the many urgent reforms that must be carried out.

Following the Indian speakers two ladies, Mrs. Martin, from Bristol, and Mrs. Strickland made excellent short speeches. They spoke with considerable knowledge, showed how famine was not a food but a money famine; protested against military expenditure, at such an appalling rate, controverted Kipling's dictum that

"East is East, and West is West And never the twain shall meet," but, instead, held up an ideal of a Federation of States in India under British overlordship, bound by sympathy to us, and of which we might be as proud as we are of our self-governing Colonies. The questions asked included expenditure on marriage ceremonies, the power of the money lender, agricultural banks, the status of Indian members of the Civil Service. Information on these points, valuable and from personal experience, was given by both gentlemen, and it was only the exigencies of time that put an end to the interesting talk that was going on. After the meeting when the chief matter in hand was tea, with an abundant supply of English summer fruit, strawberries, raspberries, etc., both Indian gentlemen were in great demand, being bombarded with questions, so much so that women Liberals showed that they meant to put their shoulders to the wheel to help forward the cause of India.

HOT SPRINGS IN TIBET.

The scientists with the recent expedition into Tibet were unable to make a close examination of the hot springs that were known to exist. A correspondent sends the "Englishman," an interesting account of the mineral springs in the vicinity of Khambo, a village about 11 miles south-west of Phari Jong, en route to Khambo Jong. These springs, nine or ten in number, are situated at the bottom of a narrow valley. The temperature of the water of each spring varies slightly. Many sick from Tibet and Bhutan resort to Khambo and remain there for at least a week to take a daily bath, in the firm belief that the water possesses great medicinal properties. The Tibetans, as a rule, very seldom take a bath, and it is at Khambo that they wash and make themselves clean for a whole week in the year. The process of taking the baths is thus described by a correspondent:—A small square basin of loose stones about 4ft. square and 3ft. high is made at the springs to enable the visitors to sit and bathe. These basins are again enclosed by walls partly roofed where the visitors prepare their food and take their beds during their stay. There is a profuse smell of sulphuretted hydrogen gas in the place. A small channel carries away the excess of water from the basin to a canal by the side which conveys the surface water. In case there should be a rush of visitors from India to Khambo, it is worth while pointing out that the track from Phari Jong to the springs is a bad one over precipices. Ponies and riding mules for hire are procurable in Phari Jong, but more than half the distance must be covered on foot owing to the dangerous condition of the path.

The prisoners captured by the Japanese Fleet in the battle of the Sea of Japan total 7,282, including 350 Officers.

A Lahore paper writes:—On the 12th instant the factory of Bhai Jhanda Singh was searched by Mr. Beatty, Inspector, Cantonment Police, for taking possession of those works for the sale of which the proprietor had circulated advertisements couched in language considered to be obscene. It is said that the advertisement was sent to a bandmaster at Umballa. His moral susceptibilities having been shocked he sent it to the Police authorities.

Ludhiana, July 19:—In the sensational murder case of the sweeper of Mr. Richardson, District Superintendent of Police, which was committed to the Sessions by Sirdar Ragbir Singh, 1st Class Magistrate and reported in these columns, the two accused were put on their trial before the Sessions Court on the 17th July. The Crown was represented by Pandit Shahzada Ram assisted by Sirdar Gajjan Singh, and the defence was conducted by Mr. H. L. Ahuja, Barrister-at-Law. The learned Sessions Judge after recording the evidence for the prosecution and hearing the arguments of the Counsel acquitted the two accused. The Counsel for the defence produced no witness but took advantage of the weakness of the prosecution. The unfortunate accused were in lock-up for four months and spent lots of money. Who is responsible for all this? No doubt the police, and at the same time we cannot refrain from remarking the abnormal increase of Sessions crime in the district; there have been many murders committed out of which only one conviction was sustained by the learned Sessions Judge. This shows the inefficiency of the subordinate police officers.—Tribune.

THE HIGH COURT.

CRIMINAL BEACH.

(Before Justice Rampini and Mookerjee.)

SHYAMBAZAR ORPHANAGE CASE.

Babu Devendra Nath Das applied for the admission of an appeal on behalf of Sheikh Yacoub, who was convicted by Mouli Buzlal Karim, third Presidency Magistrate under Sec. 363 I. P. C. and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment.

The appellant was a mason working at the Hindu Orphanage—12-1 Boloram Ghoses Street Shambazar. Three of the orphans named Sarojini, Shybalini and another Khetia left the orphanage on the night of the 23rd March at about 10-30 p.m. by scaling over the wall with the help of a ladder of the mason. On the 26th March last the police found the girls at No. 139 Upper Chitpur Road, Calcutta. That day the police arrested the appellant and two others. They were placed on their trial before Mouli Buzlal Karim, who convicted them. Against that conviction and sentence the two other persons preferred an appeal to this Court. Their Lordships admitted the appeal.

A SCHOOL MASTER IN TROUBLE.

Babu Bankim Chandra Sen moved on behalf of Babu Ananga Mohun Ghosal, a teacher in the Rungpur Zilla School for a rule on the District Magistrate of Bankura to show cause why the proceedings taken by a Deputy Magistrate of that place under section 107 Cr. P. C. in order to bind down the petitioner in the sum of Rs. 500 to keep the peace, should not be quashed. It would appear that the petitioner, while he was a teacher in the Bankura School, had bought a piece of landed property in the name of his wife, the vendor having purchased the same at an execution sale. He had taken possession of the lands when, as he alleged, a rival claimant appeared on the scene and disputed his right. On the report of a chowkidar, the police held an investigation into the matter and eventually made a report which resulted in proceedings being taken against the petitioner and his local men. All this time the petitioner was in another district, having been transferred from Bankura. He did not get the notices so he did not appear. A warrant without bail was thereupon issued and he was arrested and taken to Bankura where he was released on bail of Rs. 1,000. On the case being called on before the Deputy, the petitioner raised an objection that the proceedings against him were illegal inasmuch as he did not live within the jurisdiction of the Bankura District. The Deputy Magistrate thereupon submitted the record to the District Magistrate who granted the petitioner time under cl. (8) of section 526 Cr. P. C. to enable him to move the High Court.

Learned vakil submitted that the proceedings were "ultra vires" inasmuch as the petitioner was not a resident within the limits of the Bankura district and relied upon cl. (2) of sec. 107.

Rampini, J.—But the case is now before the District Magistrate and he may deal with it.

Vakil.—My Lord, the proceedings were initially taken by a Magistrate without jurisdiction and the fact of its now being before the District Magistrate would not cure the defect.

It was also contended that having regard to the nature of the case, it was essentially one to which the provisions of section 145 were more appropriate than those of section 107.

Their Lordships issued a rule and stayed further proceedings.

TROUBLES OF A WITNESS.

Babu Dwarka Nath Mittar appeared in support of a rule obtained by Nandlal Doy upon the District Magistrate of Midnapur, to show cause why the order passed by the Sub-Divisional Officer of Tamuk directing the prosecution of the petitioner under section 174 I. P. C. should not be set aside. The petitioner who was living in Calcutta from 28th May to 6th June, went home on the latter day. He then learnt that a summons was issued in the petitioner's name to appear as a witness before the sub-divisional officer of Tamuk on 3rd June. The summons was served to the servant of the petitioner. On 3rd June during his absence a warrant was issued against the petitioner and on 17th June petitioner was ordered to be prosecuted under section 174 I. P. C.

Learned vakil urged that the service of the summons to a servant was not due service within the meaning of section 70 Cr. P. C.

Their Lordships thought that the order under section 174 I. P. C. was not good and ordered that it be set aside. Accordingly the rule was made absolute.

MAGISTRATE ABUSING AN ACCUSED.

Babu Hemendra Nath Sen appeared in support of a rule obtained by one Khudiram Gorai upon the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum to show cause why the case of the petitioner pending before the sub-divisional officer of Gobindpur, should not be transferred to some other Magistrate. The petitioner was prosecuted for having encroached upon a public road. On 29th June last when the petitioner appeared before the sub-divisional Magistrate of Gobindpur, to answer the above charge the Magistrate began to abuse the Gorai family of Chirkunda to which the petitioner belongs. The Magistrate addressing the petitioner further said:—"Your brother was convicted the other day on a similar offence. Don't you feel ashamed to come here as accused in such cases? The Gorais have become suddenly rich and they are disregarding Government and even God. They have grown greedy and are trying to take other's property. I cannot call them gentlemen. When I came here in 1874, some of the Gorais used to carry baskets on their heads. I cannot say that I can deal leniently with the accused."

Their Lordships after going through the explanation submitted by the Magistrate remarked that in the circumstances of the case, it should not be tried by the sub-divisional Magistrate of Gobindpur. The rule was made absolute.

ORIGINAL SIDE.

(Before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Stephen.)

SUIT FOR SLANDER.

ROSE MARY MELL VS. WILLIAM HERBERT LEE.

Mr. Garth and Mr. Zorab instructed by Messrs. Orr Dignam and Co. appeared for the plaintiff Miss Rose Mary Mell. Mr. Hill and Mr. Gregory instructed by Messrs. Sanderson and Co., appeared for the defendant Mr. William Herbert Lee.

When the case was called on Mr. Gregory wanted an order for the issue of a commission for the examination of Mr. N. Palit, a Barrister, practising at Mymensingh. Counsel said that Mr. Palit was the Secretary of the Mymensingh Club. He had expelled the lady. He was present at the meeting of the Club and was an important witness, so far as what transpired on that occasion.

Mr. Garth in reply said that Mr. Palit was not an independent witness at all. He had acted as Mr. Lee's legal adviser. Counsel submitted that the commission ought not to be issued.

His Lordship after hearing both sides granted the application.

Mr. Gregory then made another application for the amendment of the written statement.

Mr. Garth objected to the change being allowed at this period of the suit.

His Lordship granted the application and directed Mr. Gregory to put in an additional written statement.

Mr. Garth then opened the case for the plaintiff. He said that the plaintiff in this case was Miss Rose Mary Mell, a lady residing at Mymensingh. She was the daughter of Mrs. Colonious. She was first married to Mr. Mell and afterwards to Mr. Colonious. Both her husbands were dead. The plaintiff lived with her widowed mother and her uncle Mr. Dumbell. Mr. Lee the defendant in this case, was a member of the Civil Service, and was the Session Judge of Mymensingh. He came to Mymensingh in the latter part of the year 1903. The rumour, which was the cause of the present suit, began to spread about the month of March 1904. Counsel could not tell his Lordship at that moment from whom Mr. Lee got the information and why he caused the rumour to spread with regard to Miss Mell—her character, was such that she could associate with any lady. What the actual facts were that were stated she did not know. Nothing was heard of by Mrs. Mell or her mother of this matter until there was a general rumour, which came to their ear in the vaguest possible form. They had not the slightest idea as to who had spread it beyond what they heard about their character. They then applied to Mr. Dumbell who said that he did not know anything. On the Easter Sunday or Saturday Rev. Mr. Shaw, a clergyman of Dacca, came to Mymensingh to hold services there. They told him their troubles and asked him to be good enough to trace the rumour out. The Rev. Mr. Shaw went to see Mr. Lee. Mr. Lee told Mr. Shaw that the rumour was true, and Mr. Shaw, whose mind was poisoned by Mr. Lee, wrote a letter to the mother of the plaintiff, Mrs. Colonious. He wrote that he was beyond measure shocked and aggrieved to hear of the scandal concerning Miss Mell's name, and he feared he must add that he had done his best to discover whether it was true. The Rev. Mr. Shaw had grave reason to believe that the rumour was not unfounded. Mr. Shaw Counsel said, wrote them that he had heard from Mr. Lee. The only evidence Mr. Shaw had was the statement made to him by Mr. Lee. Mr. Delvinge was the Additional Judge of Mymensingh. He was a married man and he had a wife and a sister of hers living there. It appeared that Mr. Delvinge was told by Mr. Lee with regard to the same matter, but Mr. Delvinge did not take the same view as the clergyman did. Mr. Delvinge told this to Mrs. Delvinge. He however did not wish to repeat what he had heard to his wife. Mrs. Delvinge told the plaintiff and her mother to be careful. She also said that Mr. Lee was spreading horrible stories. Mr. Dumbell then wrote a letter to Mr. Delvinge asking him to write what had happened. To that Mr. Delvinge replied. Counsel wanted to read the letter but Mr. Gregory objected to the letter being read. His Lordship disallowed the letter being read.

Counsel continuing said that Miss Mell then went to Mr. Lee's house and asked an explanation from him. But Mr. Lee had not the courage of his conviction to speak the truth, but he asked her to go away. He did not deny that he was the author of the rumour. It was said that at that meeting Mr. Lee was assaulted by Miss Mell. The next action taken by Mr. Lee was most extraordinary. He did not take any action immediately. He took 14 days to consider what he would do. On 24th April Mr. Lee interviewed Mr. Palit, the Secretary of the Club, and the latter wrote letters to all the members of the Club of which Miss Mell was a member suggesting that the latter should be expelled therefrom for the assault committed upon Mr. Lee. Mr. Lee also wrote a letter to Mr. Palit asking him to bring the matter, namely the assault committed upon him by Miss Mell, to the notice of the Club committee. Mr. Palit also wrote a letter to Miss Mell to send in her resignation as desired by the committee. Miss Mell in reply said that she was unwilling to resign and that the action of the committee was illegal. Mr. Palit again wrote to Miss Mell that if she did not accept the decision of the committee the matter would be considered by the members at a general meeting. Thereafter notices were issued to the members—one for the town members and another to mufussil members. That issued to town members ran to the following effect: An extraordinary general meeting would take place on 28th instant, at 6-30 to consider whether or not the decision of the committee "re" Miss Mell should be confirmed. The notice to Mufussil members ran thus: In March last the Missionaries at Mymensingh decided not to associate with Miss Mell who was a member of the club. About 12th of April last Mrs. Colonious, mother of Miss Mell, wrote a letter to the Chaplain, Mr. Shaw, stating that she had reason to believe that Mr. Lee was spreading scandals about her. Rev. Mr. Shaw came to Mymensingh on Easter Sunday and started an enquiry. Mr. Lee would not help Mr. Shaw in that enquiry. Rev. Mr. Shaw after enquiry wrote to Mrs. Colonious the result of his enquiry. Mr. Dumbell saw Mr. Shaw and asked him to reconsider his decision.

He refused to do so. The committee, considering the wanton assault on the District Judge and also the gravity of the offence nothing to say about the impossibility of any further social intercourse with her, decided that Miss Mell's name should be removed from the list of members.

Counsel said that the object of writing the notice was to poison their minds. It was false that Mr. Dumbell asked Mr. Shaw to reconsider his decision. Referring to the notice Counsel asked: "Was this a letter of a Secretary of a club or the ministerial action of an executive officer?" A meeting was held, Miss Mell was present on that occasion and it was presided over by Mr. Thompson, the District Magistrate. The meeting was held to consider whether Miss Mell had assaulted Mr. Lee but the chairman first of all read the mufussil notice and said that they knew the case. Miss Mell said that it was a private quarrel and they had nothing to do with it. The chairman replied that they were not going to consider the assault at all, but the rumour about her character which apparently had been going on for years and to refute which Miss Mell had taken no action in court. Counsel remarked that though Miss Mell was a member of the club she never heard of the rumour before Mr. Lee came to Mymensingh. The result of the meeting was that Miss Mell was expelled from the club. The matter for the consideration of the members at that meeting was whether Miss Mell would be expelled or not. Miss Mell was not allowed to vote, Mr. Lee reserved his vote and the gentleman with whom the slander was alleged to have been associated voted against her.

Counsel said that it had been suggested that the offence was not such as would demand special damages. The character of a lady had been injured and if this was not a case demanding special damages he did not know what was such a case.

In conclusion Counsel said that they were desirous of having, as he submitted they were entitled to have, the rulings of this Court on the following points:

(1) Whether Mr. Lee did start those rumours;

(2) Whether those rumours were true;

(3) Whether to Mr. Lee's knowledge the result had been (whether he desired it or not) that Miss Mell and her mother were ostracised.

The court here adjourned for the day.

MURDER IN A FIT OF INSANITY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Tangail, July 23.

Nalini Mohan Bose of Mohunpur belongs to a respectable Kayastha family. Since a long time he has been suffering from an occasional unboundedness of mind.

When the fit is on he loses all control over his senses, but when it is off he is a loving father, a devoted husband and a calm and quiet gentleman. God, as if, in his infinite mercy, to make good the unbalanced mind, He gave him, blessed him with a devoted wife, who was the ministering angel to her lord and an affectionate mother to her children five in number.

For Soudamin was suffering a martyrdom for her husband and undergoing a penance too deep for all her sins, if any, committed in her previous life; and yet it seemed not enough for her or why should she be hacked to pieces by her husband without a struggle. Soudamin was a model Hindu wife and what she willingly and ungrudgingly suffered can never be put up with by any woman of any other nationality. Just a couple of days ago a fit of insanity stole in upon Nalini and oblivious of what he was going to do, the poor fellow got hold of a hatchet, slowly and almost stealthily, approached his faithful wife from behind her back and dealt her a severe blow therewith. Soudamin uttered forth a groan and fell on her back. Still her raving husband did not perceive the fatality of what he had done. In his insanity he dealt her a second blow and all her struggle on this earth was over.

Well, as if to punish the unfortunate man commensurately with the dark deed he had done God brought him back to his senses when he had already chopped off to pieces the body of his partner in this life. He realised what he had done, and compunction too deep for tears, came, but alas, too late. To fill up the cup of this poor man's misery his youngest child cried out just at this time. Needless to say that there was no body in the house at the time beside the couple and in his excruciating agony the unfortunate man moaned forth the name of his wife and called her aloud over and over again, to give their child her breast. But the detached pieces of the lifeless corpse lay stark and stiff!

A chilling sensation stole upon the entire frame of the distressed husband, and an unnatural sense of dread made him run away for this very dear life. He took shelter in a jute field.

In the meantime Nalini's elder brother came back home and the dreadful sight smote him to his very heart's core. He sent immediate information to the Police Station at Gopalpur. The Police came caught hold of the murderer and sent him over to Tangail along with the mangled remains of his victim who was all in all to him on this earth. Nalini is now under police custody.

WHOLESALE ARRESTS UNDER THE BADMASHI SECTION AT GORAKHPORE.

The Collector and District Magistrate of Gorakhpore has managed to create another sensation in the town. On the 10th instant he asked the Zemindars of his District each to send a hundred or two hundred ryots without telling why they were called at Gorakhpore. Soon after the station was filled with these strangers. On the 11th July they were ordered to follow the Police and arrest the houseless from the jungle. The forest was surrounded from all sides and a number of men arrested and sent to the head-quarters on the 14th and 15th July. They have been asked to furnish sureties for one thousand each, in default of which they were to suffer imprisonment for one year. It is believed that these Khana badmashes are responsible for numerous dacoities which were committed in the district last year; but in which the culprits could not be secured. But is Mr. Way quite sure that all the men so arrested are men implicated in the dacoities and that they live by crime and that no innocent man has been arrested with these men by the curious agency employed by him?—Advocate.

Calcutta and Moussil

Suit for Return of Securities.—At the High Court on Saturday, before Mr. Justice Stephen, Babu Ambica Charan Dey applied on behalf of Debi Charan Dey for leave to file a plaint against Messrs. Alexander Classen and Co. for recovery of certain securities which were deposited by him with the defendant firm, in which he was the head assistant, and also for the recovery of balance of his salary and commission, amounting to about Rs. 8,900. The plaint was admitted and written statement directed to be filed.

Infringement of Bankim's Works.—At the High Court, on Monday, before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Woodroffe Mr. J. C. Dutta applied on behalf of the plaintiff in the suit of Srimati Rajlakshmi Devi vs. Pandit Kali Prasanna Kabyabisharad for an order that the Registrar of this Court might be at liberty to send for certain records, with books of accounts, filed in the Small Causes Court. The suit in the Small Causes Court was brought by a Dattari against the defendant. Pandit Kali Prasanna Kabyabisharad for works done. His Lordship granted the application.

Inquest.—The Government Railway Police held an inquest touching the death of Babu Tarak Nath Bannerjee, a clerk in the office of the Assistant Shipping Master, Kidderpur. On the night of the 15th instant the deceased, aged about 30 years, after his day's work was done proceeded to the Howrah Railway station intending to proceed by train to Bally where he resided. He reached the station at 11-30 p.m., where, finding the train had just started he attempted to jump into a railway carriage, but, failing in the attempt, he fell between the train and the platform disappearing from view. After the train had left the platform a European passenger, who was waiting to catch the early morning train, preferred a complaint to the Station Master that he had noticed a person jumping into the train. The latter suspecting something wrong went towards the edge of the platform and discovered the body lying dead on the railway lines. The body was removed to the morgue and it transpired that the deceased had evidently died from being jammed by the train against the side of the station platform.

Suit for Malicious Prosecution.—At the High Court on Saturday before Mr. Justice Stephen, Mr. Rose applied on behalf of Sham Lal and Narain Dass, proprietors of the Aligarh Butter Farm, for leave to file a plaint against Edward Kevenet, proprietor of the Aligarh Dairy Farm, claiming Rs. 30,000 as damages for alleged malicious prosecution. It appeared that on the 24th of February, 1904, the defendant on a search warrant issued from the Police Court removed the signboard of the plaintiffs business, together with the trade-mark and the butter belonging to the plaintiffs, by which they sustained very heavy damages. The business had to be closed from the 24th February to the 23rd July, 1904. The plaint was admitted and written statement directed to be filed and leave under clause 12 of the Charter granted. Mr. Rose next applied on behalf of one Heralal, proprietor of the business of P. O. Dwasdharani and Co. and formerly commission agent of Sham Lal and Narain Dass, for leave to file a plaint against Edward Kevenet to recover the sum of Rs. 20,000 as damages in respect of the loss caused to the plaintiffs business by the issue of a search warrant and by the removal of a signboard and the trade-mark of his business and by the prosecution of his manager, Raghunath Lal Sharma, by reason of which the plaintiffs business was closed from the 24th of February to the 23rd of July, 1904. The plaint was admitted and written statement directed to be filed.

Inventions and Designs.—Applications in respect of the undermentioned inventions have been filed.—Mahomed Abdul Kuddus Badsha Sahib, a member of the firm of Messrs. Hajee Mahomed Badsha Sahib and Co., merchants, mica and diamond miners, of No. 16, North Lane, Beach, Madras, manufacture collapsible mica lamp domes, manufacture of mica lamp domes specially constructed to be used with any kind of hanging lamp, such as hall lamps, and particularly with railway station lamps; Frederick Hugh Smith, engineer, of Home Works, Datchet, in the county of Buckingham, improvements in and relating to governors for internal combustion engines; James Holden, engineer, of Hermon House, Wansford, in the county of Essex, improvements in stays for steam and other boilers; George Kirkgaard and Fridtjof Jensen, mechanical engineers, of the Borough of Brooklyn Bottle stoppers; Society Jules Jean and Co., produced by its manager Jules Jean, chemist, 18 Rue de Mogador Paris, and Georges Raverat, industrial, 18, Rue de Mogador, Paris, a process for condensing the vapours of volatile solvents, either pure or mixed, with other gases or vapours, air, aqueous vapour, and so forth; Willibald Liedtke and Otto Rabenhorst, engineers, both of Charlottenburg, Berlin, improvements in or relating to incandescent vapour lamps; Gulam Hyder, Gunmaker, electrician and mechanic, having his place of business at 387, Bhindi Bazaar, Bombay, an apparatus for generating carbonic acid gas and aerating beverages; John Parker, civil engineer, of 49, Denmark Villas, Hove, Sussex, an improved material for use in making and repairing roadways and the like, and a process of manufacturing same; Sidney Prescott Wood, engineer, and McKenzie and Holland, Limited, railway signal engineers, both of Vulcan Iron Works, Worcester, improvements in electric treadles or contact makers for railway signalling and the like; Charles Dutton, engineer, of Tolkingdon Road, Worcester, Courtenay Harold Worcester, engineer, of Albert Road, Worcester, and McKenzie and Holland, Limited, railway signal engineers, of Vulcan Iron Works, Worcester, improvements in or relating to railway point and signal apparatus and the like; Dr. Karl Geiser, librarian, of 15, Murtensstrasse, and Hans Kehrl, manufacturer, 5, Rosenweg, both in Berne, Switzerland, improved composition for inking rollers or flexible printing-rollers. The Morgan Crucible Company, Limited, manufacturers of Battersea Works, Battersea an improved manufacture of composition or compound for brushes of dynamo-electric machines, for bearings, and for other articles; Richard John Thomas, engineer, of Mossman, in the State of Queensland, and William Francis Seymour Hove, analytical chemist of Mossman, aforesaid, improvements in the detection or clarifying of juices in the manufacture of sugar; and William Henry Drury, lawyer, of Waltham, in the county of Middlesex, Massachusetts, an improved woven fabric.

TELEGRAMS

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

GENERAL

London, July 23.

Reuter's correspondent wires from St. Petersburg that the Tsar left Peterhof this morning on board the "Standard" for Borgo in Finland to meet the Kaiser at a dinner on board the "Hohenzollern" this evening.

London, July 23.

It is understood that Mr. Balfour's remaining in office will be largely due to the fact that important negotiations are proceeding with Japan with the desire to see the peace negotiations concluded.

London, July 24.

A telegram from St. Petersburg states that the Tsar was accompanied only by his brother, the Grand Duke Michael and a Court Minister. The Russian Foreign Office was not represented. This is possibly owing to consideration for French feelings.

There will be a second meeting on board the "Standard" to-day. The Tsar will return to Peterhof in the evening. It is authoritatively stated that the Emperor William initiated the meeting. His Majesty informed the Tsar from Sweden that he was desirous of seeing His Majesty in order to convince him of the sincerity of the German policy towards Russia. Probably the Emperor William was anxious to counteract the effect of Prince Arisugawa's cordial reception in Germany, and the German participation in the Japanese loan. The real significance of the meeting of the two monarchs is however only surmisable.

M. De Witte knew nothing of the approaching meeting before he started for Paris.

It is pointed out in official circles that the exchange of views between the Emperors is calculated to assist the labours of the Russian Plenipotentiaries by promoting a general entente in the affairs of the Far East.

German papers suggest that the initiative of the interview between the two Emperors emanated with the Tsar. The motives and objects of the meeting are being anxiously discussed throughout Europe, especially in France, where M. De Witte is at present discussing future policies and notably the possibility of a Russian loan.

London, July 24.

The Emperors' yachts only met last night, but visits were immediately exchanged, the monarchs separating at 1-30 in the morning.

London, July 24.

Mr. Balfour announced to-day in the Commons that there would be no dissolution.—"Englishman."

London, July 24.

The English papers are full of surmises and conjectures regarding the date of the dissolution, but there is nothing certain and no further development of the parliamentary crisis.

The Liberal papers this morning publish articles vehemently protesting against the argument that foreign politics will make the resignation of the Cabinet inadvisable.

Mr. Balfour has announced that the Government is not resigning.

Mr. Balfour in the Commons cited a mass of precedents for not resigning upon a vote like that of Friday last, and did not mention the idea of dissolving. A heated discussion followed and eventually Sir Acland Hood, at the instance of Mr. Balfour, formally moved the adjournment of the House which is tantamount to a motion of confidence. The division is expected at midnight.

London, July 25.

The Unionist organs approve Mr. Balfour's decision to remain in office deeming it right that his personal feelings should give way before national considerations. The Radicals denounce the Government for clinging to office.

London, July 24.

General Sir Frederick Forestier Walker has been appointed Governor of Gibraltar. Lord Chelmsford has been appointed Governor of Queensland.

London, July 24.

The Fourth Test Match commenced at Manchester this morning in fine weather. Twenty thousand people were present. The wicket was good. England won the toss and went in first and made 352 for six wickets, Hayward scoring 82.

London, July 24.

In the Commons Sir H. O. Bannerman condemned Mr. Balfour's attitude as utterly unconstitutional. Mr. Redmond said that the Liberals and Irish would unite and make his position unendurable, contesting everything. Mr. Churchill accused Mr. Balfour of flouting the traditions of Parliament and dishonouring the service of the Crown. Several heated scenes and speeches took place, but the Opposition for tactical reasons decided to abstain from a division, the debate unexpectedly terminated; and the Government's motion for an adjournment was carried without a division and derisive Government laughter and cheers.

The Government supporters had been most effectively whipped up.

The Opposition is anxious to avoid any heavily unfavourable divisions which would counteract the effect of Thursday's defeat.

Lord Lansdowne announced the decision in the Lords. Lord Rosebery said that Mr. Balfour was straining the principles of the Constitution to its very foundations.

London, July 24.

A terrible outbreak of mob violence has taken place at Nijni Novgorod against all well dressed persons, the mob pursuing them into their houses. Many have been killed and wounded.

London, July 25.

Mr. Brodrick yesterday received a City deputation, which pointed out to him the disabilities of British oil firms in Burma.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

COMPLAINT AGAINST A HIGH OFFICIAL.

Moulmein, July 25.

Mr. C. E. Hill, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Moulmein, on the complaint of Mr. Pineappa Modelly under sections 323 and 341 I. P. C. and section 109 Cr. P. C. has issued summons to B. Houghton Esqr., Commissioner, Tenasserim Division, for assault and wrongful restraint. The hearing of the case has been fixed for 5th proximo. Eminent counsel are being arranged for by the accused.

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

DESERTERS FROM RUSSIAN ARMY.

Allahabad, July 23.

The Governor of Chahan Mongolia has reported that 15 deserters from the Russian Army in Manchuria recently arrived at Chahar in a starving condition and begged for food. The Governor supplied them with food but was doubtful whether the men should be interfered according to neutral law or handed over to the nearest Russian consul to be dealt with.

UNREST IN TUNGUNG CHINA.

Allahabad, July 23.

Reports from Tungung China state that riots are again in evidence in the vicinity. The rioters threaten the people demanding money and hold wealthy persons for ransom in places far away from the influence of the District Magistrate. The rioters are robbing and destroying property on an extensive scale. The rich people have to disguise themselves before it is safe for them to venture out and robbers are so daring that the authorities are unable to disperse them.

QUARREL BETWEEN AMIR'S OFFICERS.

OFFENDER SHOT DEAD.

Allahabad, July 23.

Travellers from Kabul tell a strange story of a quarrel between two of the Amir's officials which had a tragic ending. The City Police, some 2,400 armed men, are under orders of the Kotwal but have two Colonels as Joint Commandants. These officers recently quarrelled and one of them drew his sword on the other. The offender was arrested by the Kotwal and taken before the Amir. His crime being proved Amir Habibullah passed the sentence of death and this was immediately carried out, a party of soldiers on duty shooting the unfortunate man without further ceremony.

ADHERENTS OF SIRDAR ISHAK.

BACK IN KABUL.

ISHAK'S SON.

Allahabad, July 23.

A number of adherents of Sardar Ishak Khan have recently availed themselves of the amnesty offered by the Amir and returned to Kabul from Samarkand. Their late master is said to have been now left almost alone in exile. Ishak while Governor of Afghan Turkestan rebelled against his cousin Abdur Rahman in 1888, but his troops were defeated and he had to flee across the Oxus. Since then he has been a pensioner of Russia and his pretensions to the throne of Kabul have gradually come to be disregarded. He is old and devotes himself to religious exercises. His son is not a man of any force of character and will probably ask for leave to return to Afghanistan when his father dies.

KAREZES IN AMIR'S TERRITORY.

Allahabad, July 23.

During the Amir's recent tour in the country north of Kabul he visited the waste lands in Bagram district and noticed traces of old Karezes or underground water channels. A report was called for and it was to the effect that if these were repaired land could again be brought under cultivation. Places are said to be now under preparation and it is intended to colonise the country with refugees who are returning to Afghanistan from India, Persia and Central Asia.

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Rangoon, July 24.—Mr. D. Shearmey, Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor has been appointed Assistant Director of Statistics in the Department of Commerce and Industry under the Government of India. He will be succeeded by Mr. C. S. Pennell, Under Secretary to the Local Government.

THE RANGOON MURDER CASE.

Rangoon, July 24.—To-day the Chief Judge passed the following order in San Maw's case:—"Section 203 A. P. C. does not apply to a case in which the person makes a statement on a charge of murder and after the enquiry being held was discharged. There is no provision of law under which an accused person can be held criminally responsible for making a false statement with regard to an offence with which he is charged whether the false statement is made before or after the arrest. The proceedings are quashed and accused discharged."

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

Simla, July 24.

It is understood that the annual grant of twenty lakhs of rupees which the Government of India have decided to distribute amongst the local administrations for the encouragement of agricultural research will be devoted to the foundation and upkeep of an agricultural institute in each of the larger provinces. It will no doubt take some time to engage the requisite expert staff; meanwhile the construction of the necessary buildings can be put in hand, so no time will be lost in making use of the monies. The proportion of the total grant received by the smaller administrations will of course, be less than that in the case of the large ones, but even when the amount is only a lakh of rupees per annum it will be sufficient, when added to the various existing grants, to render possible the maintenance of a very useful body of scientists.

LORD CURZON'S HEALTH.

Simla, July 24.

The Viceroy is very much better to-day, but is still unable to leave his room.

TELEGRAM RATES.

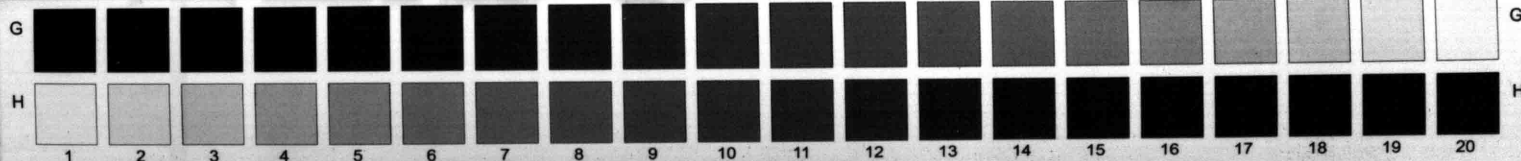
Simla, July 24.

Intimation has not yet reached the Government of India of a reduction in the Press rate corresponding to that in the ordinary rate for Home telegrams, and its Press rate for Home telegrams, and it is understood that this matter is still under discussion in England. The rate that has been mentioned in this connection, however, is eight pence. The Indo-European Telegraph Company appear to have behaved liberally in connection with the reduction to 2s. in the rate for private messages, the increase in the traffic fixed as the point at which the rates were to be reduced not having been quite reached as yet.

SHORT RIFLE MANUFACTURE.

Allahabad, July 25.

At the very moment that the Army Council have decided to suspend the manufacture of short rifle, reports have been sent home from India showing that excellent shooting is made with it in this country. Officers and men alike report most favourably upon it.



CALCUTTA GAZETTE.—JULY 26.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

The services of the Honble Mr. H. W. C. Carnuff, C.I.E., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Judicial and General Departments, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of India in the Legislative Department.

Maulvi Syed Ahmad Ali Khan, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Saran, is appointed to act as Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Patna Division, during the absence, on leave, of Maulvi Syed Wajid Hosain.

Babu Jotindra Chandra Mukerjee, Rural Sub-Registrar, Jhalda, Manbhum, is appointed to act as Special Sub-Registrar of Purulia, during the absence, on leave, of Maulvi Syed Muhammed Hussain.

Mr. F. C. Swaine, Assistant Superintendent of Police, 24-Parganas, is transferred to Jessore and appointed to hold charge of the police of that district.

Mr. J. F. Feeny, Probationary Assistant Superintendent of Police, Shahabad, is transferred to the 24-Parganas district.

Mr. M. S. Emerson, Superintendent of the Central Jail, Alipore, is appointed to act, in addition to his own duties, as Superintendent of Jail Manufactures, Bengal, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. G. A. Davis.

The order of the 24th June 1905, granting privilege leave for six weeks to Maulvi Abdul Mozaffar Ahmed, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Contai, Midnapore, is cancelled.

Babu Annada Prasad Basu, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hooghly, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Haripada Ghosh, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, under orders of transfer to Hazaribagh, is allowed leave for three months.

Mr. G. A. Davis, Superintendent of Jail Manufactures, Bengal, is allowed leave for twenty-one days.

Babu Bhubaneshwar Parshad, Special Sub-Registrar, Bhagalpur, was on leave for ten days.

Maulvi Syed Muhammad Hussain, Special Sub-Registrar, Purulia, is allowed leave for three months.

Maulvi Ashanulla, Head Master, Rajshahi Collegiate School, is allowed leave for twenty days.

Babu Manasa Ranjan Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is allowed combined leave for six months.

Babu Satis Chandra Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is allowed combined leave for six months.

Mr. Purna Chandra Mitter, Magistrate and Collector, Faridpur, is allowed combined leave for six months.

Maulvi Syed Wajid Hosain, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, employed as Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Patna Division, is allowed leave for two months.

Mr. J. A. L. Swan, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24-Parganas, is allowed leave for three months.

Mr. H. F. E. B. Foster, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hazaribagh, is allowed leave for fifteen days.

Mr. A. W. Cook, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rajmahal, Sonthal Parganas, is allowed an extension of leave for fourteen days.

Babu Syam Lal Gupta, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is appointed to have charge of the Nawadah subdivision of the Gaya district.

Mr. R. E. Jack, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Nawadah, Gaya, is appointed to have charge of the Hajipur subdivision of the Muzaffarpur district.

Mr. S. W. Goode, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, is appointed to have charge of the Hajipur subdivision of the Midnapore district.

Babu Prasanna Kumar Das Gupta, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Contai Midnapore, is appointed to have charge of the Goolundo subdivision of the Faridpur district.

Maulvi Abdul Mahmud, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Goolundo, Faridpur, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Patna district.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Babu Brajendra Kumar Ghose, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Murshidabad, to be ordinarily stationed at Kandi.

Babu Rajeswar Prasad, B.A., LL.B., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Purnea, to be ordinarily stationed at Kishanganj.

Babu Hemanta Kumar Haldar, M.A., B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Tippera, to be ordinarily stationed at Brahmanbaria.

Babu Kamala Prasad, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Saran, to be ordinarily stationed at Motihari.

Babu Ram Siromoni Roy Sen, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Dacca, to be ordinarily stationed at Munshiganj.

Babu Abinash Chandra Chuckerbutty, M.A., B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of the 24-Parganas, to be ordinarily stationed at Baruipur.

Babu Hari Lal Mukerjee, Munsif of Cuttack, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Sub Judge of Tippera, vice Babu Jogendra Lal Chaudhuri, about to retire.

Babu Umesh Chandra Sen (No. 1), Munsif of Muzaffarpur, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Sub Judge of Birbhum. He is, however, appointed temporarily to act as an Additional Subordinate Judge in the district of Rangpur for employment at Jalpaiguri.

Babu Satish Chandra Ghosh, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Cuttack, to be ordinarily stationed at the Sadar station.

Mr. N. Behari Chatterjee, Barrister-at-Law, is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Tirhut, to be ordinarily stationed at Muzaffarpur.

Babu Satindra Nath Guha, Munsif of Munshiganj, is allowed leave for seven days in extension of the leave previously granted to him.

Babu Lal Bihari Bhaduri, Munsif of Baruipur, is allowed leave for thirty days, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

Babu Satis Chandra Banerjee, Munsif of Motihari, is allowed leave for one month, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

Babu Satish Chandra Basu, Munsif of Hajipur, is allowed leave till the 31st July 1905, in extension of the leave previously granted to him.

Dr. Vipina Chandra Rai, Munsif of Mymensingh, is allowed leave for four weeks, with effect from the 26th July 1905, or from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Probha Chandra Singha, Munsif of Bhangra, is allowed leave for ten days, in extension of the leave previously granted to him.

SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICE.

Babu Naba Gopal Chaki, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Coll, Dacca Division, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Faridpur district.

Maulvi Saleh Ahmed, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Collector, Dacca Division, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Mymensingh district.

Babu Brajasundar Mardaraj, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Coll Orissa Div, is posted to the head-quarters station of the district of Cuttack.

Mulvi Shuffee-oddeen Ahmed, Sub-Dy Coll, on leave, is posted to the Dacca Division.

Babu Jatindra Mohan Chattopadhyaya, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Coll, Netrokona, Mymensingh, is allowed leave for one month with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it.

Mr. D. Macdonald, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Coll, Darjeeling, is transferred temporarily to the Kurseong sub-division.

Maulvi Ahmed Ali, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Coll, Chittagong Division, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Noakhali district.

Maulvi Ahmad Ali sub pro tem Sub-Dy Coll, Noakhali, is posted to Sandip in that district and vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class.

The order of the 24th June 1905, transferring Babu Basanta Kumar Roy, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Coll, Midnapore, temporarily to the Contai sub-division, is cancelled.

Babu Radhika Lal De, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Coll, Mymensingh, is transferred temporarily to the Netrokona sub-division.

Babu Sital Chandra Chatterjee is appointed sub pro tem to the fifth grade of Sub-Dy Colls.

The gentlemen named below are appointed sub pro tem to the fifth grade of Sub-Dy Colls, and are posted to the Divisions mentioned against their names:—Babu Surendra Chandra Acharya, Patna Division. Babu Sharat Chandra Lahiry, B. A., Rajshahi Division.

The gentlemen named below are appointed sub pro tem to the fifth grade of Sub-Dy Colls:—

Babus Sures Chandra Deb, Srimohan Das Gupta, B.A., Prafulla Chandra Gupta, Maulvi Ataur Rahman, B.A.

Babu Lakshmi Misra, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Coll, Rajshahi Division, is posted to the Alipuri sub-division of the Jalpaiguri district.

Babu Karali Charan Ganguli, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Coll, Rajshahi Division, is posted to the Nator sub-division.

Babu Bhikari Charan Das, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Coll, now employed as Officiating Tahsildar of Government estates, Kotdesh, etc., Puri, is allowed leave for one month, in extension of the leave previously granted to him.

Maulvi Nasiruddin Ahmad, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Coll, Sasaram, Shahabad, is transferred to the Bhabhua sub-division.

Maulvi Syed Abdul Latif, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Coll, Nadia, is transferred to the Lalbagh sub-division.

Roy Brajanandan Prasad Sinha, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Coll, Patna Divn, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Shahabad district.

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MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Lieutenant C. H. Brodribb, I.M.S., Regimental Medical Officer, Buxa Duars, is appointed to have medical charge of the civil station of Buxa, Alipuri Duars sub-division in the district of Jalpaiguri, in addition to his own duties, vice Lieutenant H. E. Smith I.M.S.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Mr. S. Tandurangam writes to the 'Madras Mail' from Cuddalore under date July 20:—With reference to Mr. Jordan's letter in your issue of the 10th instant, I think I am bound to give my details of the cost of manufacture from my actual experience. The first seven items of expenditure amounting to Rs. 2-6-0, given by Mr. Jordan, exactly tally with mine for a day of 10 hours. In the 8th item he has put 3 men for finishing pans. But, along with his juice boiling pan, I had to keep 12 finishing pans to keep the mill continuously working, for which 2 firemen at 3 annas each, 3 maistries at 6 annas each and 3 men to assist them at 3 annas each were required—the total wages of these men amounted to Rs. 3-15. Besides, 3 men for old jobs at 9 annas, were needed. As detailed by Mr. Jordan, I had no overseer. Thus the total cost of copies amounted to Rs. 6-14, i.e., Rs. 2 more than Mr. Jordan's estimate. As regards liquid fuel, etc., for the oil Engine for 10 hours it would cost only Rs. 2-3, i.e., Rs. 2-10 less than his estimate. Mr. Jordan has omitted an important item of expenditure, namely, fuel for the finishing pans. In addition to dried cane refuse I had to use fire wood which cost me Rs. 3½ per cent of jaggery made, or Rs. 16 per ton. Thus the total cost of manufacture for a ton of jaggery would come up to Rs. 25-6.

Mr. Jordan's mill is a great convenience over the cattle mills, the former doing five times the work of the latter; or the work of 10 pairs of bulls with much less cost. But it becomes difficult to boil all the juice as it is being extracted from the mill, as we require a number of pans for it—12 pans along with one Jordan's pan, or 20 pans without it. These pans are troublesome and cost much for fuel. If Mr. Jordan could find an easier and simpler method of boiling the juice he would be conferring a great boon on the jaggery manufacturer and be placing him under deep obligation to him.

Final plans and estimates are now being prepared for the Mahanadi Canal, which is likely to be an important irrigation work.

THE CALCUTTA IMPROVEMENT SCHEME.

INDIA GOVT. TO BENGAL GOVT.

The following letter has been addressed by Mr. Stuart, Secretary to Government of India, to the Municipal Secretary to Government of Bengal:—

Sir,—I am directed to address you on the action to be taken at the present stage of the discussion on the Calcutta Improvement Scheme.

This project was the outcome of a sanitary survey of the town conducted in 1896 by a number of medical officers under the direction of the local Plague Commission. Their enquiries called prominent attention to the overcrowding of the northern portion of the town. It was pointed out that in one ward the population amounted to 145,000 per square mile as against 36,000 in the city of London; and it was calculated that, in the northern wards generally, 80 per cent. of the total space available was occupied by solid masonry buildings. The Building Commission appointed in 1897 accepted the views of the sanitary officers, and emphasized the fact that the only remedy lay in extensive structural alterations involving the opening up of new roads and the provision of open spaces. Acting upon their report, the Lieutenant-Governor in July 1899 submitted his first proposals for a scheme of urban improvement.

The question has since been continuously under consideration. The difficulty throughout has been to devise a system of finance which would involve neither an excessive addition to local burdens nor an undue transference of these burdens to the general taxpayer. The first suggestion of the local Government was to find the whole of the net income required, after allowing for repayment and frontage rates, from a tax on consumers of jute. The scheme as now formulated includes a tax on jute, but it is only one item in a programme of special taxation designed to reach every section of the urban population. A substantial contribution is now promised by the Government of India, who further undertake to guarantee the loans to be raised by the Improvement Trust; and the Corporation is to be called upon to contribute certain definite sums, and also to accept a general responsibility for the solvency of the Trust. The extent of the operations contemplated has also been greatly enlarged, the gross capital expenditure being now estimated at nearly 84 crores of rupees as against 5 crores in 1899. The necessity for this additional outlay arises from the inclusion of expenditure for open spaces as well as for roads, and from the recognition of the fact that if the work of the Trust is to be permanently effective these persons displaced by these operations must be accommodated elsewhere, while provision must also be made for the normal expansion of the town.

The scheme in its present form is mainly the work of a conference convened by the Lieutenant-Governor in 1904. On this conference the Government of India were represented by the Secretaries in the Home and Finance Departments, both of whom were then Bengal officers; the local Government by the Lieutenant-Governor, who presided, and by his Financial Secretary; the Corporation by its Chairman, Mr. Greer, and three non-official members, one of whom the Hon'ble Mr. E. Cable, was at that time President of the Chamber of Commerce, the others being the Hon'ble Dr. Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya and Mr. Nalin Bihari Sircar, C.I.E. Three of the members had also been members of the Building Commission already mentioned. The conference was thus representative of the interests of the different classes of ratepayers and also of commerce; and included the best expert knowledge obtainable on questions of urban improvement and local finance.

It has been found necessary to suggest alternative forms of taxation in view of the probable abandonment of the scheme of succession duties proposed by the conference; and to provide for the possibility that the railway terminal tax approved by the conference may prove on further examination to be impracticable. To this extent its proposals have been modified or supplemented and new elements have been introduced which call for further examination by the local Government and its advisers; but the main outlines remain unchanged. The conditions of the case have varied throughout these earlier stages a reference to their intentions which both the Government of India and the local Government would have been glad to avoid. And though they have meanwhile obtained such help as was possible from local knowledge and non-official advice they are impressed with the importance of submitting the scheme to a wider circle of criticism. They think that the time has now come when nothing further can be gained from confidential discussion, and that the whole scheme should be laid before the Corporation, and other representative bodies and the public. To generally, for examination and opinion. To assist the authorities consulted they have caused a detailed abstract of the measures suggested to be prepared in the memorandum which forms an enclosure to this letter. They desire to add that the scheme is to be regarded as provisional, and they will welcome any criticism, whether on the administrative or the financial aspect of the proposals, which may be designed to secure increased efficiency or a more satisfactory distribution of the burdens and sacrifices which the scheme involves.

I am now to request that, with the consent of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor the various public bodies concerned may be consulted on these proposals and that this letter and its enclosure may be published for general information. I am also to ask that the unsettled questions or points of detail mentioned in paragraphs 13, 16 and 19-21 of the memorandum may be further examined in the light of the remarks there made, and that the report of the Lieutenant-Governor on these matters, together with his final recommendations, may be communicated to the Government of India after he has had an opportunity of considering the opinions of the representative bodies whom it is proposed to consult.

The Game Preservation Bill is now under consideration by the Government of India in the Home Department.

The heat in the Khyber early this month was so great that seven deaths occurred among the Kaffla people. Arrangements had been made to send supplies of ice and snow to the Kafflas.

The pioneers which were employed in the Kulu Valley after the earthquake are to receive a concession of free rations similar to that granted to troops and followers in the Kangra Valley.

A CHRISTMAS.

(By Sarah Bernhardt.)

The Chateau de Ploern was the terror of the Bretons. On passing to the peasants made the sign of the cross and murmured under their breath: "The Chateau of the Accursed!" Brambles grew about its boundary walls, which no living soul dared pass. The vaults moved about within like shadows, never raising their voices. No one ever spoke to the master.

Alone, the young Comte Robert found grace before the lord of the manor, the old Duc de Kerberzoff, his uncle.

At the moment when this recital of omens, Robert was at the feet of the old man, who, with livid face, glittering eyes, and marks of fear on all his features, sat in the great ducal chair, listening to what the spectre of terror said to him.

By his side, upon a porphyry column, burned a small golden lamp, ornamented with precious stones, into the flame of which a tall negro poured, minute by minute, a drop of oil. In the old man's rude hand gleamed an axe; the negro would have paid with his life the least forgetfulness of his duties.

The Duke was paler than usual. His long white hair clung to his brow, and from his eyes great tears rolled down upon his silver beard.

"My dear lord, are you in greater pain?" asked Robert, tenderly.

The Duke shuddered—listening still.

"Christmas! Christmas!" sang voices in the fields. "Christmas! Christmas!" sounded the church bells.

Then, drawing himself up, spectre-like, he said:—

"Listen, Robert, listen!"

For twenty years the old man had not spoken.

The sepulchral voice resounded in the great hall; the arms, struck by echo, gave out an iron plaint. The young Count felt frozen with fear.

"Twenty years ago, I had a son; handsome, brave, and generous. He loved a young, low-born girl, and wished to wed her; but I refused—I could not consent to such an outrage. My son implored me, but I remained inflexible. My blazon would have been shattered by such a shame! I was wrong, child—I was wrong! Never be arrogantly proud, it is a mortal sin!"

Sobs stifled the old Duke's voice. But presently he went on:—

"The girl was beautiful and virtuous. I offered her gold; she refused it. Then I had her abducted and shut up in a tower of the chateau. Months passed; my son remained faithful to his vows. I faithful to my pride. I therefore resolved to kill the girl. To that end I sent her secretly a message, advising her to escape. A silken ladder was conveyed to her, with minutely detailed instructions as to how she was to fasten it to her window. She prepared to fly—and then I invented an infamous trap!"

"Listen, Robert—listen! I caused the stones which supported the window to be loosened, so that it should give way under her and she would be dashed upon the marble pavement of the courtyard below. It was Christmas Eve, the night of that evil deed; and ever since I have slept in fear of God."

"That same night I was transported in dreams into an immense gallery of clouds. Vaults followed upon vaults in millions—extending, ever extending. Under these vaults hung little golden lamps, swaying gently. It would have taken years to count them. Some of them burned brightly, others were extinguished suddenly. Some shone with a violent glare, others flickered and sputtered a long while before they went out."

"Some of these lamps were guarded by angels white and beautiful as beauty itself. Other of the lamps had angels, black, ugly, and malevolent, who seemed to wait impatiently the moment when the flame should expire."

"What does all this mean?" I asked my conductor.

"All these lamps are human souls," he replied. "Those which burn so brightly are the souls of new-born infants; stainless angels guard them. Here are the souls of those who are at the age when, some think, the Spirit of Evil and the Spirit of God contend for them; but, at the supreme moment, the last breath almost always returns to the Spirit of God."

"I then asked to be shown my own lamp."

"Come with me," said the strange being; and, leading me under innumerable vaults, he made me traverse a great distance. At length, stopping me abruptly, he said: 'Behold! there is your soul!'

"I was petrified with terror. A single drop of oil remained in my lamp; and, above it, an angel with black wings blew upon the flame to accelerate its extinction. I was seized with dread—overtaken by cowardice—yes, cowardice!" said the Duke, trembling in every limb.

"Listen Robert—listen! Beside me burned a flame of purest light; that lamp of gold, protected by an angel with wings of spotless white. The Spirit of Evil whispered in my ear."

The old Duke stopped as if the voice were speaking to him again. His eyes became bloodshot, his hair rose on his head with horror, his teeth chattered with affright, and when he continued his voice was almost a shriek.

"I went to the lamp, guarded by the angel with the white wings, who looked at me sorrowfully; but the angel with the black wings still whispered in my ears. I saw nothing: I did not wish to see anything. I plucked a feather from the wing of the black angel and dipped it in the brightly flaming lamp and took from it the oil, drop by drop, and poured it into mine. My flame became glittering and red as blood; the other, pale, but preserved still the brightness of a star. When but one drop of oil was left in it, the angel that guarded it spread his white wings and would have stayed me; but an angel with pearly wings and bearing a golden sword suddenly appeared."

"Let this human being do according to his will—God will judge him!" it said.

"I took the last drop of oil! Then, fear seized me. 'What lamp is this?' I asked, pointing to the poor flame that was ready to expire, and the voice replied:—

"It is the soul of your beloved son."

"At the same moment the clear flame of the lamp died out: the white angel took its last breath in his wings and flew away, uttering as he went a cry of distress. The Spirit of Evil replied with a cry of triumph. 'I awoke, frozen with horror.'

"In my chamber lay two bodies—crushed, unrecognisable. My son, informed by his 'fiancee,' had tried to protect her in her flight, and my criminal snare had destroyed them both. It was Christmas, twenty years ago!"

Saying this he made a sign to the negro tending the precious lamp to cease feeding its flame.

"I have made confession," he added, "and can now die; but will God forgive me?"

At that moment the bells of the chateau pealed forth and the voices of the singers in the church were heard.

The doors of the great hall opened. At the back of the chapel of the old manor, resplendent with lights, the infant Jesus, lying upon his bed of straw, appeared, radiant with celestial glory.

The old Duke fell on his knees before the infant Deity.

"Man," said the voice of the priest, "Jesus was born to suffer, and died for the redemption of sinners. You have sinned, you have suffered, you have repented. God forgives you. Your soul pass from you in peace."

Then the old man turned his eyes towards the lamp, above which an angel with white wings was hovering. That angel he recognised—it was the guardian of the brilliant lamp.

The angel smiled sweetly and took within his wings the expiring flame, with which he flew heavenwards.

The Duc De Kerberzoff was dead!

WHAT IS A "COOLIE"?

A free Indian was recently arrested by the police in Natal for contravening a by-law of the Vagrancy Act, which provides that any coloured person who shall be found wandering about after 9 p.m., and prior to 5 a.m., and not giving a good account of himself or herself, or not being provided with a pass of his or employer, will be subject to a penalty. A coloured person, according to this Vagrancy Act is "any Hottentot, coolie, bush man, lascar, or any of the people commonly called Kaffir," etc.

When the free Indian was taken for trial before the City Assistant Magistrate, the prosecution contended that he was a "coolie," and therefore must be dealt with according to the law. The Magistrate, however, found the man not guilty, and discharged him, holding that he did not come within the definition of the word coloured as contained in the Act. The decision of the Magistrate, holding that an Indian gentleman of position was not a coolie, could not be expected to satisfy the whites. An appeal from the judgment was lodged by the corporation in the Natal Supreme Court on the 9th June. But disappointment dogged the steps of the appellants. The Chief Justice, in giving judgment said the question for decision was as to whether accused was a coloured person within the meaning of the Vagrancy Law and whether he was wandering about. There could be no question that he was out after 9 o'clock without pass. The other question was an important one, affecting a large number of His Majesty's subjects in the colony. The Court was bound by the definition of coloured persons given in the law, however incomplete or unsatisfactory it might be. They had to decide whether the respondent was a coolie. When the law was passed in 1869 there were a certain number of persons in the colony who were known as coolies. The term coolie was, he understood, a reproach to Indians, who stood on a higher scale than the people who were known as coolies. Manifestly upon the record the respondent did not come within the definition of the term. He was a man of position, of property, and respectability. Mr. Justice Beaumont and Mr. Justice Broome concurred. The decision of the Magistrate was, therefore, upheld.

SILK INDUSTRY IN MYSORE.

The following notice of this industry in Mysore appears in the latest (May) number of the 'Industrial India.' The Silk Industry of Mysore is not very old, 't' dates from the reign of Tippu Sultan.

Within the last twenty years a distinct revival is being noticed, and in the field of enterprise we not only notice the firm of the late illustrious Mr. Tata, but also several European firms, the last to enter the arena being Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co., who already own large coffee estates in the Province. The silk industry however is still mainly in the hands of Mahomedan cultivators, who rear the cocoons and reel the silk. By making plantations of mulberry trees and setting up reeling factories, the European and Parsi firms are likely to be able to develop the industry to a pitch hitherto unknown. The class of cocoons (the Bombyx meridionalis) with which Mysore is concerned itself is far superior to either the Bombyx cressi (the Nistadi) on the B. fortunatus (the chotapalu) of Bengal. The latter yield a ser of silk out of 16 or 18 kahans of cocoons, while the former out of 11 or 12 kahans only. In this respect, as well as in the matter of climate, Mysore has a great pull over Bengal; and now that Parsi, Japanese and English enterprises have joined hands to lift up the industry we hope to see great improvements in the near future."

How we wish that such stimulus was given to this most important and paying industry by the united exertions and co-operation of the Japanese, Parsi and European enterprising men. The fact is the only farm—of Mr. Tata—that was doing much towards the betterment of the industry under a Japanese expert has been since closed; and Mr. Partridge the only European who has been in the field for over 6 years and in whose case the Government has been exceptionally liberal is never heard of as to what he is doing in the line of improvement. Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co., have just stepped in, and we have not to see their performance. If but a tenth of the encouragement and assistance given to these were only extended to the Mahomedan silk worm rears by way of direction, they would have shown better results. But the law is "poverty is most despicable."—Mysore Herald.

A Kodakman correspondent writes:—One day last week news was brought that a fine specimen of a hill panther had been shot by a Forest-Ranger at Perumal, quite close to Kodakanal. It was to be seen in front of the Police Station, where all interested went to view it. I noticed that it had already been robbed of its whiskers as these are eagerly sought after by natives for charms. The other night a doctor returning late from seeing a patient encountered a panther on a mountainpath, which was happily as anxious to avoid him as was to escape coming to close quarters with



THE POWDER-MINE.

At five o'clock in the evening of the 21st of March, 1814, the English camp before the walls of Rocq was in a state of high excitement.

The town, a stronghold of Napoleon, lay on the French coast not far above the mouth of the Gironde. It was protected on two sides by the nature of the ground, and at the rear was open to the sea. In front stood a massive bastion, which for ten days had bade defiance to the artillery of the English; but the sappers had been working day and night, and at last the tunnel of their mine had reached the bastion, and had broken unexpectedly into a cellar underneath it. This cellar, belonging to a house which stood against the wall inside the town, was entered from the house above by a flight of spiral steps; so that the miners found themselves, to their dismay, open to discovery at any moment by the inmates of the house. They were compelled to trust to speed and silence to accomplish their design without disturbance; and so far all was well. A store of bags of powder had been conveyed into the cellar, and everything was now in readiness for the explosion, which was to blow the wall into the air and leave a breach for the storming party to rush into the town.

Inside the mine—that is, inside the cellar of which we have been speaking—half a dozen men had just put the final touches to the preparations. The feeble gleam of a dark lantern, which scarcely served to show their faces in the gloom, glimmered on a ring of bags which occupied the middle of the floor, on the black and shining grains of gunpowder which filled them to the brim, and on the snakelike loops of fuse which linked them each to each. This fuse, at one point, ran along the floor and ended in a piece of slowmatch, near the spot at which the opening of the tunnel gaped blackly in the wall, like a gigantic rat's-hole. This match, lighted by the man selected for the duty, and the last to leave the mine, would shoulder for about four minutes. Then the terrific firework would explode.

One by one, five of the sappers passed into the tunnel and disappeared. The sixth, keeping the dark lantern with him, was left to wait until the passage should be clear before he touched the match and hastened after his companions.

The soldier in question was a young officer of seven-and-twenty—Lieutenant Hilary Vane. He wore the uniform of his regiment—short scarlet coat, blue trousers, and peaked cap—and was armed with sword and pistols. Though not exceptionally tall or broad in figure, he was noted among his comrades for his feats of strength, as well as for his coolness and resource in danger—traits of character apparent in his plain, strong features and in his grey-blue, fiery eyes. A physiognomist might, perhaps, have detected in his features a sign of his chief failing, which was too great a readiness to act on impulse, without giving his calmer judgment time to speak.

On being left alone he leaned his back against the wall and waited. A minute passed—two minutes. Then he stooped his ear to the mouth of the tunnel and listened intently. Presently from the other end came the faint report of a pistolshot; it was the signal that the passage was clear. He turned to the spot where the fuse rested, and, with his finger on the fastening of the lantern, was on the point of drawing back the slide in order to ignite the match which he held ready in his hand, when another sound struck upon his ears—a sound which froze the current of his blood.

Someone was coming down the cellar stairs!

The stair, as already mentioned, formed a spiral, so that only five or six of the lowest steps were visible. The lieutenant, with his finger on the slide and his eyes fixed upon the steps, remained perfectly motionless, waiting for the intruder to appear in sight. One thought only occupied his mind. If he were discovered he would do his duty; he would fling the lighted match into the nearest bag, and blow himself and the intruder into the air together.

Even as the thought passed through his mind, he saw the twinkle of a candle, as its bearer turned the corner of the steps and came suddenly to view. The lieutenant caught his breath. The new-comer was a girl.

She came slowly down the steps, holding the candle low to see where she was treading; her face, ringed round with darkness, shining out in its full light. She was young—perhaps seventeen—and as lovely as a picture. Every detail of her figure the lieutenant saw, or rather felt, burnt in a single instant unforgetably upon his brain, as he stood like a man petrified, with his eyes upon her. A terrible dilemma was before him. True, his duty was as plain as ever; but he could not—he "could not"—send this beautiful young creature to a sudden and a dreadful doom. There was only one alternative—she must escape with him. He held himself in readiness and waited, silent as a figure cut in stone.

From the ease of her demeanour as she came down the stair, it was clear that she had no suspicion of what had happened in the vault. At the bottom of the steps she stopped and, with the candle raised above her head, was about to cross the cellar to a bin which stood against the further wall, when her eye alighted on the bags of powder in the middle of the floor. For a moment she stood still, gazing at them. Then she raised her eyes, and they fell upon the form of Hilary Vane, standing motionless before her in the gloom.

With a stifled shriek she turned towards the steps, up which in another moment she would have vanished, when Hilary, darting past her, placed himself between her and the exit. She shrank back, staring at the sudden apparition with large eyes wide with terror. He laid his finger on his lips.

"Not a sound, or all is lost," he said, rapidly and eagerly, in French; "this cellar is a mine, and we are going to blow it up. But fear nothing; you are safe." He pointed with his finger to the tunnel. "Escape instantly: that way; quick, quick! your life depends upon it."

She cast a swift glance at the tunnel; but to his surprise she did not stir.

"Quick!" he repeated, quivering with impatience. "There is not a moment to be lost. Quick! Quick!"

So far from obeying him, however, the girl, with the sudden rush of a wild creature, endeavoured to dart past him up the steps. With a movement as rapid as her own he barred the passage.

"Listen!" he said, speaking with a sort of fierce impetuosity. "I wish to save you, but by giving an alarm you risk not only my own life, but the lives of my companions, who will return to ascertain what has gone wrong, and will be taken prisoners. Before that happens, I shall throw this light into the powder there, and end us both together. Come; be reasonable. Will you go?"

"No," she said. "No, no!"
"But why?" he asked, astonished.
The girl wrung her hands in agony. "I cannot," she cried, wildly. "My love is lying wounded in the house above us. If he dies, I will die with him. I have only left him for a moment—the doctor sent me down to fetch a flask of brandy. Oh, sir," she cried, flinging herself suddenly at Hilary's feet, "spare him, spare him for the love of Heaven!"

Hilary paused, in trouble and perplexity. "It is impossible," he said. "I cannot save him if I would; I can save you only. If I do not fire the mine, my comrades will return and fire it."

"But by that time the cellar will be guarded by our soldiers, and your comrades will be seized as they come in!"

"Yes, as I said; they will be seized! No, I cannot—I will not—betray my own companions. I would rather, as I told you, throw this match into the powder. And you!—you must not—you shall not—sacrifice your life without avail. No; you must come with me."

He advanced a step towards her, resolved to bear her through the tunnel and to save her in her own despite, touching the fuse with fire as they departed. But as he moved the girl stepped back a pace and raised the candle in her hand above a bag of powder.

"Stop!" she cried. "I refuse, I tell you, to be saved alone. You have taught me what to do. If you try to take me, I will drop the candle."

Hilary drew back, petrified. The refusal of the girl doomed them both to death; yet even at that moment he experienced a relief that the act which sent her to destruction had been taken from his hands. But there was now no method of escape; to delay—to parley—would be to risk the lives of his companions, who might return at any instant to see what was the cause of the delay. Drawing himself erect, he crossed his arms upon his chest, and, with his eyes still fixed upon the girl, said quietly:—"So be it. Drop the candle."

The girl stood motionless a moment, with her hand outstretched. A tremor shook her frame from head to foot. Then she shut her eyes, unclasped her fingers, and let the candle fall.

Had she kept her eyes unclosed, the candle would have fallen, as she intended, on the powder. As it was, it struck the margin of the bag and thence rebounded to the floor, where it was instantly extinguished, leaving the cellar in pitchy darkness.

Hilary drew back the slide of his dark lantern. By its gleam the two looked at each other. Both their faces were as white as ashes.

"Fortuna is against you," said Hilary, after a silence. "You are the bravest girl I ever heard of, but you are fated to be saved, do what you will."

"Then fate must save my lover also," she replied.

"Come with me," he repeated, urgently. "To refuse is madness. Quick, or it will be too late; my comrades will be coming back to see what is the matter." He stopped abruptly, struck by an idea.

"Unless," he continued, speaking rapidly, as if reflecting, "unless I stop them. Yes—yes; it might be done. And yet! Well, yes, it will be a breach of duty, and if I were caught, I should be shot for it, and, what is more, I should deserve my fate. But must do it." He turned quickly to the girl.

"Will you obey me?" he said, earnestly.

She looked at him intently.

"Do you mean to save me only?"

"No. I shall try to save you both."

"Yes," she said, "I will obey."

"Then stand here without moving till I return to you."

Drawing a clasp-knife from his pocket, he approached the nearest bag, and, with two swift cuts, divided the fuse which linked it to the bags on either side. Then, cutting off a piece of the slow-match, and sticking it erect into the powder, he lifted up the bag with his left hand, and with the lantern in his right he disappeared into the entrance of the tunnel. For some seconds the girl could hear his movements, growing fainter as he receded, until he seemed to be about hundred feet along the shaft, when all sound ceased entirely for perhaps ten seconds; then he was heard hastily returning. When he emerged into the cellar he still held the candle, but the bag was gone.

"It is all right," he gasped, seizing the girl's wrist, and drawing her rapidly towards the cellar steps, up which he hastened until the winding of the spiral shut them from the vault below. Then he stopped, and listened eagerly.

For some seconds—perhaps half a minute—all was silent. Then all at once there came the sound of an explosion; a blast of air rushed fiercely up the cellar steps; a thick smoke filled the vault. Then all was still.

"Wait," he said, "I shall return directly; and he disappeared into the cellar. Almost instantly he was by her side again.

"All is well," he said. "The explosion, as I hoped, has caused the sandy soil which roofs the tunnel to fall in. The passage is blocked, and no one can now enter. Now," he continued, "how long will it take you to remove your lover from the house?"

The girl considered. Five minutes," she said.

"I will give you six. The doctor you will, of course, take with you. Is there anyone else in the house?"

"No."

"Anyone in the street outside?"

"Yes. The street is crowded with soldiers."

"They must take their chance. Now, go. But if you give an alarm, and if I hear a step approaching, I shall fire the powder. If you follow my directions, you and your lover will be saved."

The girl caught his hand in hers and pressed it to her lips.

"Heaven will reward and bless you," she said, fervently. "You will never regret what you have done to-night."

Hilary Vane looked after her as she turned away and darted up the steps, and laughed a little bitterly. She took it for granted that he would save himself, and at the worst be taken prisoner. But he knew that nothing now remained for him but to do his duty—and to die in doing it. If, when he fired the fuse, he should dash up the cellar steps and escape into the street, the secret of the mine would be endangered. No; he had given the girl time to save her life and her lover's, but only at the sacrifice of his own.

He drew out his watch, placed it in the light, and stood motionless, with his eyes fastened on the dial, the match ready in his hand, and his ears stretched for any sound of steps upon the cellar stairs. But none came; the girl had kept her part of the agreement. The hand crept forward on the dial. One minute passed—two—three—four

five. A faint sound reached his ear from the tunnel of the mine; his comrades had returned as far as the spot of the explosion, and were striking at the "debris" with their picks. He almost smiled again as he thought of their bewilderment. Then he looked at the dial-plate; the hand touched the figure for which he had been waiting. He raised his hand which held the lighted match and, setting his teeth hard, lowered the flame above the bag until it touched the powder.

The roar and crash of the explosion shook earth and sky for ten miles round; as the huge buildings leapt into the air in fragments, like a spadeful of gravel tossed up by a strong man. The English storming-party rushed in through the ruins, and five minutes afterwards their flag floated from the walls.

But why the explosion had been so long delayed, why the tunnel had collapsed so unaccountably, and why Lieutenant Vane had disappeared, were mysteries discussed that night round every soldier's fire, but which found no solution. And it was not till some days later that a story told by a young girl, and passed with thrilling blood from mouth to mouth, showed how one more English soldier had proved himself a hero.

Another mounted specimen of the great auk or gale fowl (*Alcan impennis*) has just been sold to a Continental museum by Mr. Rowland Ward, of Piccadilly for £400. There are practically seventy known specimens and most of these are in State museums.

No. 153, Private Thomas Gregory, 1st Battalion Manchester Regiment, was arraigned before a District Court-martial, at Secunderabad, on the 17th instant, for committing an act to the prejudice of good order and military discipline. The Court found the prisoner guilty of the charge and sentenced him to be imprisoned with hard labour for 168 days. The General Officer while confirming the sentence, remitted 56 days of the imprisonment awarded.

On the 11th instant came off at Larkana the "shuddhi" ceremony performed by the Arya Samaj for the re-admission of seven Sheikh families consisting of 56 members in all. There was a large gathering to witness the proceedings. Some Arya Pandits had come from the Punjab, and Arya Samajists and sympathisers from different parts of Sind. The ceremony went off very well. But we regret to say that the Panchayats are not yet prepared to ratify the action of the Arya Samaj. On the eve of the ceremony they wired to Benares for some orthodox Pandits to come. The latter expressed their inability to do so.—"Hyderabad Journal."

Last year experiments were carried out in the Government Botanical Garden at Saharanpur in growing various kinds of Egyptian and American cotton. The Economic Botanist to the Government of the United Provinces now states that in all cases the yield was very much below that of the indigenous kinds, "but reports on the quality of the staple are most encouraging." Mr. Leake states that there is no intrinsic difficulty in growing exotic varieties of cotton in India. The matter was settled as far back as 1850. But economic authorities in the way of inducing the Indian cultivator to adopt new varieties are many. He probably realises that the increased value of the crop will not reach him. The question of the abundant manure required by the Egyptian and American cottons is another difficulty in the way.

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