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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 1st June 1901.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st May has the following:—

HITAVADI,
May 24th, 1901.

The Boer War. Reuter says that the authorities at Pretoria are of opinion that there are yet 16,500 armed Boers who are trying to baffle the British proclamation of conquest. Some time ago, we heard of 15,000 Boers only, most of whom were killed, wounded or captured. Many people, therefore, thought that there were no more Boer fighters in the field. But to their surprise, 16,500 heroes suddenly make their appearance again. This reminds us of the war between Ram and Ravana. However that may be, the Boers have again massed themselves in the eastern and western parts of the Transvaal, and are causing trouble. They defeated a small British detachment near Marandberg. They have an eye on Cape Colony too, into which two Boer Commandos have again entered. It is stated that the great hero De Wet is feeling his way through Cape Colony. Last week, several severe collisions took place between the English and the Boers. Both parties suffered more or less loss. In the meantime, reinforcement is being sent to the Transvaal every week. Rumour says that the Boers, under disguise, are inoculating the horses, which the English are sending to South Africa, with a poison, so that on their arrival in Cape Town, these horses are becoming quite useless. This we learn from the English themselves, and if it be true, it must be confessed that the Boers are in no way inferior to the English in intellectual power too, as they are in no way inferior to them in physical power.

2. In taking a review of Russia's foreign policy, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 25th May writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,
May 25th, 1901.

Russia's advance towards India. The road which Peter the Great, who ascended the throne of Russia in 1689, pointed out to one of his officers has not been lost sight of by any of his successors. And Russia is now only 35 miles from Herat. Many know that Russia has a railway up to Merv in Central Asia. But how many know of the branch railway which Russia has quietly constructed up to the Afghan frontier? This branch line is 180 miles in length, and comes up to Khuskinuski on the Afghan frontier. This is Russia's secret military railway, on which no trade is allowed to be carried on or foreigner allowed to travel, but which is reserved solely for the purpose of military transport. A train runs twice a week on it. It is called the Merv-Khusk Railway, and it can cover the distance between Merv and its terminus on the Afghan frontier in 18 hours.

We know perfectly well that Russia will be able to do no harm to India, whether she comes by rail, road, or on horseback, camel's back or the back of elephants, and whether she reaches India in a day or in an hour. The frontier defences and the staunch loyalty of the Indian people will not allow Russia to touch a hair of India's head. But the fact remains that Russia has entered Afghan territory. The *Englishman* says:—"Russia is only 35 miles from Herat." And coming to Herat means coming to India!

3. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 27th May states on the authority of the Turkish Journal *Al Malumat* that a new treaty has been made between Russia, Persia and Bokhara, to the effect that when Russia will send an expedition to India, Persia will allow it free passage through her dominions, and Bokhara will lend Russia the services of ten thousand troops.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
May 27th, 1901.

The editor observes that both Russia and England being friends of Persia, it seems impossible that Persia should make any treaty with Russia in utter disregard of her friendship with England. Moreover, Bokhara being a dependant State, owing the suzerainty of Russia, it can make any concession to the paramount power, but Persia, which is an independent kingdom, is not likely to agree to a step which is calculated to affect her independence.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

4. The *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the 16th May gives the particulars of the case of outrage on a girl by some police-constables, which was reported by the

RANGPUR
DIKPRAKASH,
May 16th, 1901.

Rangpur Vartavaha of the 17th May (see Report on Native Papers of the 25th May 1901, paragraph 14).

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
May 22nd, 1901.

5. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 22nd May has the following:—

Outrage on a widow in Murshidabad.

Nani Bagdini, a widow, aged about 20 years, of the village of Kuruncha, within the jurisdiction

of the Baranga thana, was, on her way home from an invitation, outraged by one Krisna Das Mondal, with the help of two others, named Bhusan and Raman. The able Sub-Inspector of the Baranga thana, Babu Adhar Chundra Bose, took down the depositions of the complainant and the defendants, and *challaned* Krisna Mondal and Bhusan before the Subdivisional Officer of Kandi. In his deposition before the Sub-Inspector, Bhusan made a clean breast of his guilt. But the case has been dismissed by the able Subdivisional Officer, perhaps for want of sufficient evidence. If such cases are not properly investigated and the offenders brought to justice, Murshidabad too will soon be a hotbed of oppression and outrage on women like Mymensingh.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
May 22nd, 1901.

6. A correspondent writes in the *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 22nd

A kidnapped girl in the Backergunge district.

May that the Backergunge police is carrying on local enquiries about the alleged kidnapping of a girl referred to in a previous issue (see Report on

Native Papers of the 18th May 1901, paragraph 5). A relative of the girl recently came to see her in her present lodging, but was not allowed to do so by the owner. A resident of the place has given out that he will petition the Magistrate of Backergunge on behalf of the girl.

PRATINIDHI,
May 22nd, 1901.

7. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 22nd May earnestly requests the

Badmashes in Comilla town.

Magistrate of the Tippera district to put down the *badmashes* in Comilla town without delay,

because they have become so aggressive as to make life and property extremely insecure.

JYOTI,
May 23rd, 1901.

8. A correspondent of the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 23rd May says that

Cattle-poisoning in many villages in Chittagong.

the Kahars of the Harla village within the jurisdiction of the Patia thana secretly kill cows.

Theft of cows is very common in many villages within the jurisdiction of the Patia, Satkania, and other thanas. The Sub-Inspector of the Patia thana should make a sifting enquiry into the matter.

RANGPUR
VARTAVAHA,
May 24th, 1901.

9. Writing on the subject of police reform the *Rangpur Vartavaha*

Police reform.

[Rangpur] of the 24th May says that simply putting a stop to bribery and corruption will not

reform the police. When the police get a female accused in their custody, they almost invariably subject her to ill-treatment. The other day, the writer saw a constable dragging a young woman along the street. The constable arrested the woman on the strength of a warrant, and so he might not have been ashamed of his conduct, but those who witnessed the half-naked condition of the woman had to cast down their eyes. For the arrest of female offenders, females should be employed in the police service. If the highhandedness of the police receive no check, a slur will be cast on Government.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
May 24th, 1901.

10. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 24th May says that in many

Sale of girls for prostitution.

villages within the Chuadanga subdivision of the Nadia district Muhammadan orphan girls are

regularly sold for prostitution. The local police should take special care to prevent this and bring the offenders to justice.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.

11. The same paper says that recently the naib of the Abdalpur zamin-

Some Muhammadans oppressed by a Hindu naib for killing cows on the occasion of the Id-uz zuha festival

dari cutcherry of Raja Pramatha Bhutan Dev Rai, of Naldanga, unlawfully confined, beat and fined a number of Muhammadans of village Chandpur in the Nadia district for killing cows on the occasion

of the last Id-uz-zuba festival. The poor men have brought a criminal suit against the naib, but all the mukhtars of Kushtia, with the exception of one, have refused to stand for them. Every one is afraid of offending the powerful Raja. Under such circumstances, it behoves the Government to take the side of the weak and the oppressed, so that they may, in future, follow their religious customs without hindrance.

SAMAY,
May 24th, 1901.

12. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 24th May reproduces from *The Bihar Times* of the 7th instant certain allegations

Complaints against the Subdivisional Officer and the Sub-Inspector of Police of Madhipura in the Bhagalpur district.

against the Subdivisional Officer and the Sub-Inspector of Police of Madhipura, in North Bhagalpur, who are alleged to have harassed Babu

Rasbehari Lal Mandal, a zamindar and Honorary Magistrate of Madhipura. The writer advises Rasbehari Babu to send a petition to Government, stating his grievances for his own benefit, as well as of the public. If an educated gentleman and respectable zamindar and Honorary Magistrate like him is persecuted on the strength of a report by a petty Sub-Inspector of Police, it may easily be imagined how the poorer classes suffer in the mufassal.

13. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 24th May has the following:—

HITAVADI,
May 24th, 1901.

The District Superintendent of Police, Hooghly.

Mr. Castle, the Police Superintendent of Hooghly, is very fond of *salaam*. The other day, a respectable gentleman of Chinsura *salaamed* him

as soon as he met him, and yet the *saheb* said "*Agar tom salaam nahi karta, tab tomko dekhta*" (if you had not *salaamed* me, I would have taught you a lesson). He is said to treat his subordinates very roughly.

14. A Patna correspondent of the same paper says that on the occasion of the *Muharram* at that place this year, a free

HITAVADI.

The police in the Patna *Muharram*.

fight took place between the police and the spectators. Mr. Boylan, the Assistant Superintendent

of Police, under the influence of liquor, rode through the procession, driving off the men before him and whipping them right and left. As he turned a deaf ear to their entreaties, they at last lost self-control and attacked him with *lathis*, whereupon he flew into a rage, and ordered the constables, numbering about a hundred, to use force. The constables accordingly belaboured the spectators with *lathis*, and Mr. Boylan himself took part in the action. About 5,000 spectators, male and female, were present on the spot, and took to flight, the women leaving their babes. *Badmashes*, it is said, did not miss the opportunity to commit oppression on the women. Many shops were looted, and the police dealt blows indiscriminately on men, women, and children. One man was killed and two severely wounded in the fight.

15. Babu Jogendra Nath Dutt, of 3 Duff Street, writes to the *Basumati*

BASUMATI,
May 25th, 1901.

Attempted theft with house-breaking in Calcutta.

[Calcutta] of the 25th May that a theft with house-breaking was attempted in his house on the night of the 24th instant. Some of the neighbours

awaking, the thieves who had made a large hole in the wall and managed to secure three or four boxes took fright and decamped, leaving the boxes. For one whole hour the *paharawalla* was searched, but in vain. So the case was reported to the thana next morning.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

16. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 21st May says that whatever may lie in

BIKASH,
May 21st, 1901.

The High Court in the Pennell affair.

store for Mr. Pennell, the way the High Court has treated him is open to grave objection. Government has acted very astutely by putting

the High Court in front to bear the brunt of the contest, while pulling the strings from behind. The effect of all this has been that the High Court has lost much of that respect which it had always commanded in the country.

17. A correspondent of the *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 22nd May writes as follows:—

KASIPUR NIVASI,
May 22nd, 1901.

Complaint against the copying department of the Barisal Judge's Court.

From the time the copying department of the Barisal Judge's Court was placed under the charge of Ambika Babu, Munsif, there has been no

end of irregularities in its management. He has left certain rules, which are very oppressive to parties. It is hoped that Gopal Babu, 1st Munsif of Barisal, who is at present in charge of the department, will abolish them without delay. Formerly, litigants could subsequently correct any mistakes in applications, which they had already submitted, by applying for the purpose. But they are not allowed to do so now. Although the number of copying and comparing clerks has been increased, yet complaints in connection with the work of

the Department have increased rather than diminished. Applications are rejected without cause. Searching fee is taken on every application, though formerly it was the custom not to realise it in regard to applications for records kept in the Munsif's and the Sub-Judge's Courts. The result of this has been that now an application made to a Munsif's Court first goes to the record-room, then to the copying department, and then again to the Munsif's Court, thus causing a waste of time, which sometimes proves ruinous to parties.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
May 22nd, 1901.

18. Referring to the acquittal of Mr. Whyte in the Koderma shooting case, the *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 22nd May says :—It has been all very well, but whom

are people to thank for so early saving two unfortunate natives from the miseries of this world.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
May 22nd, 1901.

19. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 22nd May says that the diet-money at the rate of two annas per day, which is allowed to a witness in cases in which Government is the plaintiff, is too small to defray the expenses of a person's lodging and fooding. The

poor witnesses in such cases who cannot afford to pay those expenses from their own pockets suffer great privations. Where a private party is concerned, the Court sharistadar takes every care to promote the comforts of the witnesses, but nothing is done in cases in which Government is concerned.

SANJIVANI,
May 23rd, 1901.

20. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 23rd May writes as follows :—

The Collector of Calcutta.

I am much surprised and very sorry to notice an unjust attack on Babu Chandra Narayan Singh, the present kind-hearted Collector of Calcutta, published in the *Hitaivadi* of the 10th May, and reproduced in the *Benivalee* in its issue of the 12th May. There can be no doubt that everybody in the office was pleased with the appointment of Babu Chandra Narayan Singh. He is impartial, and with him nobody is a favourite. All officers and clerks, from the Superintendent downwards, are equal in his eye, and he makes no distinction among them. This may harm individual interests, but the clerks in general are contented. It is true, Chandra Narayan Babu remains in office till dusk. The reason of this is, not that he spends a good deal of time in lunch—which is entirely false—but that he looks carefully into the minutest details of the work himself. He signs all the papers himself, and does not entrust his own duties to his Deputy or head clerk. He is still new to his work, and it is a matter of congratulation that he has been working hard himself and discharging his duties satisfactorily.

SANJIVANI.

21. Referring to the Noakhali murder case, the same paper says that

The Noakhali murder case.

Mr. Pennell had convicted Sadak Ali and two others as his accomplices. After this the High Court, disbelieving the evidence of Hossain and Torab, acquitted the accomplices, and ordered a retrial of Sadak Ali. In his retrial, the offence of Sadak Ali has been established, mainly on the evidence of Hossain and Torab, and at the same time Mr. Geidt has written in his judgment that "he (Sadak Ali and others caused the injuries, which resulted in Ismail's death." Now, who were these others?

JYOTI,
May 23rd, 1901.

22. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 23rd May has the following :—

Complaints against the Third Munsif of Patia in Chittagong

Babu Ram Charan Mullick, the former First Munsif of Patia, as well as the present First Munsif, are highly spoken of by all, but we hear many complaints against the Second and Third Munsifs. The District Judge from time to time takes them to task and yet they do not come to their senses.

In the Third Munsif's Court, if a pleader or a mukhtar gives evidence, he gets no sufficient compensation allowance for it. Formerly, the Third Munsif used to hold his Court morning and evening, and tried to strike off the cases. Although it was harassing to the parties, yet they could, on payment of a certain sum of money, get their suits restored to the file. For some time the number of such suits became so large that the District Judge called for an explanation from the Munsif, who therefore put a stop to the practice.

He lately issued an order that applications bearing insufficient court-fees would be rejected unless the insufficiency was made up on the same date. But it had long been the practice in his Court to allow the insufficiency of court-fee to be made good and talabana of witnesses to be produced afterwards.

But now those who fail to produce talabana, &c., with the plaint are granted only three or four days' time to do the same. If they fail to comply with the order, their plaints are dismissed by the Munsif.

It is well known how the Court peons in the mufassal serve processes. Not unoften they submit returns of processes issued without even going out of the Court room. In the Third Munsif's Court many *ex parte* cases are decided in which there is discrepancy between the peon's return and the affidavit.

23. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 24th May says that Mr. Geidt has convicted Sadak Ali and sentenced him to transportation for life almost in direct opposition to the views expressed by Mr. Justice Amir Ali. No one doubts that Mr. Geidt has done justice in the case.

Mr. Geidt's decision in the Noakhali case. Mr. Geidt's decision in the case had made the case of Mr. Pennell stronger, and placed the Bengal Government and the High Court between the horns of a dilemma. People are anxious to see how they get out of this difficulty. Mr. Geidt has earned the gratitude of the public by showing fearlessness and moral courage in these days.

SAMAY,
May 24th, 1901.

24. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 24th May writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
May 24th, 1901.

Following upon the Hazaribagh shooting case, another case of a similar nature is reported from Chittagong. The local paper *Sansodhini* says that a certain Mr. Dignam, a Railway employé, had borrowed a certain sum of money from one Siva Lal, of Goalundo. The foolish creditor was not aware that it was a great sin to ask for a return of the money lent to a *sahab*. So he sent his servant Govinda to the *sahab* to demand payment. It goes without saying that the *sahab* had forgot all about the money, whilst Govinda pressed him hard for it. The result was that off flew the *sahab's* bullet, and Govinda was laid low. In consequence of excellent treatment in the hospital, Govinda recovered. After this, the farce of a trial was enacted in Court, and Mr. Dignam was fined Rs. 20. Is it not a matter of regret?

25. Referring to Sadak Ali's retrial, the same paper writes as follows:—

HITAVADI.

Sadak Ali's retrial. When Mr. Geidt warned the assessors not to be influenced in any way by the various opinions which had been expressed regarding the case, nor even by the remarks made by the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court, it was clear that he was determined not to be biassed in his trial of the case. We still look up to the High Court for the final decision of a case; we still regard some of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court with the utmost respect. Every one ought to bear in mind that when the Judges of the Hon'ble High Court express their opinions on a pending case, such opinions deserve to be treated as the utterances of irresponsible and insensible persons. If a Judge of a lower Court shows the courage of his conviction by pointing out the shortcomings of their Lordships of the High Court, it may inspire us with hope and courage. We never had any idea before that a Judge of the High Court, who orders the retrial of a case, could in the same breath declare what witnesses are to be disbelieved or relied upon. Many people had no idea that if the High Court swerved from the path of duty, a lower Court would have courage enough to bring it to a sense of its duty. In the highminded Mr. Geidt people see another picture of evenhanded justice. It was a piece of good fortune, no doubt, that Sadak Ali's retrial was entrusted to such an impartial Judge.

As regards the punishment inflicted upon the accused, we have nothing to say. In this retrial, we see that although Mr. Pennell might have ventilated private grievances and introduced irrelevant matters in his judgment, he did no injustice. The accused has been found guilty of the same offence by another Sessions Judge, whose decision was arrived at after an impartial trial. So it is clear that Mr. Pennell's prejudices, personal grievances and sense of fitness of things did not stand in the way of his administering fair or impartial justice. Those who were shocked at his introduction of irrelevant matters should bear this in mind.

26. The same paper learns from a correspondent that Maulvi Abdul Hamid, a respectable gentleman of Dhubri, has been sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment for keeping a gun and a *dao* without a license. If

HITAVADI

Imprisonment for keeping arms without a license.

the report be true, it will cast a slur on the British administration of justice. Sahebs get off scott-free, even when they shoot down natives, but if a native keeps arms without a license, he has to suffer one year's rigorous imprisonment. Does it not imply partiality?

HITAVADI,
May 27th, 1901.

27. The same paper says that the clerk of a pleader of Bogra, while descending the stairs of the Munsif's Court with his slippers on, was ordered by the Munsif to be confined in Court. When the Court rose, the Munsif called the clerk before him and told him that the sound made by his shoes had become quite unbearable to him, and so he warned the clerk to be careful in future. If the sound of shoes is unbearable, will the Munsif say under what provision of the law he can confine an offender for three hours?

HITAVADI.

28. The same paper has the following:—
Complaint against the Deputy Commissioner of Chaibassa Babu Ishan Chandra Kumar is the Sarishtadar of the Deputy Commissioner of Chaibassa. Owing to his carelessness some slight errors crept into the records of the Court. Mr. Thomson found out the errors, and Ishan Babu admitted his fault. The Deputy Commissioner flew into a rage, and said to Ishan Babu: "Stand upon that form." The Sarishtadar had to obey the order in the open Court and in the presence of all. If Ishan Babu had been fined or punished otherwise for his carelessness, no one could have said anything. It is for the authorities to consider how far the Deputy Commissioner was justified in so publicly insulting the Sarishtadar.

HITAVADI.

29. The same paper has the following:—
Complaint against Mr. Foley, District Magistrate of Burdwan. It will be remembered that Mr. Foley, the District Magistrate of Burdwan, lately issued a circular to the effect that no Magisterial officer in the Burdwan district should entertain any complaint against police officers without his sanction. The District Magistrates are the heads of the police, and in most cases their best friends. But a greater friend of the police than the District Magistrate, Mr. Foley, can hardly be found. The other day, during the course of a trial before Mr. Abdul Kader, the Deputy Magistrate of Burdwan, a head-constable of police so grossly perjured himself, that Mr. Kader thought it absolutely necessary to prosecute him. In any other district, he could have at once ordered a prosecution, but in the Burdwan district his power was crippled by Mr. Foley's circular. So he had to ask the sanction of the District Magistrate, who is said to have stayed all proceedings against the head-constable for six months. We are not inclined to believe that such a thing can take place under the British rule.

BASUMATI,
May 25th, 1901.

30. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 25th May has the following:—
Grievances of Crown witnesses. The sufferings of the Crown witnesses who have to come from a distance beggar description. The other day, in a Sessions case before the High Court, a witness for the Crown complained that he and several other fellow-witnesses had been starving for three days. They had left their homes and families 15 days ago, and only one rupee was paid to them as diet money.

If the complainant be a private individual, he has to pay diet-money and allowances to his witnesses, but why is not the same rule followed in the case where the Crown itself is the prosecutor? The Criminal Procedure Code was amended in 1898, and according to the amended Code, the giving or withholding of the diet money or other allowances to Crown witnesses depends on the discretion of the Magistrate. Even when the Magistrate is pleased to grant any allowance, it is quite insufficient. In most places in the mufassal, no allowance is given to respectable witnesses, and to the witnesses of the cultivating class only a diet allowance of two annas per piem is paid. But now-a-days when the prices of food-grains and all other articles are so high, is the paltry sum of two annas sufficient to provide a man with one meal even? Moreover, if a poor man, who has to maintain his family by his daily earnings, is detained for several days to give evidence for the Crown, what will his family do in the meanwhile?

Then, again, Government allows railway and boat fare to witnesses, but where railway and boat services are not available, not a single pice is given to

the poor cultivator. In such cases, the Crown witnesses have to bear their own travelling expenses.

31. Referring to the High Court's decision in the Sullivan case, the *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 25th May says that it was alleged in the course of the trial that Sullivan was mad. Now that in the judgment of the highest tribunal in the land, too, he has been proved mad, he is certainly mad. And it seems to us that those who make any agitation over the trial of such cases are also mad!

NAVAYUG,
May 25th, 1901.

32. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 25th May says that the punishment inflicted on Sofi Amba Prasad on the charge of defamation seems very extraordinary. The Court made no difference between the offence committed by that newspaper editor and that which is committed by common thieves. If the editor of a newspaper is to undergo seven years' rigorous imprisonment on a charge of defamation, what punishment is to be inflicted on thieves and robbers? Native papers are held in no respect by the law courts in this country. If the editors of native papers receive such harsh treatment at the hands of judicial officers, those newspapers will cease to exist. The *Kalidas* newspaper has already ceased to exist, and the *Jamiul Ulum*, of Amba Prasad, will now share the same fate.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 25th, 1901.

33. Referring to the recent acquittal of Private Sullivan by the Calcutta High Court, the *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 28th May says that now-a-days people generally indulge in anticipations of what the result of a case in which a black man suffers death at the hands of a white man would be. The general opinion, whether right or wrong, is that *sahebs* charged with killing natives are often acquitted on trivial grounds. People are not, therefore, astonished to find such a *saheb* discharged.

BANGABHUMI,
May 28th, 1901.

34. Referring to the Koderma shooting case, the same paper says that now-a-days reports of deaths of natives at the hands of Europeans are coming from all quarters.

BANGABHUMI.

The conclusion generally arrived at in the law courts is that Europeans shoot natives accidentally or in self-defence. Then, again, when the blows and kicks of Europeans kill natives, the fault is ascribed to the hearts and spleens of the latter. It may be so in some cases, but such cases are very rare. Many natives use guns and shoot wild animals, but how many suffer death for their carelessness in shooting? If accidentally such a death occurs, the offender is much too heavily punished. The use of guns by natives in the exercise of the right of self-defence is seldom admitted in the law courts.

Considering all this, it is only natural for natives to entertain the belief that it is because Europeans generally escape punishment after killing natives that native-killing cases have become so frequent.

(d)—Education.

35. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 24th May says that the result of the B.A. examination this year has been extremely unsatisfactory. Not even 20 per cent. of the candidates have passed this year. So much as 60 per cent. of even the candidates from the Presidency College have been unsuccessful. For the last few years, the result of this examination has been very unsatisfactory. Under the circumstances, it is clear that the way in which the examination is conducted is more at fault than are the examinees. But unfortunately the University authorities do not see this as yet. If such things had taken place in any other country, there would have been no end of enquiry and agitation. A Commission would have been appointed to enquire into its causes. But here we have been drawing the attention of the authorities to this fact year after year and yet they are indifferent.

HITAVADI,
May 24th, 1901.

36. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 24th May says that the large number of failures in the B.A. examinations of the last few years has made the *Bengalee* [Calcutta] angry with the examination arrangements of the

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR
May 24th, 1901.

Calcutta University. But the fault does not lie with the examiners alone. Many private colleges have been turned into institutions for money-making. Good professors on suitable salaries are not entertained by their owners. Consequently students do not get proper teaching in such colleges.

Now-a-days, University certificates hardly enable one to live in a respectable style. Under such circumstances, it is only natural that students, disappointed in their University careers, should seek to procure their livelihood in other and objectionable ways.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

HITAVADI,
May 24th, 1901.

37. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 24th May says that there is no cremation ground in Sirajganj in the Pabna district. The distance from the town to the Jumna river is more than two miles. The corpse has to be thrown into the Jumna with a *kalsi* tied round its neck. The Musalmans too have no burial ground.

SAMAY,
May 24th, 1901.

38. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 24th May says that the *Indian Daily News*, who found so much fault with the Babu Commissioners before the Municipal Act was passed, now writes in a different strain and finds fault with the Executive and the European Commissioners. This is not to be wondered at for it was anticipated.

BHARAT MITRA
May 25th, 1901.

39. Referring to the decision arrived at by Mr. Buckley in the case of Messrs. Martin and Company *versus* the Calcutta Corporation, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 25th May observes that the Bengali Vice-Chairman of the Corporation should not have picked a quarrel with an English Municipal Contractor. The result of the quarrel has been that the native rate-payers have had to lose some forty thousand rupees.

DACCA GAZETTE,
May 27th, 1901.

40. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 27th May has the following in English:—

The Dacca Municipality. It is a fact, Dacca has no leader at present. Such being the case, it is lying like a huge monster without its head. The spectacle is horrible indeed. What is the result? Let us take the question of Local Self-Government at Dacca. To our eternal shame, be it said, Dacca owes all her present misfortunes—her political annihilation, so to speak, to the want of a leader. If we had a leader, we would never have had the mortification of seeing the Magistrate of the district usurping the post of the Municipal Chairman which was reserved for a non-official gentleman. We used to hear loud complaints against the Dacca Municipality from the local high officials when its affairs were in the hands of a non-official Chairman. Year after year the official reports were made interesting reading by the insertion therein of all sorts of funny remarks at the expense of the non-official Chairman and his staff. The culpable neglect of the then Municipal authorities was the favourite theme of the *hoozoors* to dilate upon in season and out of season, so much so, that Local Self-Government at Dacca came to be regarded as a by-word for reproach. But a happy change has come over the tone of the official reports since the assumption of the reins by the Magistrate of the district: it is now all rosy. It is now more than a year that Mr. Rankin has taken charge of the Municipality, and we challenge the supporters of the Magistrate-Chairman to show any material improvement, sanitary or other, of the town which may, even partially, justify the drastic measure they took in supplanting the non-official Chairman.

The re-assessment of the Municipal tax of this town is being pushed on with great vigour and rigour. There is a general complaint in the town about the undue increase of the amount of the tax. The time chosen is also most unfortunate. When food-grains of all sorts are selling at famine price, this enhancement of the Municipal tax is almost crushing on the poor people of the town, and about three-fourths of the population are poor, and some of them can scarcely afford even two meals a day. Cannot the Municipality, after the work of re-assessment is over, postpone the collection of the increased rate till better time comes? When the Government of India could make such a concession in the interest of the tea-planters of Assam, when they were asked to add a little

pittance to the wages of the poor coolies, why should not our Municipal authorities find their way to show this kindness to the poor people of the town? It may be urged that this step would delay the sanitary improvement of the town. Apart from the intrinsic merit or the scientific hobbies of the day, the people must first live, and then enjoy. If they succumb under the pressure of heavy taxation, your sanitation would avail them not at all. But we are crying in the wilderness. Who will hear us? We have no leader at Dacca.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

41. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 22nd May says that it is a

MEDINI BANDHAV,
May 22nd, 1901.

Condition of a pargana in the Midnapore district.

wonder that nothing has as yet been done in the way of repairing the embankments in the Mayna pargana in the Midnapore district which were greatly damaged by the violent inundation of last year. These embankments are incapable of standing the force of another flood. It is rumoured that their repair will not be taken up this year. If so, life and property will be in imminent danger of being destroyed any day in the coming rains. When the Collector of the district is applied to, he says that he will not interfere with the work of the Engineer.

Every year money is realised from the people of the pargana for repair work, but the work is seldom done as it should be. Last year the people saved the embankment with their own money. Formerly Government used to raise a cross embankment for the purpose of preventing salt water from entering into the pargana. But from this year Government will not do this, and the people have been obliged to raise an embankment themselves. This is very hard on the poor inhabitants of the pargana, who are at present very badly off on account of repeated failures of crops.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

42. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 22nd May says that steamer passengers coming from Brahmanbaria to the railway

PRATINIDHI,
May 2nd, 1901.

A railway complaint.

station at Akhaura in the Chittagong district have to wait for three or four hours at that station before they can get a train there. All this time they have to spend in open air for want of a waiting-room in the station, and not unoften suffer greatly from the inclemency of the weather. The complaint should receive the attention of the authorities concerned.

43. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 23rd May has the following :—

JYOTI,
May 23rd, 1901.

Grievances of passengers on the Assam-Bengal Railway.

Mr. Stuart, the Traffic Manager of the Assam-Bengal Railway, is a courteous gentleman, but there seems to be a lack of supervision on his part over the work done by his subordinates. Before the train leaves the Chittagong station, unless and until one compartment of a carriage is filled up with eight passengers, another is not opened. Then, again, if the number of passengers be very large, four or five excess passengers are taken into each compartment. Tickets are issued shortly before the train leaves the station, so that many passengers miss the train. Moreover, there is only one ticket clerk, and the ticket stalls for the first, second or intermediate classes and that for the third class are so far away from each other, that one man can hardly manage to issue tickets to all. No return ticket is issued for the intermediate class. From Chittagong to Sitakundu one more third class carriage should be attached for the use of excess passengers.

44. The *Rangpur Vartabaha* [Rangpur] of the 24th May has the following :—

RANGPUR
VARTABAHA,
May 24th, 1901.

Road-making by the District Board of Rangpur.

The District Board of Rangpur, instead of filling up with earth such parts of the roads as require but slight repairs, are neglecting such roads altogether and constructing new ones by their sides. Earth is being taken from the cultivated lands for the construction of the new roads, much to the detriment of such lands. It is hoped that the District Magistrate will inspect these places and see that no harm is done to the cultivated lands in future. The poor cultivators who

have already suffered should be paid compensation to which they are legally entitled.

BANGABHUMI,
May 28th, 1901.

45. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 28th May says that third class passengers intending to travel by the mail train are put to great inconvenience at the Howrah station, owing to their not being allowed to enter the station platforms except through a narrow passage and shortly before the time fixed for the departure of the trains. Much of the inconvenience complained of may be removed if the ticket-checkers, instead of guarding the inside extremity, station themselves at the outside extremity of the passage and commence examining the tickets sufficiently early to prevent overcrowding within the passage and enable all the passengers to pass through it without pushing and discomfort.

(h)—General.

BANKURA DARPAN,
May 23rd, 1901.

46. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd May has the following in English :—
Dismemberment of Bankura.

DISMEMBERMENT BANKURA.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR.—We learn with feelings of alarm that Government of Bengal has asked the opinion of the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division as to the proposed scheme of establishing a new district with head-quarters at Asansol. The proposed arrangement is to include the present Raniganj and Govindpur subdivisions together with the Raghunathpur and Gaurangdi thanas of the Manbhum district and the Gangajalghati thana of Bankura. The Onda, Raipur, Khatra and Sadar thanas of the Bankura district are to form parts of the Manbhum district, while the remaining thanas of Bankura, viz., Sonamukhi, Indas, Kotulpur and Bishnupur, are to be included in the Burdwan district.

As an alternative scheme, a proposal has been made to incorporate Bankura and Onda thanas with the proposed new district of Asansol instead of with Manbhum.

In either case Bankura is to cease to exist as a separate district, and its several thanas are to form parts of either Manbhum or Asansol.

The object of this new arrangement of districts is, as it is said, to afford facilities to the coal-mining community of Bengal for carrying on law suits, by bringing all coal-fields under the same jurisdiction. The present arrangement under which the coal area is partitioned among several districts being greatly inconvenient to the mercantile body for purpose of law suits, a representation was made to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, on which His Honour has been pleased to propose the above changes. Thus, it is seen that the only object of those changes is to remove the inconvenience, as regards litigation, of a wealthy section of His Majesty's subjects—the coal-mining community of Bengal. We have no objection at all to Government's granting them the redress they have asked for, but that it should be done to the inconvenience and trouble of the people of several districts is what we cannot see the propriety of.

We therefore most earnestly pray that before our Government takes any decided step it would be graciously pleased to see whether it is possible to bring all the coal-producing areas under one jurisdiction by the proposed scheme. The places where coal mines are worked at present are Govindpur, Hazaribagh, Palamau, Birbhum and other. If Bankura be added to Manbhum or Asansol, there will yet remain places which will not come within convenient distance of either of the above districts, and the inconvenience of the proprietors of coal mines will remain as great as before.

Moreover, in other districts than Bankura or Manbhum there may turn up mines which will prove highly profitable to work and which may involve a number of law suits if the coal-fields be found scattered over different jurisdiction; it will give occasion to their proprietors to cry for fresh arrangement which will comprise all coal-fields in one district.

Again, after a certain time the existing coal mines will be exhausted, and then the necessity of a new district head-quarters at Asansol will not be so keenly felt, and colliers will have to look for another more suitable place for the purpose.

Thus we see that sudden changes of the kind contemplated by Government are not at all calculated to serve the purpose they have in view, while they are extremely prejudicial to the interests of efficient administration as we shall try to show by and by.

It will perhaps go without contradiction that whenever any settled state of things that has lasted for a long time and from which people have benefited is disturbed, there will necessarily arise a disorder and confusion which the turbulent and the unruly will not be slow to turn to their account. We need only turn to the pages of history for illustration in support of our position. We shall not at present lengthen our letter by ransacking history, but will content ourselves with pointing out some of the disastrous effects of the proposed changes on multitudes of people of the district of Bankura:—

1. Situated as the Sadar station of Bankura is at the very central part of the district, it exercises a commanding influence on the several wild tribes, inhabitants of the interior, such as Sonthals, Bhurnies, Kurmis, Choars, &c. They have not as yet come fully under the influence of civil law, and they only require a slight relaxation of vigilance on the part of Government to show forth their natural ferocity and to give vent to their pent-up wild propensities.

2. As an immediate consequence of this, the lives and properties of thousands of people would be at the mercy of hosts of rude barbarians, and it would throw the district once more into all the horrors of the primitive stage.

3. According to the last Census the Municipality of Bankura contains a population of 20,739 souls, of which more than half are shopkeepers by profession. The only means by which they earn their livelihood is by retailing articles of food and other necessities of every-day life. If Bankura ceases to be the head-quarter of a district, these poor people will be left absolutely without any means of subsistence, and for want of money they will not be able to settle in a new place. The result will be, as can be easily imagined, that they will all fall a prey to slow and untimely death brought on by cares and want of food.

4. With the abolition of the district, probably the zilla school will meet its fate, and thus not only will further progress of education in the place be stopped, but all its motion will be on the backward direction.

5. The buildings of the Zanana Hospital and the Charitable Dispensary in the town have been built chiefly at the cost of the Bankura public. If the head-quarters be transferred to some other place, most of the people who contributed to their erection will necessarily have to remove to some Sadar station, and then they will be deprived of the benefit of the useful institutions named above. They will again have to tax their pocket in establishing the above institutions in a new place and will thus be put to a great inconvenience and hardship, while the existing establishments will disappear for want of pecuniary support.

47. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 24th May draws the attention of the authorities to the fines imposed on the compositors employed in the Government Central Press. Last year every one was fined from 36 to 42 per cent. of his pay owing to some faults connected with pie-sorting. In addition to this, incometax and fines for absence and late arrival were deducted from the salaries of these unfortunate men. Fines imposed for offences relating to pie-sorting alone amounted to Rs. 10,000 last year. But it is a matter of surprise that no mention of this income is made either in the Government report or in the annual report on the working of the press. Will the Government enquire into the reason of this omission?

HITAVADI,
May 24th, 1901.

Grievances of compositors in the Government Central Press.

48. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 26th May says that much ill-feeling has been created in East Bengal over the distinction of caste made by census enumerators between Brahmins and Varna Brahmins. The Brahmins who serve as priests to Brahmins, Kayasthas and Vaidyas ought alone to have been entered as Brahmins, the Brahmins who serve as priests to lower

DACCA PRAKASH.
May 26th, 1901.

A Census complaint.

castes being entered not as *Varna Brahmans*, which term has caused offence, but as Shaha's Brahmans, Carpenter's Brahmans, Brahmans of *Nama Sudras*, &c. A very large number of mistakes have been made in the last census in deciding who are Brahmans and who are *Varna Brahmans*.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

SANJIVANI,
May 23rd, 1901.

49. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 23rd May says that calculating at the rate at which the population of India was shown to have increased within the ten years between 1881 and 1891, its population in 1901 should have stood at thirty and-a-half crores instead of twenty-nine and-a-half crores, as has been returned by the late census. This decrease by one crore, shows the number of lives lost in famines within the last ten years.

Why do the Indians fall victims to famine? Some say that India is an agricultural country, so that its people die of starvation whenever there is a failure of crops. But Ireland and Russia also are agricultural countries and were visited in late years by more than one famine. But not many people perished in those countries from starvation, and the reason was that the people had money and purchased food from other countries. But the Indians are poor and have no money with which to purchase food from others, and that is why they die during a famine.

Others say that population has so much increased in India that the food which is produced in the country is insufficient to meet its requirements. If so, why was there a famine in the year 1899-1900, after population had decreased by thousands in consequence of the famine which occurred in the year 1896-1897? The condition of the people should have shown an improvement as a result of the famine of 1896-1897.

Others again say that drought brings on a famine. But why is not drought followed by a famine in Russia and Ireland? The fact is, the Indians are poor, and that is why they die of starvation during a famine.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
May 20th, 1901.

50. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th May has the following:—

Indian feeling in regard to the officials.

Some say that it is a general belief among the Indian people that the higher authorities in India are to blame for the oppression that is committed upon Natives by Europeans. But there is absolutely no truth in this. The Indian people have full confidence in His Majesty's declaration that he will tread in his mother's footsteps in managing the affairs of the British Empire. The native papers do not find fault with all English officials. There are many good men among them. The wise steps that are being taken by Lord Curzon for ameliorating the condition of the Indian people extort admiration from the entire population of the country. No one denies that Lord Curzon has sympathy with the poor people of India. Sir Antony MacDonnell is another example of the best type of English officials. The good work he has done for the benefit of the people of the North-Western Provinces, and particularly his reinstatement of Hindi as the Court language in those Provinces, will remain recorded in the history of the British Empire. Nor can any one forget the hard labour that Sir John Woodburn underwent when plague broke out in Calcutta, and when terror and excitement swayed the minds of the people of the town. The fact is that the Indian people are very angry with the European soldiers who treat them like so many dogs and cats. But there are honourable exceptions even among these soldiers.

SANJIVANI,
May 23rd, 1901.

51. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 23rd May says that there is a rumour

Sir Alfred Milner.

in the English Press that Lord Curzon will return to English politics, while Sir Alfred Milner, who is now on his way to England, will be the Viceroy of India. Much weight cannot be attached to this rumour. However, the appointment of one of the authors of the Boer War as the head of the Indian Government, if it ever takes place, will be regarded as a misfortune, lest he should involve India in a ruinous war.

52. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 25th May writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,
May 25th, 1901.

The cause of Bengal's industrial degeneracy.

If you want to increase national wealth, first try to accumulate capital. To accumulate capital, you must learn how to save. If you want to save money, you must learn how to put restraints upon self-gratification. To put restraints upon self-gratification, you must forego luxury. To forego luxury, you should become attached to the *sastras*. We Bengalis have become luxurious. We cannot, therefore, save, and we do not, therefore, possess any capital. In the absence of capital we cannot set up and improve industries for supplying our daily needs. If we start an industry, and if, owing to bad management, it fails, we have not the wherewithal to make a second attempt. There is no blood in our bodies. Somehow we collect a little blood and stand up on our legs. But excesses and irregularities dry up the blood, and we fall down never to rise again. This is now our lot.

Bengali, you are a luxurious fellow; you have ruined whatever you have turned your hands to. The Bombay man is less luxurious than you are, and he has succeeded in whatever he has attempted. For once shake off your lethargy, and look up and see what a change the Bombay man has effected in the face of his Presidency with mills and factories. He has maintained his ground even in competition with England herself. Bombay will not certainly achieve what England has achieved with the Government's help. But still Bombay can stand on her own legs. Brother, do you know that there was a time when England had to cover her nakedness with cloth brought from other countries? But England made a law forbidding its inhabitants to wear foreign cloth. And the result of this law was that cloth-manufacturing mills were started in England. Today, England is not only clothing her own nakedness, but ours also. And though Bombay has not had the advantage of Government's help like England, what has not Bombay done! The first cloth mill was established in Bombay in 1854. Now the Presidency possesses no less than eighty-two cloth mills. And enterprising, persevering, hard-working Bombay is daily making improvement in her mill industries.

Why this difference between Bengal and Bombay? Bombay is not luxurious like Bengal, and has, therefore, been able to save. Bengal is luxurious, moneyless, devoid of strength, enterprise and perseverance. Bengal is therefore poor, miserable and meanlooking.

53. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 26th May has the following about the management of the Bhawal estate by Rai Kali Prasanna Ghosh Bahadur:—

DACCA PRAKASH,
May 26th, 1901.

Management of the Bhawal estate by Rai Kali Prasanna Ghosh Bahadur.

Rai Kali Prasanna Ghosh Bahadur is given to boasting that under his management the income of the Bhawal estate has very largely increased. And it was on account of this supposed increase that the late Raja Bahadur and his relatives were so much pleased with the Rai Bahadur. According to the Rai Bahadur, the income of the estate, which was three lakhs and a half under the late Raja Kali Narayan, has risen to five lakhs under his management. This means an increase of a lakh and-a-half. But the writer has more than once heard from the Rai Bahadur's own lips that the income of the estate has, under his management, increased by only eighty thousand rupees. Assuming, therefore, that the income of the estate has increased by eighty thousand rupees, the writer will attempt to show that this increase is far short of what might have been expected in the natural state of things.

In the time of Raja Kali Narayan, when food-grains sold at one-fifth their present price, the income of the estate was three lakhs and-a-half. If the rents of the raiyats had been lawfully increased with the increase in the price of food-crops, the income of the estate ought to have been to-day seventeen lakhs of rupees. It was the fault of the Rai Bahadur that the income, instead of increasing by thirteen to fourteen lakhs, has increased only by eighty thousand. The population of the Dacca Division has increased, since the time of Raja Kali Narayan, by 25 per cent., and owing to the decay of several industrial pursuits, a larger proportion of the people now live by agriculture than was the case in the time of Raja Kali Narayan. A very large quantity of land which lay uncultivated during the time of that Raja has now, therefore, been brought under cultivation. Supposing that a lakh of bigahs, at least, in the Bhawal

estate have been thus brought under cultivation, and taking the rent per bigah at one rupee, there ought to have been an increase of one lakh of rupees in the income from this source alone.

No one should suppose that because the income of the Bhawal estate has not much increased, the raiyats on that estate are living quite happily. Even putting no faith in the rumours about oppressions on the raiyats, the occurrence of repeated famine in the estate is sufficient evidence that the raiyats are not well off. And to what can their miserable condition be attributed except to the exactions and highhandedness of the *amla*? As a matter of fact, the Manager's favourites are ruining the raiyats, although the zamindar himself has benefited very little by the management of the Rai Bahadur.

There is sufficient ground for a suspicion that the Rai Bahadur is seriously injuring the interests of the estate by giving away permanent tenures. He has been Manager of the estate for more than twenty years, during which period, according to the Rai Bahadur's own statement, the income has increased only by eighty thousand rupees, and the whole of this increase is due to the leasing out of land which formerly lay uncultivated and the acquisition of the property of the Gachha zamindar at a nominal price and under the most questionable circumstances. It is, therefore, clear that no enhancement of rent has taken place in the estate during the last twenty years, although food-crops have increased in price four or five fold during the period. And by the law all the raiyats in the estate whose rents have not been increased during twenty years will acquire a permanent tenure over the lands they occupy. It is necessary to ascertain whether or not the Rai Bahadur is enriching himself and his underlings, at the cost of the estate, by securing in a manner permanent leases to the raiyats.

The entire nine-anna share of the Bhawal pargana, constituting estate No. 9 in the Collector's tauzi, belongs to the Bhawal estate. And of the remaining seven-anna share, which constitutes estate No. 10 in the tauzi, ten annas and odd *gandas* belong to the Bhawal estate also. This estate No. 10 has recently been partitioned, and the partition proceedings show that it contains 528,032 bighas and odd cottahs of land, of which a ten-anna share, that is to say 332,323 bigahs, belong to the Bhawal estate. The quantity of uncultivated land in this portion of the estate is 155,233 bighas. These uncultivated lands and similar lands in estate No. 9 yield a profit from forest produce between six to seven lakhs of rupees per annum. But the papers of the estate show a profit of only Rs. 1,000 and a few annas. Does the large remaining portion of the profit go to swell the packets of the *amla*? Leaving aside the uncultivated 155,233 bigahs, there remain 177,090 bigahs in estate No. 10, which is occupied by tenants. From this again subtract 15,767 bigahs as *shikimi* and rent-free and yielding an income of only Rs. 5,565. There remain, therefore, 161,323 bigahs for which proper rents are realised. But the papers of the estate shew that it yields a total income, including profits from forest produce and other miscellaneous sources, of Rs. 1,07,181 only. The Gregory-Pogose case has proved that the rent of land in Bhawal is at the rate of Rs. 6 to Rs. 7 per bigah. But assuming the rate of rent to be no more than that admitted by the Bhawal estate itself, namely Re. 1-4 per bigah of homestead land and Re. 1 for agricultural land, and assuming that one-tenth of the 161,323 bigahs mentioned above is homestead land and the remainder agricultural land, the total income from estate No. 10, including Rs. 5,565 *shikimi* rents and Rs. 5,087 as profit from forest produce, should amount to about one and three quarter lakhs. Why then do the papers of the estate show an income of only Rs. 1,07,181 from this particular estate?

The above will show with what ability Rai Kali Prasanna Ghosh Bahadur, friend of the Divisional Commissioner, Mr. Savage, is managing the Bhawal estate. The Partition officers themselves have after careful inspection and calculation assumed the income from estate No. 10 alone to be about Rs. 1,75,000. But the zamindar's papers show the income to be Rs. 1,07,181. How is the difference to be accounted for? Who misappropriates it?

54. The same paper says that Rai Kali Prasanna Ghosh Bahadur, Manager of the Bhawal Estate, had brought over a number of newspaper editors and others from Dacca to join the meeting which was held at

Dacca Press,.
May 26th, 1901

Rai Kali Prasanna Ghosh Bahadur, Manager of the Bhawal estate.

Joydevpur to express grief at the death of the late Raja, and paid them not only their travelling expenses, but something more which need not be mentioned. It is said, as the newspapers say, that the Rai Bahadur, who did not shed a drop of tear at the Dacca condolence meeting, shed torrents of tears at the Joydevpur meeting out of his grief for the late Raja.

URIYA PAPERS.

55. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 8th May states that a belief exists in the minds of many low class people in the

How the census is regarded by low class people in the Central Provinces.

Central Provinces that one of the objects of the census was to collect and deport one lakh of young unmarried men and women for the purpose of completing a ceremony inaugurated to restore Her late Imperial Majesty the Queen-Empress to life.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
May 8th, 1901.

56. The same paper [Bamra] of the 15th May advises Indian parents not to dress their little children with golden or

Danger to the safety of bejewelled children in India.

other valuable ornaments, as these have proved, in many instances, a source of temptation to evil-doers and source of trouble to the parents themselves.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
May 15th, 1901.

57. Referring to a lease, bearing No. 1, dated 7th February 1900, granted by the Assistant Engineer, No. 2 Subdivision, to Gadai Barik and three others, authorising

An indirect tax on paddy brought by boat to Cuttack.

them to act as *dandilars* or weighmen in respect of paddy brought for sale by boat through the Kendrapara Canal to Cuttack in consideration of the payment of a fee of Rs. 52, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 18th May observes that it is an indirect tax, levied by illegal means, on the daily food of the poor people, who cannot but submit, under the circumstances, to the exactions of the unscrupulous, though licensed, *dandilars*.

UTKALDIPIKA,
May 18th, 1901.

58. Referring to a fire in Jajpur town that destroyed a large number of houses and property worth one lakh of rupees,

A fire in Jajpur town.

the same paper states that the Sub-Registrar, Babu Nabakishore Das, and the Municipal Overseer of the Jajpur Municipality, aided by a large number of coolies, saved a large quantity of property from utter destruction.

UTKALDIPIKA.

59. Referring to the difference of opinion that exists among the members of the different Victoria Memorial Committees in

Difference of opinion among the Victoria Memorial Committees in Orissa.

Orissa with regard to the form that the memorial is to take, the same paper suggests that if the members find it very difficult to agree, they may transfer their functions to the Commissioner of the Orissa Division and abide by his decision.

UTKALDIPIKA.

60. The same paper regrets to state that though about 1,500 men and women died of cholera in the Pipli thana of the

UTKALDIPIKA.

Cholera in the Puri district.

Puri district, neither the Puri District Board nor the officers of the Puri khas mahal did anything to relieve the distress of the sufferers.

ASSAM PAPERS.

61. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 15th May says that Government has made a great mistake by transferring Krishna Kumar

Transfer of a Subdivisional Officer in Assam.

Babu, Subdivisional Officer, from Cachar, Assam. All the land in Cachar is well known to him. As the work of the Subdivisional Officer of Cachar is too much for one man, this transfer will throw both the settlement and the judicial work in Cachar into great disorder. Mr. Halliday requested the Chief Commissioner to postpone the transfer, but his request has been rejected. Mr. Cotton is requested to keep Krishna Kumar Babu in Cachar at least for another year. In this year of famine, when people are scarcely able to provide their daily food, more frequent postponements of law suits, which will certainly result from the transfer of Krishna Kumar Babu, will be altogether ruinous to the poor inhabitants of Cachar.

SILCHAR,
May 15th, 1901.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYA,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 1st June, 1901.

E. J. H. - Reg. No. 1537C-75-5-6-1901.



REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 1st June 1901.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1573. The following is taken from the *Moslem Chronicle*:—

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
18th May 1901.

The Amir's guns. Sometime ago, the Amir arranged for the payment of six lakhs and forty thousand rupees of the British subsidy to his Agents in Calcutta, as the first instalment of the purchase-money of six batteries of Krupp guns. One of His Highness's Afghan Agents has since sailed from Bombay by mail steamer, *en route* for Germany to superintend their construction.

1574. The same paper has the following:—

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
18th May 1901.

The Sultan and the Foreign post-office. Reuter's telegrams show that during the past week the feelings between the Porte and the Foreign Ambassadors have been one of a decidedly strained character. It arose out of a most intolerable and inconceivable anomaly that the Legations have till now been taking care of the despatch and delivery and transit of their own respective mail bags, in spite of the Turkish Post-offices, and contrary to the practice allowed and followed in other States of the comity of nations. It is a direct and rude infringement of the first and elementary rights of sovereignty, while it is simply preposterous to think that any Power should submit to it, when the deprivation of this right is so clearly convertible into an engine of plot, conspiracy and injury. In fact the light of some recent political intrigues and plots worked from without, palpably demonstrates the utter absurdity and un wisdom of any Power surrendering its control over the mails that come into its dominions. There are only three views from which the affair has to be looked at. The first is that it is diametrically against the rules of international polity; secondly, if the thing existed why should the Sultan now persist in its abolition; thirdly, not claiming the exercise of certain sovereign rights has never amounted to, and can never amount to, forfeiture of those rights. It is just possible, nay probable, that the experience gained by recent events has determined the Turks to put an end to an anomaly which is but a fruitful source of troubles and perils, and which no nation, in its instincts of self-preservation, would tolerate for a moment.

1575. The *Moslem Chronicle* has a strong article on the allegations of atrocities committed by the allied armies in China.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
18th May 1901.

The shame of Europe. "The weight of the evidence," says the *Chronicle*, "is principally against the French, Russian and German troops. It is not possible for us, even if we had the space to refer to all the sickening details of what is passing every day over the homes, hearths, and honour, of the luckless people of the Celestial Empire, under the Military occupation of the allied Christian nations of the West."

The *Chronicle* quotes from the correspondents of such papers as the *Times*, the *Daily Express*, the *France Militaire*, and from the Japanese paper, the *Niroku Shinpo*, to prove the instances of unrestrained looting, even sanctioned by, and carried on under the eyes of, the Legations; of wholesale slaughter of Chinese, of brutal treatment of children, of outrages on women, and every conceivable form of brutality and licentiousness.

From the *Niroku Shinpo* it takes a story of two young girls being ravished by four French soldiers, who, frightened in their act at the footsteps of approaching troops, killed the girls with their bayonets. It gives the number of women who were first outraged and then murdered by European soldiers, together with those who had committed suicide to avoid unbearable shame, as 573.

The European march through China, it is feared, will remain one of the darkest chapters, if the true history is ever written, that ever sullied the pages of history.

"And all this is done," says the *Chronicle*, "by men who adore Christ—the Great Saviour who gave up his life for the love of men. Let us hope that after this Canon McColl, for very shame, would hide his face for mention of the Turks."

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

a—Police.

BENGALÉE,
18th May 1901

1576. Referring to the recent cases at Hooghly in which two Peshawaries were convicted under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, as habitually committing extortion, the

The Kabuli nuisance.

Bengalée says, "The Police have not moved a day too soon, but they have moved with a vigour and thoroughness which have ensured the conviction of these two Peshawaries." What the Judge said of these two accused is true of the whole gang. Their trade is practically usury, which is abhorrent to all good Mussulmans, and they realize their outstanding by violence, often trespassing in houses and insulting females. The *Bengalée* trusts that further prosecutions will be started.

BENGALÉE,
22nd May 1901

1577. The *Bengalée* says: "In any scheme of reform affecting the Police, it would be essential to insist upon higher qualifications on the part of the District Superintendent of

Police reform.

Police."

Mr. Reily in his evidence made the extraordinary confession that he did not understand Bengalée perfectly. It is also stated that he is a timid rider. The *Bengalée* would like to know what he is fit for.

"The examinations held for admission to the police ought to be real tests of merit; and no racial considerations ought to be permitted to prevent really deserving candidates from appearing at them."

BENGALÉE,
27th May 1901.

1578. The *Bengalée*, again taking up the question of police reform, says:

Ibid.

The chief cause of the inefficiency of the Police in Bengal is that they are undermanned. It quotes figures to show that the proportion of police to area is 1 to 9·8 square miles. It suggests as a remedy, an improvement in the status and pay of the village police, (1) By increasing their pay, which can be done by reducing their number and by Government contributing to their maintenance (the funds to be found by a reduction in the number of constables). (2) By changing their designation to something like "the village police agent," the stigma attached to the term "chaukidar" being a strong bar to the recruitment of men of the better classes.

The thanas should also be broken up into outposts, so as to reduce the average area of each station, which is now 135·5 square miles.

BENGALÉE,
27th May 1901.

1579. The *Bengalée* has an article complaining of the way in which the Hooghly Police is being managed by Mr. Castle.

Mr. Castle, District Superintendent of Police, Hooghly.

The following charges are made:—Leave applications are allowed to accumulate and are not disposed of. Leave is not granted, and men who want it have to take it on their own account. Every thana and outpost is short of men. Subordinates who wish to transact business with the District Superintendent of Police have to wait for hours. The Reserve Sub-Inspector is afraid to approach the *Sahib*.

NOTE.—The Deputy Inspector-General has been asked for a report.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

POWER AND GUARDIAN
JAN.,
20th May 1901.

1580. Referring to the acquittal of Mr. Whyte, *Power and Guardian* says, "The Learned Judge agreeing with the Jury acquitted the prisoner and thus allowed the murder

of a poor cooly to go unpunished. If there is a riot or an assault on a European, the dictum is that someone must be punished for the day's work. But there is, say, a murder of a native by a European, and immediately the same rulers quietly and conveniently forget the above policy and take shelter under the plea of prestige and what not. The white murderer is declared mad or the murder is pronounced the result of an accident. The howl that is raised by the Native Press in such a contingency is put down to be a plain exhibition of rank disloyalty and disaffection, and the world is sought to be cajoled into the belief that India is being governed under the most enlightened principles and in the interests of Indians. Could effrontery go further? Could white-washing be more outrageously scandalous?"

1581. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says, "It seems strange that the presiding Judge, when delivering charge, did not draw the attention of the Jury to some of the important points raised by the Standing Counsel, which were fatal to the defence theory If some fifty or sixty Sonthals attacked the Europeans, how is it that Mohan, Mr. Whyte's servant, could not identify any of them?..... Again, if the men had come to fight, is it likely they would have brought with them the *poorja* basket, which the Inspector found on the ground?"

"Another feature of the summing up was the absence of any allusion to exaggerations or contradictions or improbable statements on the part of the defence witnesses." His Lordship characterised the prosecution evidence as deliberately false, but took no notice of some of the improbabilities of the defence theory.

The *Patrika* then points out what it considers some of the improbabilities of the defence evidence, and remarks, "It would be an outrageous arrangement to punish a European, when he and his assistants were being mobbed, for the murder of two Sonthals (*sic*). When a European is being mobbed, his safety lies in his rifle, and rifle means loss of life."

"But do natives usually mob Europeans?" The *Patrika* defies anyone to prove one single instance in which a native unprovoked has attacked an European.

"It is quite true that Europeans should be given, considering their defenceless position in Indian villages, the free use of rifles. But, on the other hand, the natives of the soil have some claim upon the Government, which is that these rifles should not be too freely used against them."

1582. The *Indian Empire*, while it does not grudge Mr. Whyte his acquittal, cannot but deplore the fact that "native" lives should be lost in this way.

Ibid.

It adds:—

While we do not presume to find fault with the trial that was held and the verdict arrived at, we cannot shut our eyes to the culpability of allowing young and apparently haughty Europeans like Whyte to deal with ignorant natives of the country, with whose language, manners and custom he is totally unacquainted, and also of permitting them to use firearms without any restrictions whatever.

We would implore the Government to think of the result of such cases. Already there is an impression abroad, and we hope we do not offend anybody by recording the impression, that the result of such cases is a foregone conclusion, that a European, accused of a serious offence, will never be convicted by a European Jury. Surely, surely such an impression, even if wrongly formed, cannot tend to the good government of the country. We find that in most of these cases it is the gun that plays the mischief. We would therefore propose to the authorities to put some sort of check upon the free use of firearms.

1583. Referring to the conviction of Sadak Ali in the second trial of the Noakhali murder case, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says, "This means that Mr. Geidt has declared for Mr. Pennell and against the High Court. For the latter, in effect, held that Sadak Ali was innocent, and that the witnesses, Torab and Hossein, had perjured themselves. Mr. Geidt however, like Mr. Pennell, believed these two witnesses.

"Here is a queer spectacle indeed. A subordinate setting aside the decision of his masters. Mr. Geidt had practically to go against the direct mandate of the High Court."

The *Patrika* then suggests that as the late Mr. Justice Strachey was made Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court "for his eminent services to Government, Mr. Justice Ameer Ali, who has also a brilliant record, should be appointed to succeed him."

1584. The *Bengalee* wishes to call the attention of the Chief Commissioner of Assam to a sentence of one year's rigorous imprisonment passed on a Muhammadan gentlemen, named Maulvi Abdul Hamid, for the simple offence of keeping a gun and a dagger without a license.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st May 1901.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
21st May 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st May 1901.

BENGALIEE,
22nd May 1901.

BENGALÉE,
23rd May 1901.

1585. Referring to the acquittal of Private Sullivan, the *Bengalee* remarks,
“Jurors are Judges of facts, and Judges are bound to administer the law; but a Foreign Government

The Fort William murder.

is certainly placed in an extremely delicate position when a member of the ruling race escapes, either on a plea of insanity or the right of self-defence, after having been proved a murderer of one of the ruled.”

HINDOO PATRIOT,
23rd May 1901.

1586. The *Hindu Patriot*, while having nothing to say against the verdict of the Jury in this case, takes exception to it solely on the ground that further necessary evidence,

Ibid.

which should have been taken for a better proof of the insanity of the prisoner, was absent. The medical certificate, which testified to Sullivan's fitness for enlistment both physically and mentally, would have been far more satisfactory evidence than what was placed before the Judge and Jury.

The *Patriot* is next altogether dissatisfied with the medical evidence rendered by the defence, and, with reference to the Judge's remarks on the method of discerning the motives which actuate a man in the commission of certain acts, expresses itself as follows:—

“The surrounding circumstances are clear as anything and, according to the learned Judge, there was no other way of ascertaining the guilt or innocence, except by the surrounding circumstances. There are events that preceded and followed the occurrence, and they are all on record. The preceding surrounding circumstances showed that the motive of the murder was to wreak vengeance upon the poor master tailor for reporting his conduct to the authorities, and the surrounding circumstances that followed the murder look as if the crime was committed under a temporary fit of insanity. The whole question now hinges upon these circumstances and the guilt or innocence of the prisoner as well as the commission of the crime, whether under deliberate motive or not, rest upon them. We will dwell further on this subject in a future issue.”

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
24th May 1901.

1587. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, being on principle opposed to capital punishment, is glad that Private Sullivan got off; but considers that, as the charge was one of murdering a native, the Jury should have been composed partly of “children of the soil.”

Ibid.

The evidence of the prosecution witness, Sergeant Macrurie, left no room for doubt that Sullivan was perfectly sane when he committed the foul deed, and Macrurie's statement was supported by Major Brown. These two soldiers who proved the sanity of the prisoner were thrown overboard, while others whose depositions did not mean so much, were relied on, and Sullivan was found not guilty.

“As we said the other day, observes the *Patrika*, “the people of this country are losing all interest in the result of such cases.”

BENGALÉE,
24th May 1901.

1588. Referring to the results of the trials in the Koderma shooting case and the Fort William murder, the *Bengalee* says,

Two murder cases and Indian public opinion.

“The public do not look at these cases from the lawyer's standpoint. They take a common sense view of the situation. They see that two Englishmen have caused the death of three Indians, and they find that after the solemn proceeding in each case extending over several days, the prisoners were acquitted. They come to the conclusion, it may be erroneously, that our rulers may say what they like, but there is one law for Europeans and another for the Indians. They are confirmed in the conviction, which has become planted in their minds by a number of instances, that in cases where Europeans are the accused and Indians the aggrieved parties, no justice is to be had in our Courts.....The verdicts in the two cases, which have recently been disposed of by the High Court Sessions, and in which Europeans were the accused, have produced a most painful impression on the Indian mind.”

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

INDIAN NATION,
24th May 1901.

1589. The following paragraph is taken from the *Indian Nation*:—

The Calcutta Municipal Corporation and the General Plague expenditure of the Province.

The Bengal Government has, it is said, called upon the Calcutta Corporation to pay one lakh and sixty-four thousand rupees as their contribution towards plague expenditure in Bengal. We do not see why our town should

contribute to plague expenditure in the Province. We object entirely to the principle of the demand, and if the Corporation contains men watchful of the interest of rate-payers, it ought to strenuously resist the demand. It is enough Calcutta has to bear her own burdens.

1590. The *Indian Mirror* can scarcely credit the announcement that the Bengal Government has called upon the Calcutta Municipal Corporation to contribute the very large sum of a lakh and sixty-four thousand rupees towards the general plague expenditure of these Provinces. Sir John Woodburn and his Secretaries can by no means be ignorant of the sufferings of the Calcutta rate-payers, and the serious financial embarrassments of the Corporation. The Corporation is now advertising for a fresh loan of six lakhs. Notwithstanding the unwillingness of the European Commissioners to raise the rates to the maximum limit permitted by law, they will be compelled to do so under official pressure. Local Self-Government in Calcutta is now, to all intents and purposes, the Government of Bengal!

INDIAN MIRROR,
21st May 1901.

1591. The Arrah correspondent of the *Behar News* writes:—"The health of the town is far from satisfactory. Fever is raging, and plague cases are still reported, but the municipal authorities continue apathetic. Sweepings lie unremoved for days together, while the drains are most filthy."

BEHAR NEWS,
22nd May 1901.

1592. Referring to the decision of Mr. Buckley on the claims of the contractors, the *Bengalee* wishes for a full and searching enquiry into the matter of responsibility for delay in making over rolling stock, land and plans, and also the neglect to pay the bills on which interest was claimed.

BENGALIAN,
23rd May 1901.

Mr. Buckley's award on municipal drainage contracts.

"The late Commissioners have been blamed for the laches of the Executive; but everybody knows the Executive was all powerful. Here is a positive loss to the Corporation, and the rate-payers must pay the loss."

The Government should call for explanation, and the officers responsible should themselves be made to pay the sum awarded by the arbitrator.

1593. The *Hindoo Patriot* recites the numerous changes which have taken place in the constitution of the Calcutta Municipality, from the days of the Justices and Sir Steuart Hogg, to the conversion of the Corporation into an elective body by Sir Richard Temple; from the period when it was characterised as an "arsenal of delays and an armoury of speeches" to recent times, when the cry was raised that there was a preponderance of Babudom in the Corporation. What will be the future of this Corporation appears to exercise the mind of the *Patriot*—whether it will be a department of the Government or remain in its present state."

HINDOO PATRIOT,
22nd May 1901.

The future of the Calcutta Municipality.

1594. The *Bengalee* does not wish to condemn beforehand the scheme for amalgamating the Engineering and Health Departments, but what strikes it is, that a number of new posts will be created on comfortable salaries, the majority of which will fall to the lot of Europeans and Eurasians. But the *Bengalee* is not opposed to any scheme which will ensure better supervision of conservancy matters which at the present moment are getting worse and worse.

BENGALIAN,
23rd May 1901.

The *Bengalee* next wishes to know what work Mr. U. L. Mazumdar accomplished that he has been permitted to revert to the Finance Department, and whether he was given a free hand or cribbed and confined to routine work? It also enquires what has become of the *pukka* Secretary, Mr. Macdonald, whose days in the Municipal Office are said to be numbered. It next hears sensational accounts of Mr. D'Cruz's growing ascendancy in the Municipal Office, and finally it wishes to know what has become of Mr. Blackwood's sympathy with poor rate-payers.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

1595. The *Bengalee* calls attention to the speeches made at the Midnapore Conference on the subject of drainage and embankments in the Contai subdivision, and endeavours to show how the Orissa Coast Canal is, to a great extent, answerable for the state of things in this subdivision.

BENGALIAN,
20th May 1901.

Drainage and embankments in Contai.

"The canalisation of the Surpai has practically cut off the drainage system of a very important portion of the Contai subdivision. To a man of ordinary sense, it would have seemed easy to avoid all this trouble, by simply constructing two lock-gates at the points where the Coast Canal touched the Surpai. The obstruction by the sea-dyke, which has been constructed along the north-eastern boundary of the subdivision, of the mouths of the khals that formerly discharged their waters into the Rossulpore river, is rapidly silting up that large watercourse itself, and is thus threatening to cut off the principal drainage canal of the whole district."

The Subdivisional Officer offered to take the Engineer over the tracts affected, but the Engineer did not care to take the trouble and submitted a report stating that the complaints were exaggerated, a view which has been adopted by the Bengal Government.

The *Bengalee* suggests an examination into the drainage system of Contai by some expert or experts "who have no parental partiality for it," and has no doubt that, when the matter is once laid before Sir John Woodburn, it will receive his most favourable consideration.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
19th May 1901.

1596. The *Bengalee* complains of the danger to the public by the careless shunting of engines and waggons in the Sealdah and Baliaghata yards, and the annoyance caused to

passengers by the gross incivility and erratic doings of the Eurasian officials. It then quotes three cases of recent occurrence in which Eurasian officials have been charged with offences against passengers, and complains that in the last case, now *sub-judice*, in which T. Gonsalves, Luggage Inspector, was charged with having abused a Muhammadan passenger and snatched his ticket, the conduct of the Assistant Inspector-General, Government Railway Police, is somewhat inexplicable. The head of the Police hearing that an A Form was to be submitted on the 2nd May, wired that the accused was not to be sent up without the sanction of the Manager. This enabled Gonsalves to clear out on a month's leave and the poor passenger was left without his remedy. The Assistant Inspector-General, however, made an independent enquiry and permitted the case to go on, but transferred from Sealdah the particular Sub-Inspector who had reported the case as true, and has further ordered the Police to keep themselves away from the waiting hall.

(h)—General.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
1st May 1901.

1597. *Power and Guardian* refers to a case at present under police enquiry which occurred at a small railway station in the Punjab, named Beas, where a native woman, detained for the purposes of plague examination, was left behind, and inveigled by a policeman and two other men into a lonely spot a little distance away from the station, where the policeman attempted to take indecent liberties with her. *Power and Guardian* hopes the case will not end in a *fiasco*, as so many of its predecessors have done, but that it will be tried with the utmost severity.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
19th May 1901.

1598. *Power and Guardian* says, "Dacoities are systematically on the increase in India, and organised bands of ruffians have now their head-quarters in almost every district. The police are utterly powerless to cope with them."

"In addition to the Civil Police, the Government has another thoroughly equipped department called the Thagi and Dacoity Department, the officers of which, I regret to say, are more often employed on quasi-political missions of a shady character than on their legitimate duties."

The article then goes on to hold the Arms Act responsible for the increase of dacoities and such crimes of violence, for the villagers are unarmed and, being law-abiding people, will not break the law by keeping guns, while the criminal classes have no scruple about breaking through the restrictions of the Arms Act, together with other laws.

BENGALER,
20th May 1901.

1599. The *Bengalee* regrets to see in the *Calcutta Gazette* that the Government has called on the District Boards of the Patna Division to send in a nomination for a seat on the Legislative Council. It is argued that the

The Council election and the Bhagalpur Division.

turn should have been given to the Bhagalpur Division, which was denied its right in 1899, and which has not had the privilege of electing a Member once since the Councils were reformed. The election of 1895 was annulled and the Maharaja of Gidhour appointed by the Government. According to the circular of 1893, Bhagalpur will not get another turn until 1905.

1600. The *Behar News* thinks its readers will regard with alarm and consternation the news that the Patna Division

BEHAR NEWS,
22nd May 1901.

The Council election.

has been called upon to recommend a Member for a seat in the Legislative Council. The decision of the Government is practically "a disenfranchisement of the Bhagalpur Division," which has not been allowed to return a single Member since the Council was reconstituted in 1893.

"The unjustified and unaccountable disenfranchisement of Bhagalpur is in complete conflict with the rules laid down in the India Councils Act of 1892, and in wanton violation of the pledges and promises given by the present Lieutenant-Governor at the time when addresses were presented to His Honour by the Bhagalpur Landholders' Association and the local municipality."

1601. On this subject, the *Hindoo Patriot* fails to see any tangible ground for the action of the Government, and remarks that if it has been taken on account of the unfortunate results of the last election of the Division, then

HINDOO PATRIOT,
22nd May 1901.

Disfranchisement of Bhagalpur Division.

it is not a sufficient ground for such an exclusion. It is sure the Government has been actuated by the best of motives and noblest of purposes in coming to this decision, and if there exists a sufficient ground for disfranchising Bhagalpur and allowing the franchise to Bankipur, the matter ends there. What the disqualifications of the former Division and the special qualifications of the latter are, ought to be made known, with a view to allaying all misapprehension and putting the public in possession of the real facts.

1602. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* repeats a question asked when the disenfranchisement of Dacca was contemplated, viz., is the Lieutenant-Governor empowered to

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
23rd May 1901.

Ibid.

disfranchise a Division?

Quoting Sir Charles Elliott's rotation scheme, it says:—

"So Sir John Woodburn has very good excuse this time why he has preferred Patna to Bhagalpur. 'How can I go against the arrangement of my two distinguished predecessors,' His Honour may say, 'who decided that Patna and not Bhagalpur should be asked to nominate its Member in 1901?' Of course His Honour did not regard their wishes in 1897, when disfranchising Dacca; but, that was because Sir John Woodburn 'considered it desirable to make a variation in the order' on that occasion. And when a Lieutenant-Governor 'desires' a thing, it must be carried out anyhow, though it may not meet with the wishes of those who are vitally interested in it!"

1603. Referring to the Government Resolution calling on the Patna Division to elect a Member of Council in place of

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
24th May 1901.

Ibid.

the Hon'ble Babu Baikanta Nath Sen, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says, "The Lieutenant-Governor has taken refuge in the rotation scheme of 1893 to justify his disfranchising Bhagalpur on the present occasion. His Honour, however, ignored the rotation scheme of his two predecessors, when he had to disfranchise the Dacca Division." When the Hon'ble Surendra Nath Banerji vacates his seat in July, his seat will be taken away from the municipalities and made over to the landholders. The little of Local Self-Government conferred on the people is fast disappearing."

1604. Referring to the notification in the last issue of the *Calcutta Gazette*,

BENGALUR,
22nd May 1901.

Disfranchisement of Bhagalpur.

the *Bengalee* protests, with all the emphasis it can command, against a seat in the Council being withdrawn from the mufassal municipalities. There is no reason for such disfranchisement of the municipalities. The Maharaja of Gidhour is an excellent representative, but instead of appointing the Maharaja in January last, the Government might have called upon the Zamindars' Association to elect a representative of their own. Such an arrangement would not have necessitated the taking away of a seat from the mufassal municipalities and might have enabled the Government to do justice to the Bhagalpur Division. Justice demanded

that the Bhagalpur Division should be given the first opportunity of returning a Member, and this could have been done had the Government allowed the zamindars to return a Member in January, or postponed this concession to them until the claims of Bhagalpur had been satisfied.

INDIAN MIRROR,
20th May 1901.

1605. The *Indian Nation* has the following:—

The Indian Civil Servant.

What is the omniscient Civilian not fit for? To-day he is a Magistrate, to-morrow he is a Judge, the next day he may be at the head of the Post Office or the Telegraph Office, or be the adviser of the Government on legal affairs, or the Controller of Public Works, or the administrator of Finances. Wonderful is the competitive examination which detects the latent germs of all these multitudinous capacities. In Midnapore the District Magistrate is going to officiate as the District Judge. We have nothing to say or suggest against any individual, but we cannot help wondering at a system which permits these mutations. Here is an interesting passage from a letter of the Midnapore correspondent of the *Bengalee*, which appears in that journal. "It is a matter of frequent occurrence that an appeal of a case which has been decided by the Magistrate, is filed in the course of a day or two. But it makes very little difference if appeals are generally preferred after longer intervals, say, a week or two, considering that Mr. Samman, the Magistrate, becomes Mr. Samman, the Judge, in the same district, and continues to be so for a month and-a-half at least. Now, in such appeals, Mr. Samman, the Judge, will be required to sit in judgment upon the decisions given a few days ago by Mr. Samman, the Magistrate, and to try to find fault with them—a feat which is alone possible by the members of that Heaven-born Service, the Civil Service of India."

INDIAN MIRROR,
21st May 1901.

1606. The *Indian Mirror* holds that Mr. Geidt's two judgments have placed both the Government and the High Court in an extremely uncomfortable position, from which it is

Mr. Geidt's two judgments.

curious to know how they will dislodge themselves with credit.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
2nd and 23rd May
1901.

1607. Under this heading the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* produces two articles chiefly intended to show the power of police rule in the mufassal and its inefficiency for the good of the people.

"There is very little justice in the mufassal and very little protection. The great ambition of the administrators was to obtain a thorough grip of the country, by putting every fifty householders under one constable." This was found to cost too much, so it was resolved to convert the village watchmen into constables.

Every village had at least one watchman whose duty it was to protect the villagers against thieves. As everybody's servant the chaukidar had no status and was the most contemptible creature in the village.

In order to bring the chaukidar under the police, his pay was raised and a tax was levied, and it was arranged that the chaukidar should be appointed and dismissed by the Government. It is now no longer to the interest of the chaukidar to serve the villagers, consequently he pays no attention to his duties of watch and ward, and himself frequently takes part in burglaries."

"The villagers never complained, they preferred to suffer in silence, for, any complaint made would be referred to a Police Officer for local investigation, which would mean expense to the villagers.

The chaukidar's post is regarded with disfavour, consequently the Magistrate is bound to overlook his faults, for he cannot dismiss him on account of the difficulty of finding a successor.

Thieves are growing more and more reckless. When the villagers are robbed they prefer to suffer in silence, for the most they can do is to send for the police. If the police do come, they rarely recover the stolen property, and it usually means to the villagers further loss, much annoyance, and some danger. If the Police officer is dishonest, he sometimes declares the case false, and threatens the householder with a prosecution under section 211, and the householder has to send him back well repaid.

And has the chaukidar proved of any service to the State. "He has to attend the police station every week, a mere routine work, which is dissipation of energy pure and simple. When Police officers come to the villages, he has

to serve them as a menial servant." The chaukidars are quite unfit to be trusted with any responsible work, and the Government must give up the idea of establishing an iron grip over the villagers by means of these men.

It is for the maintenance of these creatures that Government has imposed the most iniquitous tax ever conceived by man. The man who has only a brass plate or a goat, has frequently to part with it to meet his chaukidari tax. "The villagers have no longer only chaukidars to maintain, but others too. First, the chaukidar proper; 2nd, the head chaukidar; 3rd, the assistant *punchait*; 4th, the *punchait*; 5th, the tax collector."

To show the iniquities of the system, the *Patrika* then quotes a case in which a village *punchait* of Dollipore, 24-Parganas, was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100 for extortion and wrongful confinement of a Hindu widow.

1608. Referring to the letter recently published by the *Pioneer* on the subject of assaults on Europeans in Chapra, the *Bengalee* regards "the whole story of popular violence and agitation as a myth."

It cannot understand how anything like irritation should be created by the plague measures of the Government of Bengal. They are mild to a degree, and if any trouble has been caused the officers must have hopelessly bungled the measures.

NOTE.—The assaults on the B. L. H. Sergeant and the Superintendent of Salt Revenue have been reported, but this office has no information of the attack on the Plague Officer's camp and the hustling of the District Magistrate. District Superintendent of Police, Chapra, has been asked for a report.

1609. Referring to a letter recently published in the *Pioneer* on the subject of the plague disturbances in Chapra, the *Hindoo Patriot* says: "It is possible that this letter has been written on second-hand information,

because it is beyond possibility that the state of things in Chapra could be so deplorable as has been stated by the correspondent." If such a state of things could exist, the *Patriot* wonders what steps the authorities are taking for its suppression.

The *Patriot* can hardly believe that such strained relations exist between villagers and Europeans, and would be glad of facts and proofs of the statements made by the *Pioneer's* correspondent.

1610. The *Indian Mirror* finds that the Magistrate and Sessions Judge who tried the case in which an English Artist was insulted, interlarded their judgments with much irrelevant matter, and remarks that after the violent pronouncement of the Sessions Judge, the Burmese and Chinese population in Burma will have even a greater grievance against the domineering foreigner than after the Rangoon rape case. The *Mirror* hopes a further appeal lies to the Chief Court. In any case, it would earnestly invite the Viceroy's attention to this race-feeling, which the District Magistrate and the Sessions Judge have done their utmost—probably unconsciously—to foster.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

1611. *Power and Guardian* refers to the affairs of the Sikh States, reported in paragraph 1543, and joins its voice with that of the *Simla News*, in calling upon Lord Curzon to clip the wings of the Political Officers responsible for the state of things therein described.

1612. The *Bengalee* hears that the Maharaja of Tippera is now on a visit to Darjeeling with the object of doing all he can to press his claims to appoint his son Jubaraj in supersession of the claims of his half-brother, the Bara Thakur.

The *Bengalee* hopes that the Government will look to the case and decide it purely on its merits, with strict, impartial justice that swerveth neither to the right nor the left.

The law and custom is clearly explained in a judgment of the High Court on the subject, and the custom of the Bara Thakur's right to become Jubaraj has hitherto been supported by the Courts and the Paramount Power.

BENGALÉE,
23rd May 1901.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
23rd May 1901.

INDIAN MIRROR,
24th May 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th May 1901.

BENGALÉE,
22nd May 1901.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROP AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
19th May 1901.

1613. *Power and Guardian* says that in Mymensingh "not only is there scarcity of water, but the pinch of hunger is beginning to affect the people of certain tracts."

Famine prospects in Mymensingh.

It then quotes a case of a man who would have committed suicide in his desperate circumstances had not the well-to-do of the neighbourhood come to his assistance, and carefully mentions that 'this is not a solitary case.'

"Sir John Woodburn will only maintain his high reputation for kindness and sympathy if His Honour will nip the evil in the bud by taking preventive measures with a view to avert the impending famine."

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
20th May 1901.

1614. Reverting to the subject of the litigiousness of the people (paragraph 1564), the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* finds that the remedy lies in the restitution of the old village

The canker of litigation.

punchait, which system, if re-introduced, would bring peace, contentment and immense relief to millions. No one can deny this. Yet this policy is not adopted, and people are obliged to come to the conclusion that this is so because such an arrangement would mean loss of revenue to Government and the removal of a large number of Europeans from service. Hide it as you may, the real contention is between Government revenue and the interests of a certain class of Englishmen on the one side, and the happiness of the people on the other.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st May 1901.

1615. The following paragraph appears in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—

Death of Mr. Justice Strachey.

The death of Mr. Justice Strachey ought to give a rude awakening to those who value earthly honours and distinctions. As everybody knows, Mr. Strachey came to public prominence by trying the case of Mr. Tilak and sentencing him to rigorous imprisonment for 18 months. Everyone thought that Mr. Tilak would not survive his incarceration; for, not only was he treated like a common felon in the jail, but was also suffering from ill-health. What an irony of fate that Mr. Tilak is yet alive, but the Judge, who passed such ferocious sentence upon him, is no more! It was, however, Mr. Strachey's famous definition of disaffection—want of affection—that made his name familiar to almost every educated man in India. The Tilak case, however, paved the way of Mr. Strachey to occupy one of the highest judicial posts in India at the early age of 39, in supersession of the claims of many a senior and distinguished Judge of the High Court. Mr. Strachey was, however, really an able man, and as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, he had already made his mark by some of his brilliant decisions. We are very sorry indeed that he is cut off in the prime of his life and all his future ambitions are dashed to the ground. We humbly think that, if persons holding responsible positions were to keep the stern fact constantly before their eyes that they might die any moment and be called upon to render an account of their doings to the Great Judge in Heaven, they would be incapable of committing any unworthy acts or treating their less favoured fellow-beings otherwise than as brethren.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
19th May 1901.

1616. *Power and Guardian* regrets that its esteemed friends, the Muhammadans, cannot get through their annual festival

The Patna Mohurram riot.

without creating disturbances. It then gives an account of the Mohurram riot in Patna, which is obviously taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*: "Men are alleged to have been wounded and killed, shops looted, and women outraged. Lathies and even swords were used, and the rowdies had a merry time of it. Several of the wounded persons have since died."

NOTE The District Superintendent of Police, Patna, reports that there is no truth in these grossly exaggerated accounts of the riot, which was witnessed by several of the principal officials of the Patna district.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
19th May 1901.

1617. Referring to the recent plague riots in the Punjab, *Power and Guardian* says: "Justice demands that in all such cases the causes which bring about the disturbances

The Sialkote plague riots.

should be found out first, and the most effective steps taken to prevent their recurrence."

Perhaps the disturbances were not entirely due to the fault of the people, for, according to correspondents of Punjab contemporaries, the populace were goaded to desperation, "fields were overrun and pillaged for the sake of the horses and cattle of the officials," "systematic extortion was practised," "women were dishonoured."

1618. The *Behar News* thinks that in many respects the Midnapur

BEHAR NEWS,
14th May 1901.

The Provincial Conference.

Conference was as formal as the one held in Bhagalpur last year. Behar was unrepresented, and Bengal sent only 80 delegates. Still the papers describe the Conference as having met with unprecedented success. Commenting on the emotionalism that leads the papers to make such statements, the writer concludes, "As at present constituted, the Bengal Provincial Conference is simply bluster of the moment and does not leave the people any good in its train save a few formal symbols and shibboleths."

1619. Referring to the announcement in the *Pioneer*, that 50 arrests had been made in connection with the Sialkote riots, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks as follows:—

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
14th May 1901.

Ibid.

"That is the exact situation. It is the *badmashes* who commit the outrages, and it is the innocent men who are hauled up batch after batch. The former run away after accomplishing their nefarious purpose, and the latter lag behind as spectators, conscious of their own innocence, to fall ultimately into the clutches of the police who enter the scene after the disturbance is over. Need now anybody wonder why India is getting into a land of riots? The *badmashes* know that they can elude the police and it is others than themselves who are punished for their crimes. They thus carry on a roaring trade of lawlessness with impunity. The incapacity of the police is never known to the higher authorities, for many of the innocent persons arrested by the former are adjudged guilty by our scientific courts of law and sent to jail as *badmashes*. And thus riots occur over and over again."

1620. The *Indian Nation* thinks that it is not by agents alone that the work of the Congress is to be carried on. It

INDIAN NATION,
19th May 1901.

Carrying on the work of the Congress.

requires to be supported by literature and journalism, and a force or factor which in character is subtler and less palpable, but in its operation more potent than either of these two.

"It is our daily life and conversation. Society is reformed, when every individual is reformed, and the Congress cause will gain immensely when every member, friend, and supporter of the Congress behaves as a Congressman should. To behave as a Congressman does not mean behaving defiantly and rebelliously. It does not imply discontent or disaffection. It means only honest, independent and patriotic behaviour. And patriotism means the disposition not to indulge in a mere abstract love of the country or the people, but to sympathise with and to actively aid one's own countrymen, real living concrete individuals,—and to exert for their welfare in public and private life. To glow with a perfervid patriotism for three days and almost immediately after to sink into the sycophant and the trimmer is unworthy of an honest man. A man who would religiously avoid purchasing articles of native manufacture, who would never think of sending his son to a school under native management, who would not patronise a native tradesman or professional man, who as a member of a Municipal Corporation or a District Board would always support an official chairman or an official party, who in seeking election to an office employs unworthy arts and solicits official influence, who in voting for others yields to official influence and personal considerations, who in public life is guided by a spirit of *dala dala* and is indifferent to public interests, is an enemy to the cause of the Congress and the cause of the country, though he might speak on the Congress platform or contribute liberally to the Congress funds. And whoever acts honestly and independently according to his professed principles of regard for the country's welfare, is really a friend and supporter of the Congress and may be said to carry on its work, though he may not care to be returned a delegate and formally stamped as a Congressman. Let it, therefore, be distinctly recognised that carrying on the work of the Congress is a thing not to be done merely by travelling agents. It has to be done by a literature, it has to be done by the press, it has to be done by each and all of us at every

moment of our active life. Patriotism or public spirit is not a thing for exhibition. It is not a thing to be reserved for State occasions. Where it is built into the character it regulates all actions, even the smallest. And very often small actions exhibit the real spirit more truly than grand actions. We have to act according to professed principles: that would be carrying on the work of the Congress. But to pose as a Hampden in the Congress gathering and to be a sneak in our daily lives is to frustrate the work at the Congress. To be democratic in profession and to be servile to the officials in our actions, is to act as a coward and a traitor."

INDIAN MIRROR,
17th May 1901.

1621. A Muhammadan writing in the *Indian Mirror* explains that "the present disagreement between the two communities is due to the arrogance of the zamindars, and the racial articles in the newspapers. If the zamindars cease to be abhorrent to the members of the other community and the Editors of Journals put a stop to agitating race animosity and publishing rancorous articles, and the native officials extend their patronage and favour to the candidates of the opposite community, then and then only the union and good will of the two communities can be expected to be achieved. The educated and the well-to-do are to be urged to do their duty faithfully in the amelioration of the mother-country, and their examples will no doubt lead the less educated to follow."

The Muhammadans in general are compelled by the high-handedness of their well-to-do neighbours to think that the Hindus have no sympathy for them, and their disgrace is their highest aim and pleasure. With such notions, can we expect them to join any movement, got up by the Hindus? I need hardly assure the public that as soon as the cause is removed, and a good understanding established, the longed-for and much-needed co-operation will follow by itself.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
12th May 1901.

1622. The *Hindoo Patriot* believes the time has come when natives should make a systematic effort to gain admission into the military service of the country. It finds "nothing objectionable or peculiar in the trait of our national character, or in the ordinary mode and manner of our life which could possibly deprive us of this cherished privilege." Whatever State reasons and political considerations existed for withholding it, they do not possess that force now which they did at the early period of British rule, because the rulers and the ruled are now in closer touch with each other, and the necessity which was not felt then is keenly felt now owing to the changed conditions of life. The objection that natives are lacking in courage and physical strength is regarded as sentimental, and to prove the weakness of such a charge, instances are cited of Bengalees who displayed their courage during the Indian Mutiny, for which they received the recognition of Government. There is, moreover, the case of Lieutenant Biswas who "surprised the world by his military achievements." What wonder then that others better situated and better qualified than he or equally situated would not be able to wear British Military uniform with honour to themselves and to the advantage of their country and Sovereign. The article concludes as follows:—

"His Majesty King Edward VII has ascended the throne amid an outburst of Indian loyalty, and His Majesty will find his Empire of India placed on a more firm footing which will ensure greater solidarity, if he opens for the children of the soil a career in the Military Service as his gracious mother opened for them other higher branches of public services under the Crown. We appeal to the King and His august representative in the East for the fulfilment of this hope, and by doing so they will open a new era in the administration of British rule in this country."

BENGALKEE,
5th May 1901.

1623. The *Bengalee* does not receive with delight the news given out by a correspondent of *India*, that Lord Curzon is about to give up the Viceroyalty to join the Ministry, and will be succeeded by Sir Alfred Milner. Fresh from the scene of strife and bloodshed in South Africa, Sir Alfred is scarcely the man to pursue a liberal policy in this country. "With Sir Alfred Milner as Viceroy and Lord Kitchener as Commander-in-Chief, India will indeed be a most delectable (*sic*) country to live in."

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 1st June 1901.

C. A. P.—Reg. No. 863J—78—6 6-1901.

F. C. DALY,

Asst. to Insp.-General of Police, L. P.