



SAOA
South Asia
Open Archives

Report on native papers for the week ending March 9, 1889

Source: *South Asia Open Archives*, 03-09-1889

Contributed by: Bengal (India). Bengali Translator's Office.

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/saoa.crl.26164808>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

This item is being shared by an institution as part of a Community Collection.

For terms of use, please refer to our Terms & Conditions at <https://about.jstor.org/terms/#whats-in-jstor>



JSTOR

South Asia Open Archives is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *South Asia Open Archives*

REPORT
ON
NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 9th March 1889.

CONTENTS :

Page.	Page.
I. — FOREIGN POLITICS.	(e) — Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—
The Russo-Afghan difficulty ... 203	Conservancy arrangements in Calcutta ... 207
The Hon'ble Curzon on Russia ... ib.	The sanitary condition of Chatmohar, in the district of Pubna ... ib.
II. — HOME ADMINISTRATION.	The new list of voters for the Calcutta Municipality ... ib.
(a) — Police—	(f) — Questions affecting the land—
Obscene writings on the walls of houses in Calcutta ... ib.	The Tenancy Act ... 208
The Police ... ib.	(g) — Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—
The working of Act V of 1861 at Ula in Nuddea ... 204	The Budge-Budge Railway ... ib.
Thefts at Thakurgaon in Dinagepore ... ib.	Inspection of the Midnapore Canals by Mr. Finucane ... ib.
(b) — Working of the Courts—	(h) — General—
A peon of the Rungpore Munsif's Court ... ib.	The breaches in the embankment of the Damodar ... ib.
The Ranigunge Munsifi ... ib.	The Simla exodus ... 209
Postponement fees in the Civil Courts ... ib.	The working of the Income-tax Act ... ib.
The Deputy Magistrate of Satkhira ... 205	The native soldiers in the Tibet War ... ib.
Major Hopkinson, Cantonment Magistrate of Bar-rackpore ... ib.	Drunkenness at Sanrapul ... ib.
(c) — Jails—	The Crawford affair ... 210
Nil.	Mr. Maguire as Assistant Secretary to the Govern-ment of India, in the Foreign Department ... ib.
(d) — Education—	Mr. C. J. Hogg, of the Post Office ... ib.
A theatrical performance at the Ranigunge School ... ib.	Mr. Beames ... 211
The Sanrapul school ... ib.	An Excise Commissionership for Bengal ... ib.
An education tax in India ... ib.	The Bombay Mamlatdars ... ib.
Mr Alfred Croft and the female students of the Campbell Medical School ... 206	Sir Auckland Colvin and Hindu festivals... ib.
An education tax ... ib.	III. — LEGISLATIVE.
A military class in each Presidency College ... ib.	The Probate and Administration Bill ... 212
Text-books for Middle Vernacular and Intermediate Examinations ... ib.	Bejewelled children ... ib.
The D. L. Examination scandal ... 207	
Head Examinership in the Calcutta University ... ib.	

	Page.		Page.
IV.—NATIVE STATES.		Conservative dinner at Liverpool ...	211
Mr. Howell in Hyderabad ...	212	The Education Gazette ...	21
The Mahomedans of Cashmere ...	21		
Sir Lepel Griffin and the Gwalior State ...	213		
		URIVA PAPERS.	
V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.		Nil.	
Nil.			
		ASSAM PAPERS.	
VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.			
Nationality in India ...	21	Free leases of land to coolies ...	21
The Magistrate of Berhampore ...	21	A registry office at Fochugunj... ..	21
Abakari Hajj-Begum ...	21		

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Name of newspaper.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Date of papers received and examined for the work.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Kasipore Nibhai"	Kasipore, Burrial ...	30	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
2	"Ahammadi"	Tangail, Mymensingh	450	
3	"Aye Maria"	Calcutta	.....
4	"Divakar"	Ditto	.....
5	"Gaura Duta"	Maldah	.....
6	"Grambadi"	Uluberia	800	
7	"Purva Bangabadi"	Noakhali	.....
8	"Purva Darpan"	Chittagong	700	
9	"Uttara Banga Hitaishi"	Mahiganj, Rungpore...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
10	"Arya Darpan"	Calcutta	102	22nd February 1889.
11	"Bangabadi"	Ditto	20,000	2nd March 1889.
12	"Bardwan Sanjibani"	Burdwan	202	26th February 1889.
13	"Chandra Vilash"	Berhampore	250	
14	"Charuvarita"	Sherepore, Mymensingh	500	25th ditto.
15	"Chattai Gazette"	Chittagong	800	
16	"Dacca Prakash"	Dacca	1,200	
17	"Education Gazette"	Hoochly	885	1st March 1889.
18	"Garib"	Dacca	3,000	
19	"Gaurab"	Ditto	.....	28th February 1889.
20	"Hindu Banjika"	Beaulah, Rajshahye...	300	27th ditto.
21	"Jagbadi"	Calcutta	760	
22	"Mushidabad Patrika"	Berhampore	508	
23	"Mushidabad Pratinidhi"	Ditto	350	1st March 1889.
24	"Navabidhakar Sadikarani"	Calcutta	600	4th ditto.
25	"Praja Bandhu"	Chandernagore	995	1st ditto.
26	"Pratikar"	Berhampore	600	
27	"Rungpore Dik Prakash"	Kakania, Rungpore	305	21st February 1889.
28	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	600	27th ditto.
29	"Samaya"	Ditto	3,806	1st March 1889.
30	"Sanjivani"	Ditto	4,050	2nd ditto.
31	"Samsiddhi"	Chittagong	800	
32	"Santi"	Calcutta	3,724	
33	"Sarkawat Patra"	Dacca	300	
34	"S-on Prakash"	Calcutta	1,000	4th ditto.
35	"Srimanta Saudagor"	Ditto	.....
36	"Sulabha Samachar and Kusadaha"	Ditto	800	1st ditto.
37	"Surali and Pataka"	Ditto	700	25th February 1889.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<i>Daily.</i>				
38	"Dainik and Samāchār Chandrikā" ...	Calcutta ...	1,500	5th & 6th March 1889.
39	"Samvād Prabhākār" ...	Ditto ...	800	28th Feb. & 1st to 6th Mar. 1889
40	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	300	28th Feb. & 1st to 7th ditto.
41	"Bangā Vidyā Prākāśikā" ...	Ditto ...	500	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	.....	4th ditto.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
43	"Darjeeling Mission ke Māsik Samāchār Patrikā" ...	Darjeeling ...	30	
44	"Kāshtriyā Pratikā" ...	Patna ...	300.	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
45	"Aryāvarta" ...	Calcutta ...	1,500	2nd ditto.
46	"Behar Bandhū" ...	Bankipore ...	.....
47	"Bhārat Mitra" ...	Calcutta ...	1,663	28th February 1889.
48	"Sār Sudhānidhi" ...	Ditto ...	500	
49	"Hindī Samāchār" ...	Dacca ...	1,000	
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
51	"Jām-Jahān-nūmā" ...	Calcutta ...	250	1st March 1889.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
52	"Afīal Alum Arrah" ...	Arrah ...	300	
53	"Akhhār Tasdīq-i-Hind" ...	Calcutta ...	.....
54	"Anis" ...	Patna ...	.....
55	"Gashur" ...	Calcutta ...	196	28th February 1889.
56	"Sharaf-ul-Akbar" ...	Behar ...	183	
57	"Al Pūsh" ...	Bankipore ...	.....	28th Feb. & 4th March 1889.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
58	"Akhhār-i-darūsalṭanat" ...	Calcutta ...	340	
<i>Daily.</i>				
59	"Urdu Guide" ...	Calcutta ...	212	28th Feb. & 1st to 7th March 1889.
URDU.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
60	"Taraka and Subhāvartā" ...	Cuttack ...	.....
61	"Pradip" ...	Ditto ...	.....
62	"Samyashali" ...	Ditto ...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
63	"Utkal Dipikā" ...	Cuttack ...	444	
64	"Balasore Samvad Vāhikā" ...	Balasore ...	2-5	
65	"Urya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	600	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
66	"Silchar" ...	Silchar ...	500	25th February 1889.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
67	"Paridarsak" ...	Silchar ...	450	

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Dacca Gazette*, of the 4th March, does not agree with the *Pioneer* newspaper in thinking that correct information of affairs on the Afghan border and in Russian Turkestan can be obtained by stationing British officers at Herat, Maimena and Balkh. As British officers, these men will look at the affairs upon which they will be required to report with the jaundiced eyes of Russophobists, and the information they will supply will not therefore be very correct or reliable. And as military men they will be tempted to conduct themselves in a way which may lead to serious complications with Russia. The *Pioneer's* proposal will work well if impartial officers can be had for the purpose. But such officers cannot be had, and it will be therefore unwise to waste public money in endeavouring to give effect to the proposal.

DACCA GAZETTE,
March 4th, 1889.

2. The *Dainik and Samachar Chandrika*, of the 5th March, says that if it had like the Hon'ble Curzon praised Russia for her knack of winning over conquered races, it would have had to make atonement by letting the public executioner take off its head. But an Englishman can say anything he pleases, and anything he says or does is good. But for a native to say or do even what is good is bad. For the natives are a conquered race. But are not the Turkomans of Central Asia also a conquered race?

The Hon'ble Curzon on Russia.

DAINIK AND,
SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March. 5th, 1889.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Sahachar*, of the 27th February, draws the attention of the Deputy Commissioner of the Calcutta Police to obscene writings on the walls of houses in Calcutta. This is most probably the work of wicked boys. But boy or adult, some of these offenders should be made examples of by being sent to jail.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 27th, 1889.

4. The *Surabhi and Pataka*, of the 28th February, says that the Government of India now sees that the police is not so skilful in putting down crime as in harassing innocent people. It has therefore called upon the Provincial Governments for a report on the working of the police. But the public are greatly interested in the question of police reform, and they too should be therefore consulted by the Government of India in regard to the police. The most startling statement that can be made regarding the police is that though, in virtue of the duty entrusted to it of protecting the life and property of the people, it ought to be loved by them, the real fact is that they fear it more than they fear thieves and dacoits. There are many reasons why the police is corrupt and given to committing acts of oppression. The police regulations require the officer in charge of an outpost to keep a horse. But the head-constable, who is the officer in charge of an outpost, gets a salary of only Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 per month. He must therefore take bribes if he must keep a horse, besides maintaining himself and family. And the promotion of police officers depends upon the number of persons they can get convicted. So when information of any crime is brought to the police, it tries to get some person, whether guilty or not, convicted. And the result is that many innocent persons have to suffer punishment—at any rate much trouble. In Bengal alone seventy-five thousand persons were harassed in this manner last year. The police is a great disgrace to the English Government, which does not, it seems, wholly dislike police oppression.

SURABHI & PATAKA,
Feb. 28th, 1889.

BANGABASI,
March 2nd, 1889.

5. A correspondent of the *Bangabási*, of the 2nd March, says that the extension of Act V of 1861 to Ula, a village situated within the Ranaghat Municipality in Nuddea, has been attended with great trouble and inconvenience to the villagers. The head-constable of the local outpost does not know how to read or write, and cannot therefore release on bail people charged with offences under the conservancy sections of the Police Act, and all such people have consequently to be sent to Ranaghat. The people have thus to attend the Magistrate's Court at Ranaghat three or four times in order to get themselves released on bail, and as there is no Honorary Bench at Ula, they have to dance attendance at the Ranaghat Magistrate's Court for several days to answer charges upon which they cannot be fined more than four or eight annas!

BANGABASI.

6. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the prevalence of thefts at Thakurgaon in Dinagepore. In the month of Pous last, a theft was committed at the house of the local Munsif.

Thefts at Thakurgaon in Dinagepore.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

RUNGPORE DIK
PRAKASH,
Feb. 21st, 1889.

7. The *Rungpore Dik Prakash*, of the 21st February, says that some time ago a peon of the Munsif's Court, Rungpore, went to a gentleman's house to execute a decree. He wrote out a notice on the spot, put it up on the gentleman's house, and asked the decree-holder to point out the judgment-debtor, in order that he might attach property without loss of time by entering into the house. The notice ran as follows:—

"Remove your family within an hour, I shall enter into the house and attach property." The notice bore only the signature of the peon, and was not sealed with the seal of the court. On being questioned on this point, the peon replied: "I have lawfully served the notice: you are at liberty to inform the court of my proceedings." The gentleman had no money just then, and he therefore asked the peon to wait for two or three hours to enable him to get money. The peon replied that if money was not paid within one hour, he would enter into the house and attach property. The judgment-debtor thereupon offered to pay the peon Rs. 2 as illegal gratification, but the peon would not take a pice less than Rs. 5. The judgment-debtor then offered to pay the amount of the decree, but the peon refused to accept money, saying that he had been ordered to attach property and to do nothing else. On the peon's declining to take money, he was told to go away. He thereupon asked the judgment-debtor to pay him some money as reward. Bribes are thus extensively taken by court peons and the court amla. Is there no remedy for this?

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 26th, 1889.

8. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 26th February, in noticing the complaint of a correspondent that cases are postponed 12 or 14 times by the Munsif of Ranigunge, says that if this is true suitors must be suffering serious inconvenience, but the Munsif is not to blame for this. Government should appoint an Additional Munsif at Ranigunge.

The Ranigunge Munsifi.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

9. A correspondent of the same paper says that the suitors in the Civil Courts are harassed by demands for postponement fees every time they have to apply for a warrant against a witness or for the production of a document. This fee has to be paid without demur, and it is pocketed by the pleader. But the question is who is entitled to this fee,

Postponement fees in the Civil Courts.

the opposite party or his party? If the party, why is it pocketed by the pleader? The correspondent would like to know what the pleaders have to say to this. This demand for postponement fees prevents many suitors from compelling the attendance of an absent witness, and thus many lose their just causes. The judicial officers are requested to be very careful in granting postponement fees.

10. A correspondent of the *Som Prakāsh*, of the 4th March, says that, though a competent judicial officer, the Deputy Magistrate of Satkhira does not pay regard to the convenience of suitors and witnesses. Cases are called by him four or five days after the date fixed for their hearing, and are then postponed to a future date. This causes great inconvenience to suitors and witnesses. The Deputy Magistrate does not also give timely notice of the place in which he intends holding his Court on a particular day during his tour.

SOM PRAKASH,
March 4th, 1889.

11. The *Dainik and Samāchār Chandrikā*, of the 6th March, says that Major Hopkinson, Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore, recently fined a native Rs. 25 for making a fence with bamboo sticks instead of wood. But the Major fined the European soldier who shot at a native girl only Rs. 5. Strange justice this! Major Hopkinson has been in Barrackpore for 15 or 16 years, and he ought to be at once transferred. Government should also consider whether he should be at all allowed to do judicial work.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 6th, 1889.

(d)—Education.

12. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 26th January, says that there was recently a performance of the Albert Theatre at the Ranigunge school premises. This is the first time that a theatrical company with actresses of ill-fame has been allowed to act a play at the school premises. It is said that the Magistrate has written to the Secretary of the school on the subject.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 26th, 1889.

13. The *Samaya*, of the 1st March, says that the members of the Managing Committee of the Sanrapul school, in the 24-Pergunnahs, asked Government for money last year for the purchase of furniture for the school. Government replied that there was no money then available for the purpose, and that money would be shortly given. It is hoped that a grant will be soon made for the purpose.

SAMAYA,
March 1st, 1889.

14. The *Sulabh Samāchār and Kushdaha*, of the 1st March, does not agree with those who think that high education has made so much progress in India that it can now take care of itself, making it the duty of Government to remain in exclusive charge of primary education.

SULABH SAMACHAR &
KUSHDAHA,
March 1st, 1889.

The census report of 1881 shows that out of every 100 persons, only eight have received education—a percentage not so high as to justify the withdrawal of Government from high education.

It is rumoured that Sir Alfred Croft is in favour of a proposal for the imposition of a fixed tax per head on all school-going boys in every family in India. A tax of this kind is objectionable on many grounds. The Indians are already paying heavy school fees for the education of their children, and if they have to pay an education tax in addition, many of them will be obliged to withdraw their boys from school. Again, there are many who do not consider it their duty to educate their children, and an Education tax will make education still more unpopular among such men.

It is difficult to understand how Government, which does not yet spend on education even one per cent. of its revenue, can think of a special education cess for this country. It should be the duty of Government to compel all Indian parents to send their children to school. But instead of doing that, it is going to make it difficult for many Indian parents, who are now sending their children to school of their own accord, to continue to do so! And to complete the mischief, it is proposed to make the Boards the taxing agency for education. Will Local Self-Government mean oppressive taxation and nothing more?

BANGABASI,
March 2nd, 1889.

15. The *Bangabasi*, of the 2nd March, takes the following from the *Sakti* newspaper:—

Sir Alfred Croft and the female students of the Campbell Medical School.

"It is reported that the Director of Public Instruction has caused photographs to be taken of all the young female students who are now reading in the Campbell Medical School. It is difficult to understand what object the Director of Public Instruction could have in doing this. This has caused a sensation among the guardians of these female students."

SANJIVANI,
March 2nd, 1889.

16. The *Sanjivani*, of the 2nd March, has heard that the Secretaries to the Bengal Government have proposed the imposition of an education tax in Bengal.

An education tax.

But the people have already become sick of taxes, and an education tax will be simply intolerable to them. It is hoped that Sir Steuart Bayley will not accept this proposal of his Secretaries.

SANJIVANI.

17. The same paper says that Government has not yet given permission to the natives to enrol themselves as Volunteers; but the Nizam is going to open a military class in his college for the purpose

A military class in each Presidency College.

of teaching the art of war to respectable native youths within his State. Cannot the Government too open a military class in each of the Presidency Colleges? How long will Government distrust native loyalty? All the nations of the world are preparing for war, and India has enemies on all sides. So, if the Indians are not taught the art of war, it will be impossible for England to save her Indian Empire in the case of a universal war.

DACCA GAZETTE,
March 4th, 1889.

18. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 4th March, says that the first duty of the Educational authorities should be to spread scientific knowledge in the country on a large scale. The smattering of scientific

Text-books for Middle Vernacular and Intermediate Examinations.

knowledge imparted in Middle Vernacular schools is of little use to the students in their daily life. Thousands of boys again give up their studies in the lower classes of the Vernacular schools, and their course of study should be therefore so regulated that they may, whenever they leave school, be in possession of useful instruction in the trades and professions peculiar to their respective classes.

The books fixed for the 3rd class of a vernacular school are read by the candidates for the Intermediate Examination. Many boys, however, and especially the children of cultivators and tradesmen, read only up to the intermediate standard, and they do not therefore acquire a knowledge of practical mathematics. For such boys the History of Bengal is useless reading. Some broad historical facts from such a book as Rames Chandra Datta's History of India ought to be enough for them in the way of historical reading. They should have a knowledge of the general properties of matter. Such verbose books as the *Akhyánmanjarí* should not be selected for their study. Their reading books should consist of useful and instructive lessons on a variety of subjects.

19. The *Dainik and Samáchar Chandriká*, of the 6th March, asks the Senate of the Calcutta University to inquire whether there is any truth in the rumour that examiners for the next D. L. Examination have been selected in a manner which has compelled a member of the Syndicate to resign. The Syndicate, it should be observed, has been latterly falling in public estimation, and it will go down still more if the new scandal is not satisfactorily cleared up.

The D. L. Examination scandal.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 6th, 1889.

20. The same paper is astonished to hear that the Head Mathematical Examiner in the Entrance Examination has directed marks to be given only to the right answers, and not to wrong answers, even though the solutions be correct. This is clearly an unfair principle to follow in assigning marks. But the Head Examiners, it is to be feared, are having it all their own way; for authority, to whomsoever granted, has a strong tendency to be rather vigorously exercised. It is to be noted that irregularities in connection with the Entrance Examination have been on the increase since the institution of the Head Examinership.

Head Examinership in the Calcutta University.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

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

21. The *Samvád Purnachandrodaya*, of the 1st March, complains of bad conservancy arrangements in the Calcutta Municipality. Refuse matter deposited on the streets is removed only once in the morning, and all refuse matter deposited subsequently is allowed to remain and rot on the streets. And when there is a shower of rain the process of decomposition is so vigorous as to make the public streets extremely filthy and offensive. Again the shoemakers of Thunthunia and Beadon Street throw out on the streets small bits of rejected leather which also undergo decomposition and vitiate the atmosphere. The Commissioners ought to make better conservancy arrangements.

Conservancy arrangements in Calcutta.

SAMVAD
PURNACHANDRODAYA,
March 1st, 1889.

22. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 4th March, says that the *Baral* river has further dried up this year and scarcity of water is already felt at Chatmohar. It is therefore easy to imagine what the sufferings of the people of Chatmohar from this source will be in *Chaitra* and *Baisakh*. There are not in Chatmohar open spaces where the people can perform offices of nature, and they there perform those offices within their houses which, however, are very small and possess no night-soil service. And so the place is full of stench, which makes it a hotbed of cholera and other diseases in Baisakh. If Government does not attend to this, the public health of Chatmohar will not improve.

The sanitary condition of Chatmohar in the district of Pubna.

SOM PRAKASH,
March 4th, 1889.

23. The *Samvád Prabhákar*, of the 6th March, is surprised to find that 25 per cent. of the names contained in the corrected list of voters for the Calcutta Municipality are the names of deceased persons. Again, hundreds of rate-payers' names were sent from each ward for registration as voters, but perhaps only one per cent. of those names represent new names which have been registered, and all the remaining names have been rejected. The names of those managers of firms and members of joint families who, by mistake or otherwise, did not state in the printed form supplied by the Municipality who among them would go to vote, have been omitted, whilst the names of deceased voters continue on the list.

The new list of voters for the Calcutta Municipality.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR
March 6th, 1889.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

SOM PRAKASH,
March 4th, 1889.

24. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 4th March, says that the Tenancy Act has proved a source of trouble to both zemindars and ryots all over the province. It has increased the expenses of law suits and has given rise to many difficulties. Government thinks that the operation of the Act has been, on the whole, satisfactory; but in many places the new rent-receipts have not yet been granted by the zemindars. The matter requires careful consideration.

The Tenancy Act.

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

SOM PRAKASH,
March 4th, 1889.

25. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 4th March, says that the Budge-Budge Railway should be carried through the Fulta Fort and Norpore as far as the Gewankhali station on the Diamand Harbour Railway. If this is done, and a branch line from the Chota Nagpore Railway is carried to Midnapore, communication with Orissa will be considerably facilitated. The first of these works should be undertaken at once.

The Budge-Budge Railway.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March. 6th, 1889.

26. The *Dainik and Samāchār Chandrikā*, of the 6th March, is glad to learn that Mr. Finucane, the Director of Agriculture, will inspect the Midnapore irrigation works accompanied by an Engineer. But the inspection will not be successful if men possessing a special knowledge of the Midnapore district are not invited to take part in it. Baboo Bama Charan Paramanik, the able and experienced Sub-Engineer of Burdwan, knows every part of the Tumlook and Contai sub-divisions, and has made the canals and embankments of Midnapore his special study. He should be, therefore, associated with Mr. Finucane; and if it is considered necessary to take in a European Engineer, Government's choice should fall upon Mr. Vertannes the old Engineer.

Inspection of the Midnapore Canals
by Mr. Finucane.

(h)—General.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 26th, 1889.

27. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 26th February, says that the distress caused at Kalara and Jankuli by breaches at those places has been described in the *Calcutta Gazette*. On account of this distress the zemindars of those places have not been able to pay the Government revenue, and these and some other neighbouring estates have been therefore sold by Government. The distress is gradually increasing, and it is to be hoped that Government will set about remedying the evil without delay. An important and intelligent zemindar of the locality has expressed the following opinion on the subject of the breaches in the embankment of the Damodar:—

The breaches in the embankment of
the Damodar.

“Examining the benefits and injuries resulting from old and new breaches or outlets, both closed and left open within or in the vicinity of our family talooks, and analysing their respective causes, I found that though the banks of the Damoodar were well-defined they varied from 6 to 20 feet in height. This undulation in the marginal belt of the river, with its connection with the neighbouring pits of the country, which abound in those provinces and which are the best rice-fields in the country, appears to regulate the extent of injury or benefit caused by each individual breach. The fact is that it is only when an outlet lies on a low point of the bank and finds its way into a neighbouring pit or pits, it proves injurious to the country, as it not only carries away a volume of water when the river is high enough to require some relief for the protection of the left bank embankment, but continues to carry water into the connected pits, submerge crops standing on them and raise them with a barren coating of sand to the great loss and suffering of the

owners, when the river falls to a much lower level and no longer requires any relief for the benefit of the left bank embankment. It is important to add here that the high floods of the Damoodar scarcely, if ever, continue unabated for more than a day, after which time the river apparently requires no outlet for relieving its pressure on the embankments. Furthermore I beg to observe that the velocity of the flood water and its consequent injuries are in proportion to the obtuseness of the angle which the outlet or breach forms with the channel of the river. The heaviest loss is always occasioned when the course of the flood bears directly upon the land. Outlets of other descriptions have always proved beneficial to the country."

The results of the writer's own observation of the effects of eight to ten breaches tally with what is quoted above. It is hoped that an observation of the effects of every breach which has occurred in the embankment of the Damodar will enable the officials to remove the distress of the people by effecting an even distribution of the flood-water. The writer can point out to the Collector or to any other respectable Government officer the breaches from the observation of which he has come to the conclusion stated in the letter quoted above.

28. The *Sahachar*, of the 27th February, says that it is a matter of congratulation to know that the Viceroy will leave Calcutta this year rather late, because

The Simla exodus.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 27th, 1889.

this amounts to a partial admission on the part of Government that it is its duty to stay in Calcutta. But there is nothing to be really thankful for in the postponement of the exodus for two or three weeks and in the curtailment of the travelling allowances of a few poor clerks. The delay of this year may be compensated for next year by commencing the exodus much earlier, say in the end of February. Whenever a new Viceroy comes, it is rumoured that he will not go to Simla. But any promise on the subject which a Viceroy elect makes in England is forgotten as soon as he comes to India and listens to the counsels of the Anglo-Indian officials and their wives, and one season's Simla air and gaiety so spoil the Viceroy that the next year he himself becomes its most ardent lover. This is why the evil is not remedied.

29. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 27th February, refers to several cases of oppression and highhandedness practised on poor people by assessors and Deputy Collectors in the assessment of the income-tax, and

The working of the Income-Tax Act.

HINDU RANJIKA,
Feb. 27th, 1889.

remarks that Government may levy the income-tax if its pecuniary difficulties compel it to do so, but it should by no means allow such highhandedness in the assessment and collection of the tax.

30. The *Samaya*, of the 1st March, refers to the low scale in which

The native soldiers in the Tibet War.

SAMAYA,
March 1st, 1889.

rewards have been given to the native officers and soldiers who went to the Tibet war, as showing that a most invidious race distinction is yet made in British India. The writer is also dissatisfied that no rewards have been given to the camp-followers. Did the camp-followers display no bravery, and were they unable to fight? Considering that the native soldiers do not rise to high offices like their English comrades, and that they do not, like the latter, fight for their own country, and that they fight only for a foreign Government, the scale of rewards should not have been made lower in their case.

31. The same paper says that the grog-shop near the Sanrapul school is a source of great disturbance to that

Drunkenness at Sanrapul.

SAMAYA

school. Some time ago, some drunkards broke open the door of the school and fouled the benches. Two notorious drunkards of the village often stand naked in front of the school during school-hours, and behave most shamefully. It is hoped that the grog-shop will be removed to a place at some distance from the school.

SANJIVANI.
March 2nd, 1889.

32. The *Sanjivani*, of the 2nd March, has learnt that the members of the Crawford Commission have found Mr. Crawford guilty on all the counts, and

The Crawford affair.

that the Secretary of State has, for the purpose of sparing that gentleman further injury and disgrace, instructed the Bombay Government to treat the report of the Commission as a confidential document. If this is true, the action of the Secretary of State must be unreservedly condemned as one which is extremely likely to be demoralising in its effect. There can be no doubt that if Mr. Crawford had been a native, no favour would have been shown to him, no special Commission would have been appointed for his trial, and he would have been treated like an ordinary criminal and sent to jail. The Anglo-Indian newspapers would in that case have called all the natives of India corrupt. But the Anglo-Indians, who plume themselves upon their purity, whenever a native is found guilty of corruption, are supporting Mr. Crawford. They affect to believe that Mr. Crawford is perfectly innocent, and that he has fallen a victim to Mahratta guile. This attempt to exculpate Mr. Crawford, by throwing all the blame on some innocent Mahratta Brahmins, is far from fair, and the attack made upon Mahratta Brahminism is absolutely groundless. If all the witnesses examined before the Commission had been Mahratta Brahmins, there might have been some ground for the insinuation. But the editor of the *Indu Prakash* has clearly shown that among the witnesses there were not only other Brahmins than Mahratta Brahmins, but that 40 of the Mahrattas examined belonged to other castes, and 35 witnesses were Lingayets, 11 or 12 were Mahomedans, 13 were Parbhus and 40 were Guzeratis and Marwaris. Four tributary princes also deposed against Mr. Crawford. No sane man will believe that so many men belonging to so many communities could, out of mere spite, give false evidence against Mr. Crawford, knowing that they were thereby subjecting themselves to a criminal prosecution, either for giving illegal gratification or for perjury. Surely the writers in the Anglo-Indian press, who are supporting Mr. Crawford, do not really believe that Mr. Crawford is an innocent man.

Again, the scandalous conduct of which Mr. Crawford was guilty, soon after his admission into the Civil Service, does not show that he is a man of strict moral principles. And the man who had not enough self-control to refrain from seducing another man's wife may well have had recourse to bribery to provide money for the life of debauchery and voluptuousness to which he apparently gave himself up. So long as Government does not promptly punish such of its officers as misbehave themselves, and put a check upon their evil doings, those officers will not learn to behave better, and will seriously compromise the public service itself. If Government had dismissed Mr. Crawford from its service when he enticed away another man's wife, the present disgraceful affair would not have occurred. But the Bombay Government did not speak one word on that occasion, and thus allowed Mr. Crawford to be precipitated from one vice to another.

SANJIVANI.

33. The same paper takes exception to the appointment of Mr. H. F. J. T. Maguire, Joint-Magistrate of the 24-Per-gunnahs, to the Assistant Secretaryship of the Government of India in the Foreign Department. Mr. Maguire has shown no exceptional ability for which he should receive such promotion.

Mr. Maguire as Assistant Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

SANJIVANI.

34. The same paper is surprised to find Mr. C. J. Hogg, son of the Director-General of the Post Office of India, promoted so suddenly from the 4th grade of Superintendents, the pay of which is Rs. 200, to the 3rd grade, the pay of which is Rs. 300 rising to Rs. 400. Mr. C. J. Hogg has also been appointed

Mr. C. J. Hogg, of the Post office.

a superintendent of the Burma Railway Mail Service, enabling him to draw the Burma allowance over and above the pay of his new grade.

No one knows what special merit Mr. Hogg has to deserve this extraordinary promotion. There are many men who have been serving all their lives without receiving promotion, and the claims of many deserving officers have been probably overlooked in order to give this double promotion to the son of the Director-General. Is there no remedy for such injustice?

35. The same paper is alarmed to hear that Mr. Beames, who was lately degraded to the Commissionership of the Bhagulpore Division, is going to be re-appointed as a Member of the Board of Revenue. The charge against Mr. Beames was very serious, and the punishment meted out to him was not considered adequate. It was rumoured some time ago that Sir Henry Harrison would be promoted to the Board of Revenue, and it is hard to understand what has led Sir Steuart to change his choice. Sir Steuart is a kindhearted man, and it is probable that his good nature has led His Honour to pardon Mr. Beames. But it will not be politic to pardon Mr. Beames so easily and within so short a time.

SANJIVANI.

36. The same paper has heard that Mr. Westmacott will make a tour throughout Bengal next year for the purpose of inspecting outstills, and suspects that the creation of a new appointment in the shape of an Excise Commissionership is in the contemplation of Government. There were at one time three Excise Commissionerships in Bengal, but they were abolished one after another, because their retention was considered unnecessary. And the necessity of re-creating one of such posts, especially at a time of financial difficulty like this, is not at all clear. The people are overburdened with taxes, and the expenditure of Government exceeds its income, and yet new appointments are being created for Englishmen almost every day. It is a matter of great regret that Government's extravagance has not been checked even under the administration of Sir Steuart Bayley. But if the creation of the post of Excise Commissioner is considered imperative, some person having sympathy with the natives, and not Mr. Westmacott, should be appointed to the post.

SANJIVANI.

37. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 4th March, says that the question of dealing fairly by the Mamlatdars who have admitted having given bribes to Mr. Crawford is a perplexing one. If Government punishes them, it will be guilty of breaking its own promise. On the other hand, it is necessary that there should rest no stain on the reputation of a judicial officer. The best way of solving the difficulty will be to pension off these mamlatdars.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI
March 4th, 1889.

38. The same paper says that Sir Auckland Colvin is a very clever official, and he therefore proposes to prevent such affrays as usually take place between Hindus and Mussulmans, when Mahomedan religious festivals and Hindu religious festivals come off at the same time, by prohibiting the Hindus from celebrating their festivals publicly when the Mussulmans are celebrating theirs. That Sir Auckland can think of interdicting Hindu festivals in favor of Mussulman festivals is because the Hindus are a mild and gentle people, who would not be likely to clamour against such interference with their religious practices. It is the officials themselves who by their indiscreet acts make the Indian people unruly. Is not this measure of Sir Auckland's calculated to produce very grave consequences in future?

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SABACHAR,
Feb. 27th, 1889.

39. The *Sahachar*, of the 27th February, says that great mischief will result from entrusting executors in this country as is proposed to be done in the Will and Probate Acts Amendment Bill with the same powers which are exercised by executors in England. The Calcutta High Court has protested against this proposal, but Mr. Scoble attaches no weight to this protest. He says that the enquiry which is now made by the law-courts in this country, before permitting an executor to sell property, is only nominal. This is not so. The Judges do not permit an executor to sell property unless there is special reason for selling it. Even with such restriction on their selling power, many executors manage to cheat their wards, and incalculable mischief will be produced if the restriction is removed. Suppose an executor sells the Government securities of his minor ward under the new law, without the permission of a law court. The minor, on coming of age, will be able to institute a suit for setting aside the sale. The fear of being subjected to such vexatious proceedings will prevent many respectable men from becoming executors. The state of things in England in this respect is also very different from that which exists in India. In India women are *pardanasheens*, whereas in England they go out and freely consult barristers and attorneys. Even so intelligent a native lady as the late Rani Rashmani was cheated. Mr. Scoble was at Bombay, and the natives with whom he most mixed there are Parsis who have become anglicised, and who are therefore not a fair specimen of the natives of India as a body. The court of wards protects minor zemindars, but minors who are not zemindars will be completely at the mercy of the executors if the provision under notice is made law. The country does not want such a provision in the administration law. That Mr. Scoble is concerning himself with legislation of this kind is simply because he has nothing else to do. The Congress wants to put a stop to such mischievous law-making, and there can be no doubt that it has made its appearance very seasonably.

GAUHAR,
Feb. 28th, 1889.

40. The *Gauhar*, of the 28th February, requests Government to pass a law without delay making it penal for parents to allow their children to appear in the public streets with jewellery on their persons. Bejewelled children.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

SABACHAR,
Feb. 27th, 1889.

41. The *Sahachar*, of the 27th February, says that Nawab Mehdi Ali has become Abdul Huq to Mr. Howell. There are two hostile parties in Hyderabad—one composed of Mr. Howell and Nawab Mehdi Ali, and the other of the Nizam's ministers. Like Mr. Cordery, Mr. Howell, is trying to exercise sovereign authority in Hyderabad. As usual, conspiracies are being hatched. Mr. Howell should no longer be allowed to remain in Hyderabad.

URDU GUIDE,
March 2nd, 1889.

42. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 2nd March, draws attention to the following grievances of the Mahomedans residing in the Cashmere State:—

The Mahomedans of Cashmere.

- (1). The confiscation of the Jumma Musjid by the Cashmere Durbar.
- (2). The want of suitable burial grounds for Mahomedans. The burial ground established by Sher Shah cannot admit more burials.
- (3). The absence of a Mahomedan in the State Council. The Mahomedan population of Cashmere is by no means small.

but they have no voice in legislation or in the administration of the State.

43. The *Sanjivani*, of the 2nd March, says that Sir Lepel Griffin has placed many obstacles in the way of a good administration of the Gwalior State, and has increased public expenditure in that State in so reckless a way as to threaten it with ruin. Before his death the late Maharaja Scindia placed his minor son in the hands of Lord Dufferin, with the request that the British Government would look after his welfare. If the British Government does not now discharge that sacred trust and save the Gwalior State from the ruinous effects of Sir Lepel Griffin's measures, it will make itself responsible to both God and man, and an indelible stigma will attach to its name. The people of India will thank Lord Lansdowne if His Excellency can succeed in re-establishing peace and order in the Native States in Central India.

SANJIVANI,
March 2nd, 1889.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

44. The *Sahachar*, of the 27th February, refers to Sir Lepel Griffin's contention that Dadabhai Nowroji, who is a Parsi, cannot be rightly called a representative of India as Lord Ripon and some others have declared him to be, ~~and asks whether this is a wilful misstatement, or only an error natural to a~~ European with his peculiar notions of nationality. Some Anglo-Indians, among whom are some undoubted friends of the Indians, like Mr. Wilson, of the *Indian Daily News*, argue in exactly the same way. They argue that Dadabhai is a Parsi. Parsis cannot intermarry with Hindus and Mussulmans. Dadabhai cannot therefore be a representative of Hindus and Mussulmans. But the argument goes a little too far. Justice Romesh Chandra Mitter cannot marry his daughter to Justice Gurudas Banerjea's son. *Ergo*, the two Judges cannot represent one another and are not members of the same nationality. Again, no orthodox Hindu will perhaps subscribe to Mr. Malabari's views on Hindu social reform. But who will on that account deny to Malabari and the Hindus alike the same Indian nationality? It is such erroneous ideas about nationality that lead Englishmen to think that the Hazara and other tribes of Afghanistan were anxious for the establishment of British rule among them, and that the Burmese also yearned for English domination. A reference to the proceedings of the last Congress will show what an error it is to deny a common Indian nationality to Hindus, Mussulmans, Parsis, &c. When Mr. Mehta, in the second day's sitting of the Congress, referred to "the dark man," the whole assembly seemed electrified and cheered. In the third day's sitting, when a religious mendicant cried aloud that Hindus, Mussulmans and Christians had become one people, cries of "Parsis," "Parsis" rose on all sides. The fact is that all India has become one for political purposes, and thousands of Lepel Griffins, nay, thousands of Lord Dufferins, will not be able to undo that.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 27th, 1889.

45. The *Samaya*, of the 1st March, refers to an alleged order of the Magistrate of Berhampore that no one should drive upon the municipal road in front of his house, as such driving is very unpleasant to his wife, and asks whether the vagaries of the mofussil officials will never end.

SAMAYA,
March 1st, 1889.

46. The same paper says that Abakarij Haji Begum, a daughter of the late ex-King of Oudh, has suffered greatly from the way in which the Nawab's property has been distributed. She now wishes to go to Mecca, but finds

SAMAYA

herself unable to do so for want of money. She has therefore asked Government to give her ten thousand rupees for the purpose. Government wastes many thousands of rupees, and it is to be hoped that it will not reject this prayer of the late ex-King's daughter.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI.
March 4th, 1889.

47. The *Navavibhakar Sádharani*, of the 4th March, referring to the Conservative dinner at Liverpool, at which a Mussulman guest was proclaimed as a true representative of the Queen's loyal Indian subjects, and which was meant as a counter-move to the dinner given by the Liberals to Mr. Dadabhai Nowroji, says that by acting in this way the Conservatives have only trod in the footsteps of those Anglo-Indians who are trying to excite race-animosity in India by showing undue favour to the Mussulmans.

SAMVAD
PURNACHANDRODAYA,
March 7th, 1889.

48. The *Samvād Purnachandrodaya*, of the 7th March, says that the *Education Gazette* has never been able to dispense with a Government subsidy, and the writer heartily desires that it should go on receiving that subsidy. The present editor of the *Gazette* is a very able man, and the writer will be glad to see the paper taking its place among the leading Bengali journals under his editorship.

ASSAM PAPERS.

SILCHAR,
Feb. 25th, 1889.

49. The *Silchar*, of the 25th February, says that the proposal of the Chief Commissioner of Assam to grant free leases of land to coolies whose terms have expired is a good one. But as the coolies are compelled either by force or by guile to renew their agreements with the planters, little good will come of this proposal.

SILCHAR.

50. A correspondent of the same paper says that the Fechogunj Registry Office, which was abolished some time ago, should be re-established. The re-establishment of the office will be a source of profit to Government, and will be attended with increased convenience to the people of Fechogunj. The number of deeds registered under the Transfer of Property Act and under the Assam Land Revenue Regulation has increased four times. The people of Fechogunj have to go to the office of the Sudder Sub-Registrar to have their deeds registered. This is troublesome in itself, and is all the more unpleasant owing to the rude and insulting behaviour of the Sub-Registrar. The Sudder Sub-Registrar uses disrespectful language towards those who come to his office to register documents, and behaves so rudely to females that they get confused and frightened and cannot give correct answers to his questions. He does not go to the riverside to examine the women who come in boats to register documents. He has them brought to his office, and sometime makes them unveil their faces. He also keeps women waiting for a long time. Two to four palanquins containing women are always to be seen in front of his office. The Registrar-General of Assurances, Madras, has issued a Circular to all Sub-Registrars enjoining upon them the necessity of being courteous to native ladies and females who come to them on business, and directing them to provide suitable accommodation for them. It is necessary to issue a similar circular in Bengal.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 9th March 1889

Printed at the Bengal Sect. Press.—Reg. No. 31880—68—123 89.