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REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 3rd March 1900.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 19th February says that China is tottering to her foundation. It appears that a big slice of that vast empire will go to Russia. In

HABLUL MATEEN,
Feb. 19th, 1900.

Russia in China. the long run she will be the mistress of China. She is trying to outwit the other Powers by adopting the tactics by which England outwitted the other European Powers in India.

2. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd February has the following:—

HITAVADI,
Feb. 23rd, 1900.

British victory in the Transvaal war.

Boer pride is going to be crushed. So long the Boers had been giving the English great trouble by besieging Mafeking, Kimberley, and Ladysmith, and had been surprising the world by showing unparalleled courage and heroism. But the tide has now turned against them. When we heard that that experienced and seasoned soldier Lord Roberts was going to the front accompanied by Lord Kitchener, the Soudan hero; when we heard that England was filling South Africa with troops; when we heard that no efforts were being spared to prevent help coming to the Boers from outside through the Delagoa Bay, we felt sure that, however heroic and warlike they might be, the Boers were sure to be vanquished in the long run. How long can a handful of Boers oppose countless Englishmen? There can be no comparison between the Boers and the British in wealth and fighting resources. It was, therefore, a foregone conclusion that the English would, in the long run, win.

Lord Roberts kept the public entirely in the dark as regards the policy he would adopt or the line of action he would choose. But considering Lord Methuen's inactivity on the Modder, it was expected that the Modder would be Lord Roberts' objective. This expectation has been fulfilled.

The relief of Kimberley has thrown the Boers into a panic. The indomitable courage and heroism with which they had so long been fighting seem to have been damped. On the retreat of General French from Rensberg with a large body of troops, the Boers tried to annihilate the remaining British troops. The British troops suffered a signal defeat. One company was almost annihilated and two companies were taken prisoners. The British troops were compelled to leave Rensberg to the Boers and retreat to Arundel. But this Boer victory seems to be only temporary. For ten thousand Boers are going from Rensberg to the relief of Cronje, and the British will no doubt reoccupy it. General Hart has taken Colenso. When Kimberley has been relieved, the relief of Mafeking and Ladysmith is imminent.

Fighting was so long going on within British territory. It is now going on in the enemy's territory. It will go hard with Cronje if he is compelled to fight Lord Roberts before the arrival of reinforcements. Lord Roberts has issued a proclamation calling upon the Free State Boers to desist from fighting, and telling them that the English were not maliciously disposed towards them, and believed that they had been misled by their Government. He has also issued another proclamation calling upon his officers to prevent their men from ill-treating the burghers or from robbing their farms. This high-mindedness and generosity will achieve much more than force.

3. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th February writes as follows with reference to the relief of Kimberley:—

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 24th, 1900.

The relief of Kimberley.

There was dense darkness, but now there is light. The sky was covered with clouds, but the clouds are now dispelled, and the full moon has appeared in the horizon. Kimberley has been relieved and on the gate of that diamond city again waves the British flag. Kimberley lay besieged for four months by the Boers, like the full moon swallowed by Rahu. But the Rahu has been driven out, and the full moon shines in all its brilliancy; the Boers have fled and Kimberley has been relieved.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

4. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd February, writing from Bolpur on the East Indian Railway, says that about the 15th or 16th February last, the Assistant Engineer of the East Indian Railway,

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 22nd, 1900.

Two native girls shot by Europeans.

who resides at Burdwan, came with his wife and some friends to that place to shoot. On the morning of the 19th February some shots from their guns struck the two little daughters of Babu Jugal Kishor Sarkar, a resident of the place. Adjoining Jugal Babu's house is a large tank, on the opposite side of which is the facing point of the Bolpur station. The Europeans were shooting the birds in the tank, when their shots struck the two girls, who were standing inside the back door of their house. As soon as the girls cried out, a chaprassi came to them and asked them what was the matter. The sahibs immediately ran to the station, and a little later left the station by the down mail train. The saloon in which they had come from Burdwan was taken back by the goods train, which left Bolpur at midday. The matter has been reported to the police, and is under investigation. The wounds inflicted are not serious, and there is no danger to the lives of the girls.

The editor remarks as follows:—

Can no measures be taken to prevent the shooting of human beings by Europeans? Is there no difference between wild birds and beasts and the Indian people? The poor creatures were standing inside their house with a perfect sense of safety, and there was no protection for them even there from Englishmen's shots. Englishmen have, indeed, become overbold. Finding that the greatest penalty that a European is required to pay for killing a native is a fine of a few rupees, Europeans in this country do not fear to kill natives. The fact that the tank near which the Europeans were shooting is surrounded on three sides by human habitations did not deter them. They did not even care to notice that some people were actually washing themselves in the tank at the time. They could not certainly have acted so recklessly if they had regarded Indians as human beings.

We hate the Europeans for having taken to flight immediately after the occurrence. Leaving behind their saloon, they fled from Bolpur by the mail train! Was it manliness on their part to fly instead of ministering to the wounded girls?

But this is enough. Such evil-doings will not cease, so long as the rulers do not take their resolve to punish the evil-doers with a strong hand.

5. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 22nd February complains that the

an unauthorised notice issued by the Court Police Office, Khulna.

mukhtars and their muharrirs have been prohibited from entering into the Court Police Office in Khulna by a notice probably issued by a Sub-Inspector of Police. There would have been no cause of complaint if the notice had been meant for the public. The mukhtars have been much humiliated by this act of the Police. The District Magistrate or the District Superintendent of Police must be quite in the dark in regard to this. It is said that some young mukhtars wanted to violate the usual practice, and therefore this notice to ostracise them. Otherwise the notice would not have been directed only against the mukhtars and their maharrirs. Security and bail are taken in the office and the mukhtars and their maharrirs have often to go there to sign agreements. What right has a Sub-Inspector to issue such a notice when he has his superiors in the Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police?

6. A correspondent writing in the *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Kakinia, Rangpur] of the 22nd February complains that there has been a

recrudescence of theft in the Nadia and Rangpur districts.

recrudescence of theft at Kumarkhali in the Nadia district. There has also been a recrudescence of theft in Rangpur town and in village Panga in the Rangpur district, but the police has failed to trace the crime in almost every case. On the 1st February last a daring theft was committed in the house of Babu Sukdev Misra of Panga, and property worth nearly Rs. 1,000 was stolen.

7. The *Sanjay* [Faridpur] of the 23rd February complains of the conduct

The Faridpur police arresting without a warrant.

of some police officers of Faridpur. It appears that on the 20th January last, Babu Satish Chandra Ray, a zamindar of Ujani, a village within the jurisdiction of the Mukendpur thana in the Faridpur district was assaulted and wrongfully confined by some members of the Faridpur police. A warrant was issued against Satish Babu under section 107 of the Indian Penal Code. On the 20th

KHULNA,
Feb. 22nd, 1900.

RANGPUR DIK-
PRAKASHI,
Feb. 22nd, 1900.

SANJAY,
Feb. 23rd, 1900.

January, Satish Babu had come to the Faridpur Police Court on business, and here Sasi Sahu, a head-constable, and Samser, a constable of the local police, arrested him. Satish Babu asked the police officers to produce the warrant, but they failed to do so. Thereupon Satish Babu went to the Court of Maulvi Afsaruddin Ahmed and sought his protection. The Deputy Magistrate called on Kumud Babu, the junior Court Sub Inspector, to produce the warrant. He could not do so, and Satish Babu went away. Afterwards, Kumud Ray, Kamini, Samser, and Sasi went to the *melu* ground, and there arrested Satish Babu without a warrant and belaboured him with cuffs and blows. Satish Babu was then violently assaulted and insulted by the police. Satish Babu prosecuted the police officers, and produced Deputy Magistrates, pleaders, and mukhtars as his witnesses, but Mr. De, the District Magistrate, who tried the case, held that the police had a warrant with them when they arrested Satish Babu.

8. Lal Napit of Nichitpur, thana Barabazar, district Manbhum, complains in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd February of a cooly-recruiting abuse. On the 4th January last, the

A cooly case.

correspondent's daughter, Pas Naptini, aged 14 or 15 years, went to fetch water from a neighbouring tank. As she did not return a search was made, but in vain. Suspecting that she might have been enticed away by a cooly-recruiter, the correspondent went to Purulia and waited for some time near the office where coolies are registered. He saw his daughter with some other women and wanted to see her, but was prevented by the peons who were in charge of the coolies. He had, therefore, to wait until the arrival of the cooly registrar, Dr. Rigby, who told him to wait till he had finished the medical examination. Medical examination over, the doctor ordered his orderly to bring the correspondent's daughter, but she could not be found. Upon this he sent him to the Police Superintendent with a letter, who sent a police constable with him to search the cooly depôt. But the search was unavailing. The correspondent again saw Dr. Rigby the next day, and he requested a cooly-depôt Babu to release the correspondent's daughter, but in vain. After making a fruitless search for a few days more, the correspondent again saw Dr. Rigby who ordered his clerk to report the matter to the Magistrate. It was ascertained from the police report that the correspondent's daughter had been recruited by one Fateh Bahadur, who placed her in the depôt of Ghoshal, Sen and Company, but as she was not registered, she was returned to the recruiter. Ghoshal, Sen and Company could not account for the disappearance of the cooly woman. Dr. Rigby, however, held them responsible, and requested the Magistrate to prosecute them. In the absence of incriminating evidence, the Magistrate could not prosecute the Company, but caused a search in Raniganj and other places. At a Raniganj cooly depôt, a girl resembling the correspondent's daughter was found, and the correspondent was called upon to identify her. But when the correspondent reached Raniganj the girl had disappeared. It now appears to be a hopeless task to recover the girl.

The editor thus comments on the above:—

Our correspondent's letter is a touching one. The only way to put an end to the cooly-recruiting abuse is to abolish the Labour Contract Act. Let the coolies and their employers enter into contracts, but let the penal law regarding labour contract be abolished. Under the existing law, men and women are being abducted with impunity. There is nothing which an unprincipled man cannot do for the sake of money. He is not influenced by moral or religious considerations. He lays a snare for unsuspecting men and women, and then ruins them for ever.

The new Cooly Bill proposes to put a stop to some of the cooly-recruiting abuses, but it does not go far enough. Under this Bill no one can be registered as a cooly without the consent of his or her guardian. But the recruiter who can manage to get a cooly registered under a different name can also produce a false guardian to give his consent.

Is there no help for the poor man who is running from one village to another in search of his daughter? We cannot believe that he will not have his grievance redressed under the rule of sympathetic rulers like Lord Curzon and Sir John Woodburn. We humbly beg to draw the attention of the authorities to this case.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 23rd, 1900.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 23rd, 1900.

9. The same paper complains against the Manager of the Dhuli Indigo Factory in the Muzaffarpur district. Some of the raiyats complained to him of the conduct of Mr. Spry, who officiated during his absence as the Manager of the factory, and his Head Clerk and Accountant. The Manager transferred Mr. Spry and intended to prosecute the Head Clerk and the Accountant. The Accountant, however, soon made himself scarce, and the indignation of the Manager was directed solely against the old Head Clerk. The Head Clerk fled from the factory with much difficulty, but his wife was kept under surveillance. It was only at the order of the Joint Magistrate that the Head Clerk's wife could be removed from the factory.

HITAKARI,
Feb. 26th, 1900.

10. The *Hitakari* [Kushtia] of the 26th February writes that a daughter-in-law of Babu Bihari Lal Mazumdar, a zamindar of Kumarkhali in the Nadia district, lately died by hanging. Babu Basanta Kumar Chaudhuri, the local junior Sub-Inspector, who made an enquiry into the case, declared that the girl had committed suicide, and ordered the cremation of the body. Babu Bihari Lal is a rich man, and Basanta Babu, who is a resident of Balia-kandi, a neighbouring village, has many friends and relatives among the Kumarkhali people. Various rumours are afloat relating to this case of alleged suicide. The authorities ought to have sent the body to Kushtia for examination in order to dispel public suspicion. It is hoped that the Subdivisional Officer of Kushtia or the Police Inspector will make an enquiry into the case and drive all suspicion from the public mind.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 21st, 1900.

11. *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 21st February has the following with reference to the decision of the High Court in a motion for the transfer of a case from Mr. Jarbo's file:—

It is a wonder that Mr. Jarbo, an intelligent man and a paid officer of the Government, should get by heart certain catchwords like a parrot and repeat them in season and out of season, thereby lowering the dignity of his position. Mr. Jarbo's explanation was enough for the purpose of convincing the High Court of the undesirability of allowing the case to be tried by him. So Mr. Justice Prinsep has passed the following order in the case: "This case must be transferred. It is desirable that the trial should not be held by the Deputy Magistrate."

Mr. Jarbo has now no doubt perceived what impression has been created in the mind of the High Court Judges by his comments on the case before its trial. It is of course good that Mr. Jarbo wants to put down paddy-cutting, but why did he, without any cause, tell the defendant in the case under notice that he had induced the complainant to absent himself from the Court? He is a Magistrate, and he ought not to have believed anything and everything like an ordinary man. We hope Mr. Jarbo will no longer act whimsically. If he really feels for the poor raiyats, why does he not try to improve the condition of the *khas mahal* raiyats? That would redound to his credit.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

12. The same paper complains that two Honorary Magistrates of Baruipur in the 24-Parganas district have sentenced six people to two weeks' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 20 each for destroying a pumpkin plant. The defendants said that the land on which this plant had grown belonged to them, and the plant was destroyed not intentionally but accidentally. It is hoped that the attention of the District Magistrate will be drawn to the case.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 23rd, 1900.

13. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd February thus comments on the decision in the Hazaribagh case:—
The decision in the Hazaribagh case. In the Hazaribagh case, the police did not charge the accused with murder, fully knowing that they would never be convicted of that offence. The accused were charged under sections 352 and 323 of the Indian Penal Code, and their trial has been finished with electric speed. Mr. Sibbald has been fined Rs. 1,000 and Mr. Meares Rs. 100. It is

not well that such miscarriage of justice should take place under the rule of those who are deluging South Africa with blood on the plea of giving equal rights to all classes in the Transvaal.

When the Deputy Commissioner passed the sentence of fine, even the accused were surprised. The accused pleaded that they gave Gurudayal only a slight push, because he did not *salaam* them. But when he fell down they gave him whisky to drink, and paid a villager Rs. 20 for the nursing he did. When the sentence was passed, Mr. Sibbold said that the widow of the deceased should get something and he would not mind if his fine were enhanced. What kindness!

(d)—Education.

14. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 22nd February complains that the distribution of this year's Convocation cards was confined to the friends and relations of Rai Trailokya Nath Banerjee, Bahadur, Assistant Registrar, and his Assistant, Babu Girish Chandra Mukhopadhyaya. Some editors of vernacular newspapers were refused cards.

NAVA YUG,
Feb. 22nd, 1900.

15. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd February has the following:—
The new dress of the Chancellor of the Calcutta University. From Lord Canning to Lord Elgin, every Viceroy has been the Chancellor of the Calcutta University, but none paid any attention to his dress as Chancellor. Lord Curzon has. As the commonest zamindar wears gilded clothes, the Viceroy of India, when appearing as Chancellor, should not certainly be seen in an ordinary black gown. Lord Curzon has, therefore, caused a magnificent gown to be made, adorned with gold lace, gold frills, and gold thread, and will wear it himself and leave it for succeeding Chancellors. His Excellency should, however, to complete the innovation, introduce the use of such ornaments (ear-rings and bracelets) by the Chancellors of the University, as are worn by Indian Rajas and Pandits.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 22nd, 1900.

16. The same paper writes:—
Appointment of Fellows to the Calcutta University. The Government appointments to the Fellowships of the Calcutta University strike us with surprise every year. But this year's appointments have filled us with more surprise than those of any previous year. There are scores of worthy men in the educational line, who should have been appointed Fellows in preference to those on whom Government has conferred the honour. Babus Surendranath Banerji and Janaki Nath Bhattacharyya of the Ripon College, Babu Khudiram Basu of the Central College, Mr. Fani Bhusan Mukharji, Dr. Prafulla Chandra Rai, Dr. Purnananda Chatterji and Babus Upendra Nath Maitra and Binayendra Nath Sen of the Presidency College, Babus Rajendra Nath Chatterji and Lal Gopal Chakravarti of the City College, Babu Sarada Ranjan Rai of the Metropolitan College, Babu Aswini Kumar Datta of the Barisal Braja Mohan College, Babu Baikuntha Kisor Chakravarti of the Dacca Jagannath College, Babu Sasi Bhusan Datta and Mr. D. N. Mullick of the Patna College, Babu Brajendra Nath Sil of the Cooch Behar College and Babu Uma Charan Banerji of the Burdwan College are all eminent educationists. It is a pity that Government has overlooked their claims and appointed to Fellowships men who will scarcely attend the meetings of the University.

SANJIVANI

17. The same paper has the following:—
Lord Curzon on education. At the last Convocation of the Calcutta University, Lord Curzon said: "The prudent general reconnoitres his country before he delivers the assault. He ponders the respective advantage of flanking movements and of a frontal attack. Above all, he desires to clear the ground of any obstacles that may retard his advance or jeopardise his success. It is for this reason that I have, during the past year, been testing the various drifts or fords in the rivers that lie between me and the enemy and have been delivering a series of attacks upon the smaller positions that separate me from that beleaguered garrison, which I desire to relieve. Various Government Resolutions that have seen the public light will have afforded you some indications of what I mean."

SANJIVANI

That Government has been delivering a series of attacks upon smaller positions, we know perfectly well. But who is the Government's enemy?

The first enemy of the Government is the selection of text-books by natives. The small measure of independence which natives possess in educating their sons and in managing the affairs of the University is the greatest enemy. One of the smaller positions which Lord Curzon has carried by assault is the selection of text-books for the lower classes of vernacular as well as English schools. Henceforward no text-books will be read in the vernacular schools and in the lower classes of English schools which have not been selected by the Government. In this battle, the first to fall was Dr. Guru Das Banerji, the President of the Central Text-book Committee. In his Resolution, Lord Curzon said that the Committee ought to be presided over by the Director of Public Instruction, and Dr. Banerji accordingly resigned. Everybody who has a sense of self-respect should follow Dr. Banerji's example and sever his connection with the Committee. The result of the Government's action in this matter will be that the duty of selecting text-books will ultimately devolve on a class of men whose sole aim is to please the high officials.

The next position that Lord Curzon will attack will probably be the curricula of the Colleges, regarding which it will be laid down that the text-books to be used in the Colleges cannot be appointed without Government's sanction. And Lord Curzon will have completely relieved the beleaguered garrison, when all schools, with their teachers and pupils, will dance to the tune that Government plays, in the same way as the monkey and the bear dance to the tune that is played by their masters.

BHARAT MITRA,
Feb. 23rd, 1900.

18. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 23rd February is glad that a learned Musalman of the Panjab is trying his best to encourage the cultivation of the Hindi language among his co-religionists. In the opinion of this learned Musalman it is a regret that the Musalmans of India do not try to speak the language of their own country. An attempt is being made by the leaders of the Indian people to introduce Hindi in the course of studies in schools in Hindustan Proper, but the effort seems to have produced no effect.

AL PUNCH,
Feb. 23rd, 1900.

19. A correspondent of *Al-Punch* [Bankipore] of the 23rd February is sorry that in the last B. L. Examination not a single Behari Musalman candidate came out successful, and wants to know the reason of the wholesale massacre of the Musalman candidates of Bihar. Certainly he is not an upright man who has committed this massacre. The authorities should take into their consideration the case of the Behari Musalmans, unrepresented as they are.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 23rd, 1900.

20. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd February sincerely thanks the Government for the institution of the post-graduate scholarships. It must, however, be observed that Rs. 100 a month may not prove a strong temptation to that class of scholars for whom they are evidently intended. The remuneration offered should have been higher.

HITAKARI,
Feb. 26th, 1900.

21. The *Hitakari* [Kushtia] of the 26th February writes that the Government of India's resolution on the selection of text-books virtually deprives the Text-book Committees of all their powers. The Committees will now have only to pass their opinion on text-books submitted to them. This is good. But let not Government's favourites be entrusted with the selection of text-books.

DAINIK
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 27th, 1900.

22. A correspondent makes the following complaint in the *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th February in connection with the selection of examiners for the Calcutta University examinations:—

(1). Second-class M.As are coupled with first-class M.As. For instance, Babu Nrisinha Chandra Mukherji is a second-class M.A., but he is bracketted with first-class M.As like Babu Rajendra Chandra Sastri and Mahamahopadhyaya Hara Prasad Sastri. There is a good deal of mystery about Nrisinha Babu.

(2). Three Examiners are appointed where two should suffice. For instance, the case of the B.A., B Course examination may be cited.

(3). Pandits having very little acquaintance with English are appointed Examiners for the Entrance and F.A. examinations. Babus Ramkumar

Chakravarti and Syama Charan Mukerji are instances in point. There is a good deal of mystery about Joges Sastri.

(4). The names of examiners are often removed from the Examiners' list without any cause.

(5). Babu Adhar Chandra Mukherji is being rapidly promoted as an Examiner. He is appointed Head Examiner in History, although there are better and more learned Examiners than he is.

(6). Questions on Sanskrit literature are required to be answered in English.

(7). Babu Nilmani Mukharji, M.A., B.L., is the Principal of the Sanskrit College, and yet he is allowed to examine the students of his own College. He is an Examiner for the M.A. examination.

(8). The large number of Mukharjis among examiners shows that their selection is due to a prominent Mukharji member of the Syndicate.

23. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 28th February has the following in continuation of what it wrote on the same subject in a previous issue (*vide* paragraph 22).

Selection of examiners for the University examinations.

DAINIK
CHANDRIKA.
Feb. 28th, 1900.

(9). The number of Examiners is unnecessarily increasing.

(10). The names of Babu Isan Chandra Ghosh, M.A. and Pandit Mahendra Nath Vidyavidhi have been removed from the list of Examiners without any cause. Isan Babu is an experienced examiner. Pandit Mahendra Nath submitted a note through the Head Examiner, which was accepted by the Board of Studies as well as the Syndicate. Yet he has not been appointed an Examiner this year. It is conjectured that the names of these two gentlemen have been removed from the list of examiners, because they supported the proposal to introduce the text-book on the history of India by Abdul Karim as a University Text-book. The Pandit, however, had nothing to do with this proposal.

(11). People having no educational experience and innocent of Grammar are appointed examiners.

(12). People having connection with schools and pleaders, who were once College Professors, are appointed Examiners. Babu Haricharan Ganguli is an instance in point.

(13). Writers of text-books are appointed members of the Board of Studies in subjects on which their text books are written. For instance, Babu Hara Prasad Sastri is a member of the History Board, and Babu Ashutosh Mukharji, is a member of the Mathematics Board.

(14). Bhowanipur people and High Court pleaders are conspicuous among the Examiners. Baradakanta Vidyaratna, Ramkumar Chakravarti, and Babu Birajmohan are instances in point. It appears that Examiners are largely recruited from among briefless pleaders and Barristers, and from among M.A.s fresh from the examination hall.

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

24. A correspondent, writing in the *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsurah] of the 18th February, says that the river water recedes a long way from Sham Babu's Ghat and Shandeswartala ghât in Chinsura, during an ebb-tide and people have to cross the *char* to get good drinking water. The residents of the villages Daserpara, Kamarpara, and Tolafatak have to use the filthy water which remains in the narrow channel below the Shandeswartala ghât and Sham Babu's ghât. This water is unfit for drinking purposes, and the servants of the residents make it more filthy by washing dirty clothes and cleaning household utensils in it. The Chairman of the Chinsura Municipality is requested to inspect these ghâts during an ebb-tide.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Feb. 18th, 1900.

25. A correspondent writing in the *Charu Mihir* (Mymensingh) of the 20th February, complains that the residents of Sankipara, Kachijhuli, Teghari, and other villages in Ward No. 3 of the Mymensingh Municipality, suffer from water scarcity during the summer every year. There are no good ponds or other water reservoirs in those places. The well, which is being excavated at Kachijhuli, will benefit only a few families in that village. The public will be greatly benefited if a tank is excavated in a central place, accessible to the residents of all these villages.

Water scarcity in the Mymensingh Municipality.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 20th, 1900.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 22nd, 1900.

26. Referring to the notification in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 21st February, directing the removal of the name of Babu Ambika Charan Mukharji, Municipal Commissioner of Bhadreswar from the list of elected Commissioners for disgraceful conduct, the *Sanjivani* (Calcutta) of the 22nd February observes as follows:—

Municipalities have been in existence in Bengal for a long time, but we do not know if the name of any Commissioner was ever removed from the list of Commissioners for disgraceful conduct. We are in favour of such removals, but should the names of the only elected Commissioners be removable for misconduct or should nominated Commissioners and Government servants also be removable for that reason? A definition of what constitutes disgraceful conduct should also be given. We, for instance, would call it disgraceful conduct on the part of an official to witness the performances of *nautch* girls or theatrical performances in which prostitutes take part as actresses. Would Government dismiss any official who is present at any such performance? We could name many things else which would constitute disgraceful conduct of a far more serious nature. But we forbear from mentioning them. All we want to ask is, whether elected Commissioners alone or all public servants high and low will be liable to dismissal for disgraceful conduct.

(h)—General.

HITAKARI,
Feb. 26th, 1900.

27. The *Hitakari* (Kushtia) of the 26th February is glad that Lord Curzon is going to pay a visit to Assam. It is hoped that he will not allow himself to be misled by the tea planters, but will personally inspect the condition of the coolies.

BHARAT MITRA,
Feb. 26th, 1900.

28. The *Bharat Mitra* (Calcutta) of the 26th February has the following:—
It is a matter of gratification that Lord George Hamilton has of late spoken highly of the bravery of the Indian troops. In his opinion Indian troops alone should be able to hold the Russians at bay, however superior they may be in number. The thing which the Government of India ought to do first of all is that the Indian troops should be given arms of greater precision and superior calibre. The Boer War will bring us very little in the shape of profit. But to fight with the Russians is India's duty. The Indians will bravely meet the Russians. The Government itself has seen the heroism of the Indian troops in the last frontier war. If Sikh and Gurkha soldiers get an opportunity of fighting with superior arms, they will fight very skilfully. As the Russians are hopefully looking forward to the day when they will invade India, so the intense desire of the Indians is that they may be once given the chance of meeting the Russians.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 22nd, 1900.

29. The *Sanjivani* (Calcutta) of the 22nd February has the following:—
The Government has at last come to see that it acted very wrongly by enacting the cooly law. But it finds it difficult to extricate itself from the position in which it has placed itself. The tea-planters are a powerful body of men. It is not easy to ignore or disregard their demands. Whenever Government has attempted legislation for the benefit of the coolies, the planters have opposed it with all their might. The present Assam Labour and Emigration Bill, which proposes to raise the pay of male coolies from five to six rupees, and of female coolies from four to five rupees and makes it incumbent on cooly recruiters to obtain the consent of the guardians of female coolies before sending them to the tea-gardens, has elicited a strong protest from the tea-planters, and Government has, therefore, shelved the measure this year. It has desisted from passing a measure which is calculated to benefit thousands of innocent coolies, and has girded up its loins to pass a law which will benefit only Reuter and the *Pioneer* newspaper at the expense of a large number of Indians. Should the Government of India look after the welfare of only a handful of self-seekers, or should

it look to the well-being of the mass of the Indian population? The shelving of the Association Labour and Emigration Bill has made us extremely sorry.

30. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd February writes that owing to the strong Anglo-Indian opposition against the Assam Labour and Emigration Bill, its consideration has been postponed for the present. It was not expected that the Bill would be passed in the teeth of Anglo-Indian opposition.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 23rd, 1900.

The Assam Labour and Emigration Bill.

31. The same paper has the following:—

HITAVADI.

The Whipping Act.

The Whipping Act has been passed. The Indian Penal Code was amended in 1895, and we fail to understand what necessity has arisen to amend it again within so short a time. It is well-known that the people of this country look upon whipping with fear and hatred. Imprisonment leaves no mark upon the body, but the marks left by whipping last as long as life. There are many who do not even hesitate to call whipping a barbarous form of punishment. There are Magistrates in this country who do not hesitate to sentence people to whipping either out of malice or out of heartlessness. The Barh case and the case of Nidhiram Uriya are still fresh in the public mind. We expected that the Government would so amend the whipping law as to prevent Magistrates from hastily and recklessly sentencing people to whipping, and thereby leaving even innocent people branded for life. But so great is our misfortune and so cursed the soil of this country that our expectations have not been fulfilled even under Lord Curzon's rule; the scope of the law has been extended. An amendment was moved, proposing that if an accused person sentenced to whipping intended to appeal against the decision, the sentence should not be executed within fifteen days from its passing. This amendment, however, was not accepted by the authorities. This increase of the powers of the Magistrate will only increase the suffering of the people. The amendment of the Whipping Act has caused us no little pain and anxiety. The provision relating to the infliction of whipping in a rape case will, however, meet with the approval of some people.

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

32. *Al-Punch* [Bankipore] of the 23rd February is sorry that the Lord Mayor of London, seeing that a large amount has been contributed in England to the Indian Famine Relief Fund, has changed his mind. Lord George Hamilton, at the instance of Mr. Chamberlain, intends to set apart a portion of the fund for the benefit of the families of the soldiers killed or wounded in action in the Transvaal war.

AL PUNCH,
Feb. 23rd, 1900.

Diversion of the Indian famine relief fund in England to other purposes.

33. The *Hitakari* [Kushtia] of the 26th February writes as follows:— No one expected that England would come to the rescue of the famine-stricken in India in her present crisis. Even Lord Curzon did not expect any help from England. But thanks to their noble-heartedness, the English public have already contributed to the Famine Relief Fund more than what has been contributed in India. We heartily and sincerely thank England; she has not forgotten us even in her danger.

HITAKARI,
Feb. 26th, 1900.

England's sympathy with the famine-stricken in India.

URIYA PAPERS.

34. Referring to the practice, now adopted in the North-Western Provinces, of destroying hides with the object of preventing the spread of cattle-plague, the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 24th January points out that a similar practice has been adopted in the Bamra Feudatory State with appreciably good results.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Jan. 24th, 1900.

Prevention of cattle-plague in an Orissa Feudatory State.

35. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 7th February is glad to notice an act of kindness and charity on the part of Mr. Phillimore, the District Magistrate of Balasore, who, finding two Indian lady pilgrims

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Feb. 7th, 1900.

A kind act of the Magistrate of Balasore.

robbed of everything that they had in their possession, helped them with passage money from his own pocket in order to enable them to reach their homes in safety. The writer adds that acts like this are calculated to bind the rulers and the ruled into a happy bond of union.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
Feb. 8th, 1900

36. Referring to the transfer of Rai Radhanath, Rai Bahadur, the late Inspector of schools, Orissa, and Babu Gopal Ballabh Das, the Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Orissa Division to Bengal districts, the *Samvadvaika* [Balasore] of the 8th February observes that this is a move in the right direction, as this will enable those officers to show their ability to the advanced people of Bengal, who have even up to this time entertained a very low opinion of the natives of Orissa.

SAMVADVAHIKA.

37. Referring to the large purchases of rice and paddy by Marwarees near different railway stations in Orissa for export, the same paper points out that the inland trade is passing out of the hands of the natives of Orissa to those of foreigners, and that the Uriyas will at last be compelled to confine themselves to their paddy-fields and ploughshares, and attend to no other laudable or lucrative business.

SAMVADVAHIKA.

38. The same paper is informed that the subordinate railway officials in Orissa are in the habit of blackmailing poor and ignorant Uriya passengers, who know nothing of railway rules, and that this vice is a marked feature of the proceedings of such officials at the Jallesore Station. The writer draws the attention of the higher authorities to the same.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Feb. 17th, 1900.

39. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 17th February is glad to notice that the Maharaja of Jeypore has contributed one lakh to the Transvaal fund, and that attempts are being made to procure similar contributions from other sources. The writer notices with satisfaction that many kind-hearted gentlemen in the United Kingdom have, notwithstanding the war-scare, found means to subscribe a handsome sum towards the relief of the famine-stricken in India, and adds that this mutual regard for each other's interest is one of the solid foundations on which the vast empire of Her Imperial Majesty rests.

UTKALDIPIKA.

40. The same paper looks upon the expected visit of His Excellency, the Viceroy of India, to the distant and backward province of Assam as a move in the right direction, for His Excellency will thus find an opportunity of examining the state of the tea-gardens, and the effects of forced labour by which they are maintained. The writer has no doubt that an intelligent Viceroy like Lord Curzon will not find it difficult to make the people of Assam appreciate the first Viceregal visit to their province in a proper manner.

ALL URIYA PAPERS.

41. The death of Sir William Hunter is mourned by all the native papers of Orissa. He was looked upon as a friend of India, who had studied Indian problems with great care and attention and was therefore in a position to advise the English people properly in their administration of the Indian dependency with success and profit, while his matchless pen has left behind him a large number of learned volumes, bearing mostly on Indian topics which must perpetuate his memory among Indians for whom he worked and died.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Feb. 17th, 1900.

42. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 17th February opposes the proposal of the local authorities to abolish the Anantpur outpost of the Soro thana in the Balasore district, which was once abolished and was re-established after much deliberation. The writer strongly objects to the hasty undoing of much good that has already been done in this direction, especially as the people of Anantpur are willing to have such an outpost in their midst.

ASSAM PAPERS.

SILCHAR,
Feb. 14th, 1900

43. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 14th February complains that there is no Brahman cook in the Government boarding house attached to the Silchar school, but servants cook food for the boys. Consequently the Brahman

and other high caste students have to cook their own food. This causes much inconvenience to them. We hope that a Brahman cook will be appointed. There is at present accommodation for only sixteen boys in the boarding house. More accommodation should be provided.

44. A correspondent of the *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 16th February complains of the hasty manner in which the business of the second Munsif's Court in Maulvi Bazar, Sylhet, is gone through. Babu Grish Chandra

The second Munsif of Maulvi Bazar.

Sen, the Munsif, is an extremely hasty-going man, and does not give the parties time to write out their petitions or even to get the attendance of their witnesses noted. He is extremely unwilling to grant more than six or seven days' time for the service of summonses on witnesses. It has so happened that he has ordered warrants to issue against witnesses before the summons issued against them have come back to court. He advises pleaders to inform their clients of the dates of hearing by telegraph, and does not give the parties sufficient time to produce their witnesses.

In the cases in which there is no appeal, the Munsif is seldom guided by the law. He takes up documents at his pleasure, and reads their contents, but does not mark them. It is also said that he does not take down such portions of the depositions of witnesses as are not to his liking. At times, the Munsif puts questions like the following to the parties or their witnesses:—"The last witness said such and such a thing. You, too, will say the same?" "You are a good-natured man, you, of course, know nothing of the case?" and so on. The Munsif reads newspapers when the examination of witnesses goes on, and takes down a word here and a word there at his pleasure. He signs the depositions before the cross-examination is finished, and has often to strike out his signature in order to take down more deposition. If the District Judge or the High Court sends for the records of this Munsifi relating to the cases which were summarily disposed of during the months of November, December, and January last, it will be clear how witnesses were examined in those cases.

PARIDARSAK,
Feb. 16th, 1900.

45. The same paper writes as follows with reference to the Chief Commissioner's remarks on the Murari Chand College, Sylhet, on the occasion of the distribution of prizes in that institution:—

The Murari Chand College, Sylhet.

The Chief Commissioner regretted that the College building was in a very unsatisfactory condition. But the founder of the College has to spend about Rs. 5,000 a year for its maintenance. Considering the numerous calls on him at present, this expenditure, no doubt, presses heavily on him. It reflects great credit on the founder that he ungrudgingly bears this heavy expenditure.

The Assam Government is going to found a College and a boarding house for Assamese students. It will be a great gain to the Sylhet public, if the Assam Government favours the Murari Chand College with a small monthly grant.

PARIDARSAK.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 3rd March, 1900.

