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[No. 11 of 1903.

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 14th March 1903.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 7th March has heard that some 1,210 Indian coolies have not been allowed by the Cape Government to land in Cape Colony, and they are therefore returning to India. Lord Curzon, who is anxious to introduce the agricultural implements of Europe into India, so that the Indian farmers may till their grounds with facility, does not think it worth his while to adopt measures for providing with food those Indians who, to earn their living, go to foreign countries to serve as coolies. Those 1,210 coolies ought, when they have returned to India, to make their living by plunder throughout the country.

BHARAT MITRA,
Mar. 7th, 1903.

The Cape Government's treatment of Indian coolies.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna], in its issue of the 4th March, publishes the following accusation against the Police of Kalna:—

A serious allegation against the police of Kalna in the Burdwan district.

In investigating a case of dacoity in the house of Rasick Chanral in the village of Arjuna, near Kalna, the police apprehended some Sonthals on suspicion.

It is reported that, for the purpose of extorting confession, the Sonthals were cruelly tortured, and that on a winter night water was poured upon their bodies and they were exposed to draughts of air from a winnowing fan. The result was that one of the accused, an old Sonthal, named Ganesh, was tortured to death. Sarada, the widow of Ganesh, lodged a complaint against the police before the Subdivisional Magistrate of Kalna, and fell at the feet of the officer and implored his help. The *Hakim* told her to file a written complaint. The police at that time drove her cruelly out of the Court. Nothing has been heard about her since then. The poor widow did not get justice from the Subdivisional Officer. Could not the *Hakim* take down her oral statement? How could he remain unmoved after hearing this accusation against Babu Gauri Gopal Gupta, the Police Sub-Inspector? On Saturday the 28th February, when Gauri Gopal Babu was giving his evidence in the above dacoity case, the *mukhtar* of the accused cross-examined him on this point, but he refused to admit all the facts of the case. It is the duty of the Subdivisional Officer to enquire into the facts, when such an accusation has been made against the police. This case of murder is being talked about everywhere in Kalna.

3. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 5th March states that depredations have been committed by tigers in the village of

Tigers in a village in the district of Khulna.

Lakhpur in the district of Khulna. The villagers prepared a trap for catching the tigers. Two ferocious tigers have been thus trapped, one of them being four and-a-half cubits in length and the other 6 cubits long. There is no knowing the number of tigers which have appeared in the village. If the authorities issue an order to the villagers requiring them to clear the jungle in the village, this danger may disappear.

4. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th March says that the other evening when a gentleman was driving from the Barrackpore railway station to Manirampur, his carriage was chased by two drunken soldiers, who over-

took the carriage and severely belaboured the coachman and the horses. Considering the difficulty of identification, the gentleman has not sought redress in a law court, but has brought the matter to the notice of the cantonment authorities. Will no steps be taken to protect the people of the country from these brute-like European soldiers?

5. A correspondent of the same paper makes the following complaints against the Kendua police in the Mymensingh district:—

(1) A dafadar, resident of Raghabpur, took three months' leave. When he returned from leave, the thana people demanded from him Rs. 15, as consideration for giving him permission to

PALLIVASI,
Mar. 4th, 1903.

KHULNA,
Mar. 5th, 1903.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1903.

HITAVADI.

return to duty. This he failed to pay, and his post was given to the officiating man.

(2) A similar demand was made from Chaukidar Padma Lochan De of Ranchandrapur. But being the tenant of a rich zamindar, he succeeded in bringing the matter to the notice of the Inspector and got back his post.

(3) The police made no investigation in the two or three cases of theft which occurred in quick succession in the house of Lal Mohan Babu of Sajura.

(4) The Kendua police keeps in its service eight or ten unpaid peons or constables, whose duty it is to accompany the Sub-Inspector when he goes to investigate cases. These men commit great oppression on villagers.

HITAVADI.
Mar. 8th, 1903.

6. A correspondent of the same paper draws the attention of the Inspector-General of Police to the hardship which has been caused to many head constables by their

reduction to lower grades in the recent police reorganization. These head constables have lost heart and no good work can be expected from them. Many head constables are still sitting idle on the outposts which have been abolished. Many large outposts have been placed in charge of junior head constables. The number of thanas established in the place of abolished outposts is too few for the purpose of checking crime. The plafform constables in the Sealdah railway police have had no superior officers placed over them.

NIHAR,
Mar. 10th, 1903.

7. A correspondent of the Nihar [Contai, Midnapore] of the 10th March writes that a large crocodile has come to a pond in the village of Kantai, in the subdivision of Contai in the district of Midnapore. Owing to the appearance of the animal, the villagers have become unable to use the pond. The animal may easily be killed if a hunter be sent to the village.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 5th, 1903.

8. A correspondent writes from Magura to the Sanjivani [Calcutta] of the 5th March that Babu Sasi Bhushan Chatterji, the Deputy Magistrate of Magura in the Jessore district, is taking an unusual interest in the establishment of a theatre in Magura town. He has already made a donation of Rs. 100 to the theatre from his own pocket, and it is rumoured that he will soon pay Rs. 200 more to it. Many people say that he is paying all this money from the Local Coronation Festivities Fund, whilst there are others who say that he is also collecting subscriptions for the theatre in the mufassal. The subdivision has many real wants, such as water-scarcity, to the removal of which the Coronation Festivities Fund ought to be devoted. Did the Deputy Magistrate consult the Coronation Committee before he paid the money belonging to the fund to the theatre? Again, is it right that he should apply himself to collecting subscriptions in the mufassal? Few people have the boldness to refuse to pay subscriptions when asked for by a Deputy Magistrate.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 8th, 1903.

9. The Beguserai correspondent of the Hitavadi [Calcutta] of the 6th March makes the following complaints against Babu Bhagavati Charan Mitra, Babu Bhagavati Charan Mitra, who was the first late Munsif of Beguserai. Munsif of the place some time ago :—

(1) It is always impossible for a Munsif to take up all the cases which are fixed for a day; but cases which cannot be taken up on the fixed date are postponed by the court of its own motion. A different procedure, however, used to prevail in Bhagavati Babu's Court. He used to compel either of the parties to apply for postponement in such cases. If in any case this trick failed, he inflicted loss and trouble on the parties by compelling their attendance from day to day. The parties who complied with the Munsif's request to apply for postponement were, however, refused postponement at a later stage of the case, even if postponement was really needed. The case of Anrita Lal Bhikari Lal *versus* Bhola Sen, instituted in 1902, will prove the above allegation.

(2) Bhagavati Babu used to take up three or four cases at once, and heard the evidence in each for a few minutes or at most an hour each day. Even petty cases, therefore, took a long time to come to an end. The case of Panna Lal and others *versus* Tukhan Ram, Ram Chandra, and others, cases

Nos. 184 and 217 of 1900 for the establishment of titles, and several other cases, are cited in support of this allegation.

(3) The Munsif Babu used to receive presents from, and place himself under obligations to, parties whose cases lay pending in his court. Cases in proof are given.

(4) The Munsif Babu did not know Hindi and this used to cause much inconvenience and sometimes unnecessary expense to the parties.

10. The same paper says that Mr. Bain of the Kumpuirgram tea-garden in Assam, who was charged with the murder of a

The treatment of a European prisoner. coolly, but who was convicted at the Silchar Sessions only of simple hurt and sentenced to six months'

simple imprisonment, was taken from the Silchar hotel to the Silchar jail in the Civil Surgeon's carriage, accompanied by the District Superintendent of Police, the Jailer, and the Civil Surgeon. Mr. Bain was also given permission, during his detention in the Silchar jail, to visit his friends in the hotel and join in their amusements. From Silchar he was brought down to Calcutta in a first class railway carriage, accompanied by the District Superintendent of Police and two constables as his body guard. He will most probably receive a fitting reception at the Alipore Jail also, where he will be detained during the remaining period of his term of imprisonment. But has anybody ever seen such attention paid to a native prisoner? After the attention which has been shewn to Mr. Bain, would it be wrong for anybody to say that he received so much attention from the authorities because he was charged with killing a black native. Mr. Bain's treatment will be an incentive to other Europeans to commit the crime for which he has been punished.

11. Referring to Mr. Bain's case, recently disposed of in the Silchar Sessions, the same paper observes as follows:—

Mr. Bain's case. We admit that Mr. Bain did not intend to kill

the poor cooly, but that, blinded by rage and encouraged by the partiality which is shewn to accused Europeans in the law courts all over the country, he subjected the poor man to such cruel punishment that he died. But this circumstance did not in the least lighten the colour of his crime. Everybody must admit that the Judge and jury in this case were guilty of meanness and partiality in not finding the accused guilty of culpable homicide and that the sentence passed on the accused by the Judge was extremely light. Do trials like this add to the glory of British rule?

12. The *Basumatli* [Calcutta] of the 7th March publishes the affidavit

The Munsif of Ranaghat in the Nadia district. which has been submitted to the District Judge of Nadia by Gaur Charn Bhattacharyya of Fulia against Babu Rama Pati De, Munsif of Ranaghat.

The affidavit shews that the Munsif conducts himself so rudely towards witnesses that even rustics do not like to come to his court. The Munsif always conducts himself in an overbearing manner. The writer has learnt many other things against the Munsif. It is not right for a Munsif to be in the temper of a District Superintendent of Police. He should keep a temper worthy of a Munsif. If Ramapati Babu does not mend his ways after this, more unpleasant things will have to be written regarding him.

13. The same paper says that the lessons which the Corbett case, recently disposed of in the High Court Sessions, has taught

The Corbett case. the public are that the evidence of a single European

is more trustworthy than the evidence of a number of natives; that the slap from a European's hand, no matter on what part of a native's body, is sure to cause his spleen to burst; that European jurors are always anxious to prevent a failure of justice; that grave and sudden provocation may be occasioned to a European without the least cause; that, though a Judge fails to find out the cause of such provocation, he does not hesitate, for that reason, to concur in the verdict of a jury, and that fourteen days' imprisonment is sufficient punishment for a European who happens to kill a native.

14. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March writes as follows:—

The Corbett case. In delivering judgment in the Corbett case, Mr. Justice Hill reviewed the verdict of the jury in

the following manner:—

"The jury has no doubt, as I have already observed, found that you acted under grave and sudden provocation. What was that provocation? Your

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1903.

HITAVADI.

BASUMATI,
Mar. 7th, 1903.

BASUMATI.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 7th, 1903.

servant outstayed the leave, which you yourself had granted him by some two or perhaps three hours. It is not shown by the evidence that you or your wife were thereby put to inconvenience. Her nurse was present as soon, apparently, as her services were required, and it does not appear that there was anything wanting either to the comfort or well-being of your wife in consequence of the man's prolonged absence. Can it be justly said that the provocation which, the jury have found, prompted your act, amounted to more than this that while you yourself were in a state of not unnatural anxiety on your wife's account, and may have been desirous that your cook should be about the place while her confinement was imminent, he remained away for those two or three additional hours under the attractions of the tamasha to which he had had your permission to go? When he returned you spoke to him about being so late, and his demeanour was not disrespectful to you."

The verdict astonished the Judge; and is there any sensible man whom it will not astonish? The jury said that the accused gave the deceased a slap but did not kick him. So a slap on the cheek ruptured the poor man's spleen! The nurse's evidence is curious in that she saw everything except what happened immediately after the slapping.

In the well-known Hoff case of Allahabad, Mr. Justice Aikman also passed a stricture, similar to that which has been passed by Mr. Justice Hill in the Corbett case, on the conduct of the European jury who had given a verdict of not guilty. But is there any remedy for the evil? It is a defect in the character of the European jury.

To Corbett, Mr. Hill said:—

"I cannot too strongly condemn the practice of which unfortunately the examples are not few which have had fatal results, of striking native servants, and I hope that this case may prove a warning to you and to others of the danger which it involves. Of the cowardice of striking a man who is incapable of resenting or returning as one of your own countrymen would assuredly do—violence of the kind I need say nothing. Your act has been instrumental, I need not doubt, though for that fact it is true you are not legally responsible in depriving a young man of his life and in bringing sorrow and probably destitution in his family."

Words so sweet and inspired by such noble sympathy with the weak will certainly make many a good-hearted Englishman blush for Corbett's crime. Mr. Hill has expressed sympathy for the deceased's widow. But will not that sympathy take a tangible shape? Just imagine how helpless her condition is to-day.

Ali Hossain's spleen was ruptured, and spleens are often ruptured in this fashion. Will no one devise means by which spleens can be made stronger and not as liable to rupture?

15. The same paper says that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce has done

Delay in trial of cases in the of the Calcutta Police Court by accusing them of greed which, the Chamber says, is one of the causes of postponement of cases and consequent delay in the dispensation of justice in the Police Court. A pleader here and a pleader there may be guilty of the offence, but the honesty of the entire body should not have been impugned for that reason. Many cases in the Police Court are conducted by police inspectors. These police officers are generally unfit for this legal work and are often pitted against able and expert lawyers, and the delay complained of by the Chamber is not often caused by mistakes committed by the former. In delivering judgment in a recent case, Mr. R. D. Mehta, Honorary Magistrate, expressed the same opinion and said that Government should engage lawyers to conduct important cases in the Police Court.

16. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 7th March has the following:—

Publication of sale notices in Though sanction has been given to the publication of notices of sales in the law Courts in some of the weekly native papers, it seems that the object of the publication is not being gained, the object being that the public may know of the sales beforehand. The notices of sales are published in some of the native papers after the dates of the sales. The publication serves no useful purpose and simply troubles parties with its cost.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 7th, 1903.

NAVAYUG,
Mar. 7th, 1903.

17. The same paper has the following :—

Mr. B. L. Gupta and the High Court Judgeships. It has been settled that Mr. Hendley, the Chief Judge of the Small Cause Court, Calcutta, will be promoted to one of the five appointments, which will be soon vacant on the Bench of the Calcutta High Court. The public have no complaint to make against Mr. Hendley's appointment. But they will grumble if Mr. B. L. Gupta, who officiated in the Bench of the High Court on two former occasions, be not elevated to the High Court. Mr. B. L. Gupta is a senior and experienced civilian, and the only difference between him and the other candidates proposed for the vacancies is that he is a native, whilst they are Europeans.

NAVA YUG,
Mar. 7th, 1903.

18. Referring to the many recent cases in which Europeans stood charged with using violence against the lives and properties of natives, and in which they were either discharged or let off with slight punishments, the *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March asks to whom if not to the Viceroy will the people go for the redress of this injustice? The points on which the Salim Sheik Case of Dum-Dum was submitted to the Full Bench of the High Court for retrial are also points in the Corbett and Diamond Harbour Soldier's cases. These two cases should therefore be submitted to a Full Bench for retrial. If this is not done people will think that Government is aiding and abetting the Europeans in committing oppressions.

PEOPLE AND PRATIVASI.
Mar. 11th, 1903.

(d)—Education.

19. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] refers

The Native Press's reading of the Report of the Universities Commission. to the Convocation speech of the Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh, in its issue of the 4th March, and says :—

The Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh found fault with the native newspapers and remarked that they generally turn "should" into "shall" and "may" into "must," and he went on to say that the University Commission reported only what is and what is not necessary to be done for the improvement of the Universities, and that there is no certainty about the adoption of what they have recommended. We shall meet these statements in a manner which cannot be answered. The Universities Commission recommended that the pronunciation of English by native students "should" be like that of Englishmen. But the Commission's recommendation took the form of a peremptory order of the Government of Bengal in the *Calcutta Gazette*, and in that order the Commission's "should" was converted into "shall" and "may" into "must."

Will Mr. Raleigh tell us by whose permission Mr. Pedler had that order circulated before the report of the Universities Commission was finally considered, and who vested Mr. Pedler with such power?

SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA,
Mar. 4th, 1903.

20. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th March has discovered that the members of the Secret Committee entrusted with

The present system of selecting text-books for vernacular schools. the preliminary examination of books intended to be text-books in vernacular schools are interested in many ways in the selection of text-books. The same can be said of those who receive books in Mr. Pedler's Office. The writer requests Mr. Pedler to be watchful in the matter and adopt the two following measures :—

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 5th, 1903.

21. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th March says that the Sanskrit papers at the Entrance Examination of

Sanskrit papers too easy in the University examinations. the Calcutta University are made so easy as to require very little knowledge of Sanskrit to secure pass marks. This ought not to be the case, for if a student can pass in Sanskrit without knowing the language at all, what is the use of making Sanskrit literature a subject of study for the examination? In the first paper in Sanskrit, at the last examination, 15 marks were allotted to translation into English, 8 for reproduction from memory, and 10 for *anvay* with synonyms, and in the second paper, 40 to translation and composition in the

PEOPLE AND PRATIVASI,
Mar. 5th, 1903.

mother language of the examinee. By answering these questions an examinee can easily secure pass marks in the paper without possessing any knowledge of Sanskrit. The examiner says that he sets the papers under instruction from above. This holds true also of the Sanskrit papers in the First Arts Examination, but in the B. A. Examination the Sanskrit papers are made a little difficult. Either the practice should be changed or Sanskrit should not find a place in the syllabus.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Mar. 5th, 1903.

22. The same paper publishes the following in its English columns, with reference to the Education Commission and Medical Education in Bengal :—

"Teaching University—A University Medical College.—One of the latest fads is to convert the Examining University into a Teaching University. Whether this is practicable or not in Bengal may be ascertained by trying the experiment on the Calcutta Medical College. There is but one Medical College in Bengal, and the University is a semi-government institution. There is moreover an impression in public minds that now-a-days chairs in the Medical College are not necessarily offered to the best men in the service, and the 'Indian Medical Record' is the loudest in its complaints on this score. The details of this scheme may be easily worked out if the main proposal is approved. We would strongly invite His Excellency's personal attention to this question, and we are sure that men who have grown grey in the service will be able to advise His Excellency rightly.

"Compulsory Boarding for Medical students we would also urge. This view will be shared by those who know at all the inner workings of the Medical College.

"A medical student in an Arts students Boarding-house is a sort of 'nuisance to the chums by reason of his constant' association with Bones, Dissection, and Diseases; to the staff of servants by reason of his irregular hours of meals; and to the Superintendent by reason of his being able to hoodwink his authority and vigilance by setting up the plea of Day or Night or other Duties. Then again, unlike any civilized medical College, the institution here demands of the students any number of gratuitous duties to be performed by day or by night.

"All these considered we would strongly insist on compulsory boarding being introduced. Other reasons also weigh with us. Students have to wait for cases and not cases for them. How often rare cases come in just when the students are gone home! They also thus miss Emergency operations. Missing a tramcar or a train or long distances are often put in as excuses for many negligences that some students commit. These various reasons, coupled with the educative advantages that a boarding-house claims, lead us to put forward our idea strongly. This subject of compulsory boarding in colleges was much before the public during Lord Lansdowne's regime, and we hope it has its merits as much now as it had then.

"Raising of fees in College and Hospital.—We welcome with delight the present scale of fees in College. We would also urge that large fees be levied for attendance in each of the wards of the Hospital. Anything that comes gratis to one is not appreciated. We have observed with singular regret the perfunctory way in which many students do their Hospital duty. The Hospital is the best training ground, but strangely enough most of the students look upon daily Hospital duty as an irksome job to be done away with, with so many puffs of cigarette or by chatting away with Nurses or with fellow-students in small knots. The remedy proposed (raising of fees) may not be the right one for the disease (negligence of duty); nevertheless this will be the penalty they or their guardians pay for it. With those fees better the condition of the patients by providing them with better food.

"Abolish L. M. S. Examination.—The L. M. S. and M. B. student both of them read the same course, for the same period, under the same Professors, the same service; they are appointed Examiners indiscriminately over each other; their Examination is practically identical and by the same set of Examiners. Why then this farce of a double Examination? No licenciate of the University on any of its branches receives his certificate in the convocation, save the medical licenciate. Why then this invidious distinction? Let us next view the case from another light. In the pre-University days, the passed student was called *Graduate* of the Medical College, Bengal (G. M. C. B.). Then at a subsequent period it was ruled that on passing, a

student would be L. M. S. Then as soon after obtaining L. M. S. diploma, the student passed a separate Examination in Comparative Anatomy (Zoology) he would be called an M. B. Subsequently it was ruled that an arts Graduate (B. A. or M. A.) who passed the final Examination of the Medical College was entitled to be an M. B., while an arts undergraduate became L. M. S. On a study of these we have no doubt that the University itself has serious misgivings in its own mind as to the value of M. B. It is a matter of sincere regret that the public have not been favoured with the opinion of the Commission on this point, while the opinion of some of the witnesses was explicit on this point. Col. Bomford for instance saw no difference between the standards of the two."

23. The *Mir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 6th March is glad that Dr. Ross has opened a class for teaching *Hadis* and *Tafsir* in the Calcutta Madrassa. The leaders of the Musalman Community in Bengal should now see that the teaching is properly conducted and placed in proper hands. Bengali Musalmans are Sunnis, and religious education among them begins with the study of *Hadis* and *Tafsir*. The teacher of *Hadis* and *Tafsir* should therefore be a Sunni and the best man available. *Hadis* and *Tafsir* are taught in Arabic. A native of Arabia therefore ought to be employed to teach these subjects in the Calcutta Madrassa. The names of the following persons may be mentioned in this connection:—(1) Shaik Hossain of Bhopal, (2) Maulavi Rasid Ahmad of Gango, (3) Shaik Muhammad, (4) Maulavi Abu Mansar Muhammed Abdul Huq of Murshidabad, (5) Maulavi Abdulla of Tonk, (6) Maulavi Syed Muhammad of Rampur, (7) Maulavi Muhammad Hossain of Amruha. There is no difference of opinion as to the *maslas* published by these men, and the Madrassa authorities should make an attempt to secure the services of one of these men. The names of Shaik Saheb and his son deserve special notice because their mother-tongue is Arabic and they are perhaps the best authorities in India on *Hadis* and *Tafsir*. After these may be mentioned the name of Maulavi Abu Mansar Muhammed Abdul Huq.

MIHIE-O-SUDHAKAR,
Mar. 6th, 1903.

24. Referring to the resolution of the Senate of the Calcutta University adopted at its meeting of the 28th February last, that it is not necessary to reconstitute the Senate on the line suggested by the Universities Commission, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th March says that when the entire educational system of the country requires overhauling, it is immaterial whether the Senate of the University is reconstituted or not. The public impression is that Government has resolved upon laying the axe at the root of the entire educational system of the country. This being so, the Senate may save itself for a time, but it is not likely to escape for ever the hands of those who can keep or kill it.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1903.

25. The same paper has the following:—

The new educational system in been made superficial and intricate by the inclusion in it of too many subjects. The standard of English has been lowered and the English courses for the different classes have not been properly graduated. Even Entrance Schools will have to adopt the vernacular education scheme in all their classes below the fourth, and will have to send up their boys to the Middle English Examination. To maintain uniformity of studies among Middle English Schools and High Schools, the teaching of English on the latter has been curtailed by two years. The result of this will be that the standard of English in the Entrance class, too, will have to be lowered; for if that is not done there will be a sudden rise of standard from the lower to the higher classes which will be extremely difficult and disadvantageous to boys. But if the standard of English in the Entrance examination is lowered, matriculated students will find themselves quite helpless in the College classes. It will, therefore, be seen that the result of the reform has been only to make a muddle of the whole educational system. Though lowering the standard of English in the lower classes, Government insists on a perfect pronunciation of that language. But how is this object to be attained? That boys in the High Schools pronounce English better than boys in the Middle Schools is simply because the former read all their subjects in English. If the vernacular scheme is introduced into the English

schools, and all subjects are taught in Bengali up to the 5th class, the English pronunciation of the boys will certainly deteriorate instead of improving. To reduce the study of English and then to insist on a better pronunciation of that language is like tying a man hand and foot and then asking him to walk. That the knowledge of even Bengali will suffer under the new scheme should be clear from the text-books selected for the Lower Primary course. Most of these books have been prepared by Europeans and are inferior to books written by Bengali authors. Not to speak of their language, which is the worst possible, the books contain bad spelling, bad idiom and even misstatements of fact. The Bengali of these books is of a worse type than even Babu-English.

Under the new system, the classes in an English School below the fourth will constitute only a Middle English School and as such will make no provision for the teaching of Sanskrit. The boys now begin to read Sanskrit in the sixth class, but they must, under the new scheme, begin to read it in the fourth. Will four years' reading enable them to acquire as much knowledge of that language as is required for the Entrance examination? If not, the standard of Sanskrit, too, will have to be lowered at the Entrance examination.

While the standards in English, Sanskrit and even Bengali have been lowered in both Middle and High schools, very great stress has been laid on the subject of drawing, the practice of which will have to be commenced in the very infant class, and in which a very high standard has been prescribed. It is difficult to see how children who do not know how to draw a line and who have not even thoroughly developed the faculty of perception will acquire the art of drawing. Why is the Government so anxious to teach schoolboys drawing? To what elysium will drawing lead the boys? The truth is that, under the new scheme, the time of the boys will be wasted on such useless things as drawing, drilling, singing, seed-planting &c., and really important matters will receive far less attention than at present.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Mar. 6th, 1903.

Cholera in the Eden Hindu Hostel, Calcutta.

26. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th March publishes in its English column the following account of a case of cholera in the Hindu Hostel, Calcutta:—
"It is not desirable that the impression should gain ground amongst the boarders of the Eden Hindu Hostel that when any one of them happens to be seriously ill the treatment of the patient suffers from the authorities not rising to an adequate sense of their responsibility and the attending physician being a little illiberal in the matter of admitting what might prove effective medical aid in the case. Here is a letter from the Hindu Hostel giving details about the death of a student from cholera. No sort of alteration has been made in the letter, as that might interfere with the correct representation of the feeling of the students. We publish the letter in the hope that the parties concerned will enable the public to come to a right conclusion on the subject. If a similar case had not occurred before we would not have made much of the matter. 'A cholera-case in the Eden Hindu Hostel—Negligence on the part of the authorities—Name of the Boarder—Haladhar Ram, an inhabitant of Ranchi, student 1st year Sanskrit College—A Government Scholar. On Sunday the 22nd February, in the afternoon the patient passed two stools and then more. No apprehensions were entertained at that time, as the patient took some bad food and the case was taken for diarrhoea. On Monday Dr. Satyendra Nath Sen, the Physician attached to the Hostel, was given a call. He came at 7 A. M. and examined the patient. At about 10 the case seemed to grow worse and the friends of the patient went to the Superintendent and obtained his permission to call in a Homoeopath. The Superintendent suggested the name of Dr. P. C. Majumdar. Dr. Majumdar was sent for. At about 11 Dr. Sen came and raised objections against calling in another doctor saying he (Dr. Sen) would not be responsible for the life of the patient in case a Homoeopath was called in, and the proposal was accordingly given up. In the afternoon, however, Dr. Sen himself asked some of the patient's friends if they were willing to call in another doctor and suggested the name of Dr. Nilratan Sarkar. A call was given to Dr. D. N. Roy, Aliopath, he being a specialist in cholera, and he came at 7 P.M., Satyendra Babu accompanying. The two doctors in consultation prescribed medicine. On Thursday Dr. Sen came at the usual hour of 9 A.M. At about 3 P.M. a letter was written request-

ing him to come to the Hostel at 7 p. m., when Dr. Roy was expected; but he declined to come, saying it was too late when the request was made. Dr. Roy came at 7 p.m., and wrote a prescription which he took to the medical club to get it approved by Dr. Sen. Here Dr. Sen told Dr. Roy that he failed to come as he had to attend a meeting. On Wednesday Dr. Sen came at 9-15 in the morning though requested to come earlier, Dr. Roy's medicine was continued till 10 p.m., when Dr. Sen prescribed 10 doses of another, which was administered during the night and up to 4 a.m., with the effect that after a few doses the patient became unconscious.

On Thursday the Superintendent gave only grudging permission to remove the patient to the Hospital room attached to the Hostel. On Thursday the patient was unconscious throughout the day. Dr. Sen came at the usual hour of 9 a.m., and was requested to change the medicine. The symptoms then were very bad—pupils dilated, pulse quick, respiration hurried, flexors of the hand contracted. When the doctor came he saw all these and remarked that they were due to an overdose of Cannabis Indica, the dose administered having been 10 minims of the tincture every two hours. Two doses of the medicine only remained at that time, to which the Dr. added water and made into six. He prescribed one dose after each stool, the number of stools having come down to one or two in the hour owing to the violent action of Cannabis Indica. At 4 p.m. Dr. Sen again came and directed to continue the same medicine—although requested to change it for another, as it brought about the ominous unconsciousness. By this time the patient's condition was very bad indeed. At 6 p.m. the condition was as follows:—Pupils dilated, pulses 180 per minute, respirations 48 per minute. At 7-30 p.m. Kartic Prosad, a friend of the patient, went to Dr. Sen and described these conditions, and requested him to come. He did not come, but told him to discontinue the medicine and push on the nutrition. His advice was acted up to, but the patient grew worse and worse every minute; at 4 a.m. artificial respiration was tried by some of the medical students, some of whom went to the Superintendent. He did not come down, but said he would send for Dr. Sen. It was not until 6 a.m. that the Doctor came only to find a lifeless body. Servants were expected to do any sort of nursing. All that the friends of the patient wanted servants for was to send them to the market and get such other outdoor work done by them. No servant was in attendance although applied for several times, the boarders had to do everything. Even at times the *methar* could not be found for hours together. On Tuesday the *methar* could not be found from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. next morning, and it was so late as 9 a.m. in the morning that the room of the patient was cleaned by the *methar*. The patient had passed 52 stools during the night. All this is due to negligence on the part of the Superintendent. The Doctor prescribed Lemon Ice, &c., none of which was supplied from the Hostel. All that the authorities supplied daily was about half a seer of the worst quality of milk as usually served to the sick at the Hostel. All that the Superintendent did was to come to the room of the patient thrice of four times in all and to the Hospital only once during the course of the disease and once after death. The Superintendent occasionally enquired about the patient by letter or through the boarders. In fact the hostel authorities were all along reluctant to send a servant, so much so indeed that Dr. Sen went the length of suggesting that the patient should have been removed to the Medical College Hospital, as no servant or *methar* could be had in the Hostel."

27. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 8th March continues its criticism

The Sanskrit course for the Entrance Examination. of the existing Sanskrit course for the Entrance Examination.

DACCA PRAKASH,

Mar. 8th, 1903.

28. The *People and the Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March has the following in its English columns:—

A scheme of female education.

"An office note which we published in a recent issue of our paper shows that the Director of Public Instruction of Bengal is anxious to educate the wives and mothers of Bengal. Female education as it now obtains in our country is no education, and with marriage the Hindu girl of Bengal veils herself not only from the light of the sun and the free air, but also from the light of knowledge. How to carry education within the zenana, and thus afford the Hindu lady an opportunity of improving herself has perplexed many an educationist. The Director of Public Instruction

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is no doubt entitled to our gratitude for seeking to solve this problem, but the crude proposal to bring together a number of zenana ladies for hearing stories from the Ramayana and the Mahavarat cannot be taken to be a very good beginning. Such instructions already exist amongst Hindu ladies, and they are nothing the better for it. If our ladies are to grow up to be good wives, good mothers, and good help-mates mere inculcation of moral lessons from the pages of the Ramayana or the Mahavarat would not be of much use. The touch of European civilization has made our ladies a little self-seeking and ease-loving. Her innate desire to play the ministering angel when pain and sorrow wring the brow is not so much in evidence in these days. To the meanness and selfishness consequent on living and moving in a narrow circle and having false notion of sanctity and purity have been added all these extraneous evils. It is for curing these evils that we want to impart education to our women. Bringing our women in contact with ladies of noble type, giving them an idea of the progress and civilisation of the modern times, and pointing out to them the good traits of the Hindu ladies of old days—these only can lead to some good. Stereotyped reading of the passages of the Ramayana and the Mahabharat will have no more effect on the minds of our ladies than sunshine and rain have on an unbroken soil. Our ladies must be taught to be interested in all that is good and great. The heart and mind must act and must not be allowed to be inert. A good lady teacher is the first requisite. First the Director of Public Instruction should enquire how many such ladies are available. Why does he not seek the co-operation of leaders of society and other distinguished persons who have made the imparting of female education the mission of their lives? We ask him to consult, Mataji Tapaswini, the foundress of Mahakali pathsala, Shashi-podo Bandopadhyaya of Baranogore, and some distinguished citizens of Calcutta. We want competent lady teachers to be found out first, a curriculum of study for bringing out the mental power of our ladies to be framed and the system of teaching to be determined, and then we shall express hope for seeing a better state of things."

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

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Mar. 4th, 1903.

29. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 4th March draws the attention of the local Municipality to the insufficiency of the number of ghâts in Bibi tank in Barisal, for the use of Hindu and Musalman residents. There are only two ghâts in the tank, which cannot suffice for all bathers. As the tank is now being re-excavated it should be provided with two more ghâts.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Mar. 4th, 1903.

30. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th March refers to a resolution passed by the District Board of Rangpur. The District Board of Rangpur that in order to help the Vice-Chairman the Accountant should act as his Secretary, and that in addition to his pay, a sum of Rs. 100 rising to Rs. 150 should be paid to the Accountant for this additional work. The writer observes that if it be true that the financial condition of the Board is deplorable, and that Vice-Chairmen generally do their work without anybody's help, then it is better that the Rangpur Vice-Chairman should leave his post. It is a kind of crime to waste the hard earned money of the tax-payers in order to benefit a particular person or Municipal officer. It is hoped that the Commissioner of the Division will not accept the above resolution.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA.

31. A correspondence published in the same paper contains the following:—

Anglo-Indian influence on municipalities. Local Self-Government almost invariably receives its death-blow in the Municipal towns in which Anglo-Indians take up their residence. The riparian municipalities between Calcutta and Hooghly contain a few whitemen connected with the local mills. Anglo-Indians are a little too fond of power and that is why it is the Saheb mill employés of the riparian municipalities are so anxious to become Commissioners thereof. And they experience no difficulty in getting Commissionerships, because it is the District Magistrates who nominate every third Commissioner to the Municipalities within their respective jurisdictions. Once the Sahebs get seats on the Municipal Board they become anxious to rise to

the top of the ladder and become Vice-Chairman or Chairman, for the idea of working under natives is hateful. They then begin to make themselves intimate with the District Magistrates and by feasts and banquets establish their influence over the latter. This done, the Saheb Commissioners create and foster quarrels among their native fellow-Commissioners, and by foul means like this secure votes for themselves. If they succeed in becoming Vice-Chairmen or Chairmen, they exercise despotic sway. If not, they go up to the Government weeping like spoiled children, and Government out of pity gives them separate Municipalities of their own. It is thus that the Titagarh, Garhulia, and Bhatpara Municipalities were created.

The following are instances showing how European Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen discharge their Municipal duties:—

(1) The European Chairman of one of the riparian municipalities referred to above has remitted, without the previous sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor and the knowledge of the Municipal Commissioners, Rs. 1,500 which was due from his employers, the owners of the mill in which he works, to the Municipality as latrine tax for 1900-1901.

(2) A new godown constructed by the above mill-owners is being used for the last four or five months, but no revision has as yet been made of the rates payable by the mill in which it has been constructed.

(3) The Chairman has a carriage which he uses solely for his private purposes, but he pays no license-fee for keeping it. Some Babus also do not pay any license-fees for keeping tum-tums.

(4) No rates have for a long time been realised for a holding owned by a Commissioner, who is a favourite of the Chairman.

The Chairman has done many worse acts, but it is difficult to prove them now. However that may be, it is hoped that the rate-payers of the Municipality will be on their guard, and that Government will enquire into the matter.

32. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March has the following in its English columns:—

The Hon'ble Mr. Greer and the old Commissioners.

"Why is Mr. Greer so anxious to take back the Commissioners whose exodus according to our

Viceroy, Lieutenant-Governor, and the Anglo-Indian contemporaries has been a blessing to the Corporation? During the short space of little above a month all of them vented their spleen upon these unfortunate men. Every newspaper reader is perhaps aware of what has been said of the old talkative Commissioners by the Viceroy in his Chamber of Commerce dinner speech and the Lieutenant-Governor in the Devonian Dinner speech. Here is a compliment from the *Englishman*:—'There was a time when the Calcutta Municipality could not have been safely entrusted with the conduct of any large scheme. But there is now a new Municipality which contains a majority of a party which might well be termed Progressive.' After all this the idea of going back to the Municipal Board is seriously entertained in some quarters. All is strange in this strangest of lands. As for the progressive spirit of the party whose ascendancy gives such delight to the *Englishman*, we must confess that the people of the northern part of the metropolis cannot bear any testimony to it. The progressive spirit might be in evidence in the various improvements of the European quarters, but it does not shine out through the filth and squalor of the northern part. The Anglo-Indians seem to be under the impression that the Calcutta Corporation exists for the benefit of the Europeans only. To the residents of the northern part of the metropolis the advantage of the present efficient Corporation comes in the shape of *zulm* of the tax-collector, while its beneficent aspect is not familiar to them. But while the Municipality is so tardy in doing its duty by the major portion of the population of Calcutta, the authorities never grow sick of pouring praise down its back. This is holding the balance even no doubt!"

33. The same paper refer to a new circular of the Corporation of

A new plague circular of the Calcutta Corporation. Calcutta, in which the Corporation notifies that a medical practitioner will be awarded one rupee for giving information of every new case of plague to the Corporation. The writer observes that there was no necessity for issuing such a circular, for the law distinctly lays down that any person failing to inform the Health Office of a case of plague or of any contagious disease in his

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house, shall be punished under the Indian Penal Code. Such a circular will cause great mischief by stimulating bogus doctors to harass poor men for nothing on the plea of enquiring into plague cases.

AL PUNCH,
Mar. 7th, 1903.

34. *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 7th March draws the attention of the local authorities to the bad condition of the roads and streets throughout the Patna city. They are everywhere so uneven and full of ruts that a man can hardly pass along them in a carriage without incurring the risk of falling down.

BANKURA
DARPAÑ,
Mar. 8th, 1903.

Bad condition of roads in the Patna city.

35. Referring to the ensuing general election of the Commissioners in the Bankura Municipality, the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] in its issue of the 8th March observes that a change has taken place in the Bankura Municipality. Under the new regime the rates of taxes under every head have been increased. The Government of Bengal have been pleased at this increase of taxes. But we are sorry to find that the rate-payers have not received anything in the shape of an equivalent for their increased taxes. Nothing can be said by the rate-payers against the present Chairman, who received great honours from the Government of India in the Delhi Darbar. After this increase of taxes, the Municipality, instead of bestowing any benefit on the rate-payers, is going to raise a loan of two thousand rupees for digging a well. On the other hand the Municipality has advertised for a surveyor for surveying and levelling the Bankura town and the adjacent river Gondheswary with a view to prepare a scheme of water-supply for the town. But this scheme will mean many lakhs of rupees. We can assure the authorities that the poor Municipality has absolutely no need of pipe water.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Mar. 9th, 1903.

36. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 9th March draws attention to the financial difficulty from which the Midnapore Municipality is suffering and which is preventing it from spending more than four thousand a year on the repair and construction of roads. The Government helped the District Board last year with twenty-one or twenty-two thousand rupees, and proposes to give it some help every year. Why then does it not help the Municipality in a similar manner? It is true municipal rate-payers pay no road or public works cess, but they pay the income-tax and Government should help the Municipality out of the income-tax fund.

(f) — *Questions affecting the land.*

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Mar. 9th, 1903.

37. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 9th March writes as follows:—

The evil effects of the discontinuance of the system of payment of rent in kind.

The practice of paying rent in kind, obtained from time immemorial in the Midnapore district. This was advantageous both to the zamindar and the raiyat: advantageous to the zamindar because, except in years of bad harvest, he was able to realise the rent by the month of *Magh*, and advantageous to the raiyat because his dues to his zamindar were in this way paid so early and because, in years of scarcity, he could obtain from the zamindar loans of paddy for subsistence as well as seed-grain.

But at an evil moment the Tenancy Act was passed by Government. At the instigation of uneducated, short-sighted, and evil-minded counsellors, the ignorant tenantry demanded a repeal of the system of payment in kind, and the revenue officers of Government, who posed themselves as friends of the raiyat, and who accepted for gospel truth whatever the raiyat told them, granted this prayer. The raiyat exulted over this victory over the zamindar little dreaming that in thus seeking to ruin the zamindar he was ruining himself.

Payment in kind having ceased, the store of grain in the zamindar's granary decreased. The zamindar is now unable to realise rent either in good or in bad years. In good years the tenant sells his crops for ready money, but instead of paying it to the zamindar, either spends it on marriage, &c., or in the purchase of ornaments for his wife. The zamindar has thus no choice but to institute a suit for rent. He obtains a decree and the very dwelling-house of the tenant is sold in execution of it. In the meantime the stock of paddy in the zamindar's granary has, perhaps, dwindled away, and the tenant, who can

no longer obtain a loan of paddy from the zamindar, thus loses his property as well as his life. In bad years—and almost every year is now a bad year—the zamindar is no longer able to satisfy the revenue demand of Government by the sale of the paddy in his granary. He is thus obliged to make loans, the amount of which goes on increasing year after year, till he finds the burden almost too heavy for him.

It is a regret that Government should care so little to keep themselves informed of the effects of their legislation. At the time of passing a law they make long speeches dilating on the many benefits that are sure to follow from it. When they afterwards see evil instead of good spring from their legislation they keep quiet; and if any one is so bold as to find fault with their legislation, they smile contemptuously and say:—"These are the ravings of the discontented educated community and not of the raiyats, who are really leading happy lives. Let us hold a Darbar at Delhi and treat the pageant-loving Indians to a sight of horses, elephants, and princes, and all evil will be at an end."

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

38. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of 4th March draws the attention of the authorities to the silting up of some of the

The Barisal canals.

canals and the drying up of some among them in Backergunge. Owing to insufficiency of water in the canals, the crops are growing scantier and cholera and fever are raging there. Communication by means of the canals has become practically impossible.

39. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th March writes as follows:—

A meeting to discuss railway matters. Lord Curzon said that one of the benefits which would be derived from the Delhi Darbar, would be that officials serving in different provinces would be able to meet in order to consult important questions. We have learnt from a trustworthy source that a meeting was actually held in Delhi in which the Managers of Indian State Railways and a number of officials were present. The following questions were submitted to the meeting:—

(1) Is it possible to appoint Europeans and Eurasians instead of Natives to such posts as railway station-masterships, assistant station-masterships, signallerships, ticket collectorships, &c., bringing more than Rs. 30 per mensem?

(2) How many Europeans and Eurasians are at present working in Indian Railways?

(3) Will a change worked out on the lines above stated entail a larger expenditure?

We have been informed that a circular has been issued to all Managers of State Railways on the subject.

We ask His Excellency if the circular has been issued under his order.

40. In its issue of the 5th March, the *Khulna* [Khulna] draws the attention of the Bagerhat Local Board in the A bridge in the Khulna district. Khulna district to the breaking down of a bridge at Utkul in that district. The bridge had been scarcely repaired when it fell down. Should the Local Board pass the Contractor's bill?

41. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 5th March says that bolts are being attached to many of the large doors of the public buildings in Chittagong town, the charge being Rs. 8 for every four bolts. The bolts are spoiling the beauty and the value of the doors.

42. The same paper says that the Traffic Manager of the Assam-Bengal Railway has issued a notice to the effect that A railway matter. henceforth return tickets will be issued to third and intermediate class passengers from the Chittagong railway station, and these tickets will be available from Friday midnight to Monday. The railway authorities are requested to make arrangements for issuing return tickets to intermediate class passengers from every station and for all the days of the week. The request has been made more than once, but to no effect.

KASIPUR NIVASI.
Mar. 4th, 1903.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 5th, 1903.

KHULNA,
Mar. 5th, 1903.

JYOTI,
Mar. 5th, 1903.

JYOTI.

SAMAY,
Mar. 6th, 1903.

43. A correspondent of the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 6th March says that
Complaints against the Howrah-
Amda Railway.

Although the Howrah-Amda Railway commands a very large traffic in both passengers and goods, yet the supply of carriages on it is very insufficient. This causes not only inconvenience to passengers, but also loss to the railway company, because large quantities of goods are, for this reason, carried in boats and carts.

On the 22nd February last a dacoit entered into the female carriage in a train running on the line near the Kadamtal station. The women raised loud cries which attracted the attention of the men sitting in the other carriages. The latter more than once cried out to the guard to stop the train, but the guard heeded not. At last when the train came very near the next station the dacoit leaped down and escaped. The authorities should enquire into the case and into the conduct of the guard.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1903.

44. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th March presses on the attention of the Government the necessity of protecting the village Jahangirpur in the Burdwan district from the floods of the Damodar by a permanent embankment. The beach at Goalpara, caused in the flood of 1901, is temporarily repaired every year, and the money spent on such repair is simply wasted. When the Government has violated its rule by constructing embankments for the protection of the villages Srikrishnapur, Nator, Kumirkhola, &c, there will be no harm in violating the rule once more by constructing an embankment for Jahangirpur.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Mar. 9th, 1903.

45. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 9th March hopes that Mr. Luson, Collector of Midnapore, will kindly listen to the prayer of the raiyats of Antra, Debra, and Panskura, who have petitioned to him against the order of the Canal Deputy Collector requiring them to pay a water-rate of Rs. 5 per acre for the water which they took from the canal in the month of September last. The raiyats have reaped only a six-anna crop, and they will be ruined if they are made to pay for the water at the rate demanded.

(h)—General.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Dec. 30th, 1902.

46. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 30th December, 1902 says that Rai Girischandra Sarker Bahadur, the Deputy Collector of Faridpur, has dismissed the appeals which were made by many of the local pleaders

and mukhtears against the exorbitantly high rates at which their incomes were assessed last time. As a matter of fact the crowding of the Bar and the comparative paucity of cases have had the effect of reducing their incomes. In cases of objections raised against assessments made by assessors, the assessors' reports are considered unimpeachable by the authorities. The authorities fix the amount of the tax which is to come from the area assigned to an assessor and give him a clear card in the matter of distributing the amount among the people. The rule is that in fixing the income-tax of a tradesman his income should mean his gross income minus the necessary expenses of his trade. But the assessors in the Faridpur district do not generally make the deduction.

CHARU MIHIR,
Mar. 3rd, 1903.

47. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 3rd March complains of the irregularity of the postal service in the village of Simla in the district of Mymensingh. The distances of the other post offices in this district from the head-quarters are generally one or one-and-a-half mile, but the distance of Simla from its head-quarter, Gopalpur, is about six miles. A new branch post office should therefore be established in their village.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1903.

48. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th March says that great partiality is shown to Europeans and Eurasians in the Telegraph Department, even where the rules of the department make no distinction between native

and other employés. Some time ago Government passed the following order:—

GOVERNMENT TELEGRAM DEPARTMENT, CALCUTTA,

Telegraph Office No. 5660.

Calcutta, 9th December 1902.

The following is forwarded to the Superintendent, Punjab Division for necessary action.

(Sd.) H. E. CHAPPEL,

Supdt. of Telegraphs.

Calcutta Office.

Copy of letter No. 309 T.E., dated the 5th March 1902, from the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, to the Director-General of Telegraphs.

In reply to your letter No. 116 T., dated the 30th January 1902, I am directed so say that the Government of India authorises you to sanction at your discretion an allowance not exceeding Rs. 2 per day to Signallers and Telegraph Masters who when employed in camp telegraph offices in connection with the tours of their Excellencies the Viceroy, the Commander-in-Chief, and the Governors of Presidencies, may be put to unusual expense in procuring necessary food.

No. 13593, dated Umbala, the 15th of December 1902.

COPY forwarded to the Subdivisional Officer, Coronation Darbar sub-division, for information.

(Sd.) ROB. RALSTON,

For Supdt. Teles.,

Punjab Division.

There is nothing in this order to show that it is to apply only to Europeans and Eurasians. The Government evidently meant it to apply to all officers without distinction of race. But at the Delhi Darbar Camp allowance was paid only to the European and Eurasian officers and not to a single native officer, although there was much complaint about the manner in which the former did their work, whilst not a single complaint was heard against the native officers.

Again, native officers are seldom allowed the benefit of the "general scale," to which Europeans and Eurasians are admitted without examination. Europeans and Eurasians get house allowance, but natives do not get it. Only the other day, a number of Eurasians were admitted to the "general scale" after a service of a year and-a-half, without being subjected to any examination, in supersession of the claims of senior and more competent native officers. Lord Curzon should consider whether it is praiseworthy to treat native officers so slightly and European officers with such partiality. It may be easy to say that natives make incompetent telegraph officers, but it is not so easy to prove this. The truth is that natives make perfectly efficient officers, and that it is nothing but their colour which induces the authorities to make a distinction between them and the European and Eurasian employés of the department.

49. The same paper says that the following instances, in addition to those already published, will prove that since Mr. Badshah's appointment to the Postmaster-Generalship of Bengal great favouritism has been shown to Europeans and Eurasians employed in the department.

(1) Mr. Pereira, brother of the late Mr. Pereira, who was a Superintendent in the Post Office, was Head Clerk on Rs. 100 a month in the Receipt Branch of the Money Order Department in the General Post Office. He has lately been promoted to the Head Clerkship of the Delivery Department on

HITAVADI.

Rs. 140 a month, over the heads of many native officers, who had better claims to the promotion.

(2) Mr. Elias was, a year ago, a petty clerk in the Wellesley Street sub-post office, Calcutta, on Rs. 30 a month. He was promoted to a post worth Rs. 50 a month in the Registration Department of the General Post Office, in supersession of the claims of many senior native officers. Shortly after, he was appointed to the post vacated by Mr. Sheen, and he is now a Joint Sub-Postmaster on Rs. 60 a month. Two promotions in one year never fell to the lot of a native officer.

(3) Mr. Badshah favours not only his personal clerk, Mrs. Allen, but appears to favour her relations also. Mr. Allen, who is a relative of Mrs. Allen, has been recently appointed a clerk in the Foreign Department of the General Post Office, although he is an outsider and has had no University education.

(4) Miss Price was a year and a-half ago Postmistress of the new post office in Entally, Calcutta, on Rs. 60 a month. Through Mr. Badshah's favour she was, a year ago, appointed head clerk in the Correspondence Department of the General Post Office on Rs. 80 a month, and two months later, was appointed Sub-Postmistress of the Dhurrumtollah Post Office on Rs. 100 a month, and has been confirmed in that appointment in supersession of the claims of many native officers.

The number of female assistants both in the General Post Office and in the Postmaster General's Office is daily increasing, and, thanks to Mr. Badshah, their entrance into those departments has become very easy.

Under Mr. Badshah's order all clerks of the General Post Office, drawing a salary of Rs. 100 or less, excepting the head clerks, have to get a pass to enter into the office premises. The pass has to be shown to the durwan on entrance into the office. No relatives of the employés, however urgent their business, are allowed to enter the office.

Mr. Badshah was not so fond as he is now of the European and Eurasian officers of the department when he was Comptroller, and he did not show even any leaning towards those employés immediately after his promotion to the Postmaster Generalship. It is said that his head was turned when he contracted a deep intimacy with Mr. Owens. On his appointment to the Postmaster-Generalship, Mr. Badshah was not, at first, very fond of Mr. Owens. He rather disliked him. But all that has changed, and the friendship between the two officers has now grown almost to a fault. Mr. Badshah's midday tea now comes from Mr. Owens's. On the 26th February last Mr. Badshah and Mr. Owens walked together for a long time below the dome of the General Post Office. Mr. Owens is very fond of European and Eurasian employés, and it is said that all the appointments which are now being made in the General Post Office are of Mr. Owens' making. Mr. Badshah approves of all the arrangements which are made by Mr. Owens. Such intimacy between a superior and a subordinate is bad.

The Postmastership of Bombay will soon fall vacant, and Mr. Kisch ought to see if he cannot transfer Mr. Owens to that place, replacing him in Calcutta by Mr. Gorman, Postmaster of Rangoon, who pleased everybody when he officiated for Mr. Owens in Calcutta.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Mar. 6th, 1908.

50. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th March has the following in its English columns:—

Treatment of an officer by the Deputy Controller of Post Offices. "The regrettable associations in connection with the death from plague of Babu Poreshnath Mukherji, a Personal Assistant to the Deputy Controller of Post Offices, had been that when he was suffering from fever and asked for leave last Saturday, not only was leave not granted but he was made to work till 2 P.M. and ordered to attend office on Monday following, which he did with a fatal result. He was removed home barely in time to have a last look at his nearest and dearest."

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Mar. 7th, 1908.

51. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March has the following:—

A hard case in the office of the Deputy Controller of Post Offices. "While suffering from high fever due to plague, one Poreshnath Mukherji, Personal Assistant to the Deputy Controller of Post Offices, asked for leave, but in vain. He was forced to attend office for three consecutive days. On the last day he got leave

after 2 p.m. He was removed home barely in time to die there. We had no idea that the rules in force in the Government offices are so stringent and that the officers are so cruel.

52. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th March says that it is as much the duty of a journalist to praise a good public officer as it is to blame a bad one. The writer is therefore glad to take the following about Mr. Badshah from a mufasal paper:—

"Mr. Badshah served long in East Bengal in the executive and judicial services with credit. He was then appointed Comptroller of Postal Accounts, and in that capacity achieved a great reform by decentralising the department into three offices and locating them at different centres. This step, though it was found fault with by a few clerks who have their residences in Calcutta, has greatly facilitated the work of the department. Mr. Badshah has also effected great improvements in the Postal Department during his incumbency as Postmaster-General of Bengal. It is, in fact, nothing but the malice of a few men of the General Post Office that has influenced the *Hitavadi* newspaper in bringing charges against Mr. Badshah on the eve of his promotion to the Excise Commissionership.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Mar. 10th, 1903.

III.—LEGISLATION.

53. Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika [Calcutta] of the 4th March, says:—

The Barmaid Bill.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Mar. 4th, 1903.

The Select Committee to consider the Barmaid Bill presented it in a revised form to the Bengal Legislative Council in its meeting of the 24th February last. When the Bill was introduced by the Hon'ble Mr. Collin in 1901, it was stated that no woman would be allowed to serve in any wine-shop. The Select Committee reports that, on special enquiry, it has been found that more liquor sells in shops with barmaids than in shops without barmaids. The Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, has expressed the same opinion. The Select Committee recommends that though no selling of wine by the women is to be allowed, women may be allowed to work in those shops in other capacities than barmaids. To our mind this recommendation, if accepted, will make the measure ineffectual. Is this the fruit of our agitation? The Select Committee has tried to secure both the points. It has pleased all the parties. And the result is that the practice of keeping maids in shops will practically become stronger. Even if maids are not allowed to sell liquor publicly, their presence in the shops will allure many, and the intention of the law, which is so good, will be frustrated.

54. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 6th March writes as follows:—

The Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Amendment) Bill.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Mar. 6th, 1903.

A few years ago, when there was a rising of the Mundas in Chota Nagpur, a number of these wild and illiterate people were sentenced to be hanged. Any doubt about identification, which works so powerfully in favour of Europeans charged with murder, failed to produce the slightest impression on the Judge in the case of the poor Mundas, although there was ample ground for entertaining such a doubt in their favour. The facts, which were at that time disclosed by Mr. Jacob, the counsel for the accused in the court of the Deputy Commissioner of Purulia, are unparalleled in the history of civilised nations not excluding even Russia. Mr. Taylor adopted the trick of trying them himself first in Purulia in the capacity of the Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpur and then in Calcutta in the capacity of a Judge of the High Court. The injustice which the poor Mundas suffered at the hands of the Government is one of the blemishes which darken the pages of the history of British rule in India.

The causes which excited the rising are still enveloped in mystery. But the other day, the Hon'ble Mr. Macpherson said, in introducing the Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Amendment) Bill in the Bengal Legislative Council, that the rising was caused by "exactions made by the landlords in the matter of services and cesses."

The relation between landlords and raiyats in our country can hardly be discerned at first sight. Although it is true that there was change of landlords

every year before the Decennial Settlement, yet even English historians admit that this state of things existed only during the last days of Musalman rule. Bengali raiyats never trouble themselves as to who is the real owner of the land; they never consider the landlord to be anything more than a mere tax-collector on behalf of the sovereign. They know him to be the representative of the Sovereign, and any one who has any knowledge of these matters will say that in times of danger they are ready to die for their landlord. Perhaps no other country in the world can boast of a people entertaining so much reverence for their sovereign and landlord as is entertained by Bengali raiyats. This relation between the raiyat and the landlord in Bengal existed from the early days of Musalman rule. Those were days of frequent political revolutions in India. The revolutions which seated a Lodi Emperor in the place of a Khilji Emperor, or a Mogul Emperor in the place of a Pathan Emperor, &c., were not confined within the four walls of Delhi, but were felt even in remote provinces in the shape of changes of local nababs and subadars. But these disturbances never broke the happy monotony of the raiyat's life. It was the zamindar who bore the brunt of the contest and shielded the raiyat, who on his part supplied him with money without grudging. It is thus that the raiyat learnt to depend on the landlord in all matters.

Government says that the landlords in Chota Nagpur realise extra cesses from their tenants and exact *begar* services from them, and this it has resolved to remedy. It is true that the raiyat does not always get remuneration for services done to his landlord; but the raiyat gives him willing and ungrudging service especially on the occasion of festivities in his house. If before seeking to stop *begar* services exacted by landlords, Government had abolished them for its own purposes, the ends of law and justice would have been better satisfied. As to the terms which exist between landlords and tenants in Chota Nagpur, Government certainly knows what they are from a consideration of the relation which existed between the late Maharaja Nil Mani Singha of Panch Kote and his tenants at the time of the rising noticed above. We fear that Government is only adopting a trick to bring about an end of the happy relation which exists at present between the landlords and their tenants in Chota Nagpur.

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

BANKURA
DARPARAN,

Mar. 8th, 1903.

Distress in the Bankura district.

55. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura], in its issue of the 8th March, complains of distress in some of the villages in the Bankura district, and says that a rumour is afloat that a *takavi* loan and an agricultural loan to the cultivators have been sanctioned by the Government. In the *Statistical Account of Bengal*, Mr. Hunter observes that if after reaping the crops in winter, (viz., in January and February) rice sells at sixteen *seers* per rupee, there is then every chance of a famine breaking out. But rice is now sold in the above places at less than 14 *seers* per rupee. Consequently there is a great danger of famine. As Mr. Carstairs, the kind-hearted Commissioner of the division, is going on leave, we earnestly pray that some relief work may be opened by him at once before he goes away; else the sufferings of the poor will become acute. If Mr. Carstairs kindly makes an enquiry he will see the necessity of opening relief works.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 5th, 1903.

56. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th March says that English merchants and shopkeepers consider themselves to be greater men than the representative of the sovereign in India. It was their opposition to Lord Curzon's desire to erect the Victoria Memorial Hall on the Calcutta maidan between the Government House and the Fort William which compelled His Excellency to write out a long discourse on the subject. Even this, however, did not satisfy them. They began to rail at His Excellency in newspapers and public meetings. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Calcutta Trades

Association have given their opinion in favour of the St. Paul's Church site. The public await with interest the result of this contest between the Viceroy and the merchants. Under Lord Curzon's rule the power of the English merchants has greatly increased. The very day on which the Viceroy supported them on the Assam cooly question and insulted Mr. (now Sir Henry) Cotton, they saw that His Excellency would never dare to disregard their opinions. The very day on which they succeeded in destroying Local Self-Government in Calcutta and establishing their authority over the Calcutta Municipality, they saw the nature and extent of their power, and began to exercise it when opportunity offered. The result of the exercise of such great power by the merchants cannot be beneficial. A merchant is but another name for one who is guided entirely by self-interest; self-interest is the aim and end of a merchant's life. Lord Curzon gave him great indulgence, and he is now suffering the consequence. The fame and honour of a Viceroy are in the keeping of the merchant. He can collect a lakh of rupees for commemorating the rule of a worthless Viceroy, or embitter with insults the parting days of an able and godly ruler. The Rajas and zamindars of the country are puppets in his hand, and thinking that titles are at his disposal, they subscribe large sums of money to such projects as are framed or formulated by him.

57. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 5th March writes as follows:—

The decline of the arts and industries of India. Lord Curzon has blamed the Indians for not bringing the hoarded wealth of the country to use. But is not Government at all responsible for the development of the arts and industries of the country? The fact that we have to import from foreign countries almost everything we want is enough to indicate the advance that has been made during one and-a-half century of British rule. Every civilised Government helps the development of the arts and industries of the country which it rules. But what has the Government of India done for India in that way? Indians, it is said, will not be admitted to the Commerce School which is proposed to be established in Bengal. Does Lord Curzon know nothing of this? We are weak and helpless; praise and dispraise are therefore alike to us.

His Excellency has said—"The whole industrial and mercantile world is one great field for the tiller to till, and if the man who lives on the spot will not cultivate it with his own spade, then he has no right to blame the outsider who enters it with his plough." These are sweet words, befitting the man who loves the whole world. But has Lord Curzon considered how the arts and industries of India have been killed by legislation? The famished Asiatic went to Cape Colony to earn his food by hard labour, but he was driven away. Chinese Artisans have been driven out of Australia and Canada. Just now 1,270 coolies are being sent back to Asia from Africa. It would have been better if Lord Curzon's Bengal Chamber of Commerce speech had contained some mention of all this.

58. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th March endorses every word of Lord Curzon's in his Bengal Chamber of Commerce speech about the hoarded wealth which lies inactive in the country, and appeals to the Indians to shake off lathargy and make a use of that wealth instead of simply talking and speechifying.

59. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th March has heard it rumoured that Lord Curzon's term of the Viceroyalty will be extended by two years. Lord Curzon himself is said to be not unwilling to remain here for two years more. Some people say His Lordship will be very glad to get such an extension. But the people of India have no cause to congratulate themselves on this news. On the contrary, it is feared by many that if His Lordship stays longer in this country, he will only cause more trouble to the people by the appointment of fresh Commissioners and in other ways. The European and Eurasian communities, too, are not much fond of His Excellency. Considering his great ability, the fittest reward for him will be his appointment to the Premiership of England. The writer will be very glad to see His Lordship appointed to that high post by gradual promotion, and hopes that the above rumour will turn out to be incorrect.

Jyoti,
Mar. 5th, 1903.

*PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,*
Mar. 5th, 1903.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1903.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1903.

60. The same paper draws attention to the harm which is being done to the agriculture of the country by the yearly exportation of mustard seed from the country.

The exportation of mustard seed from the country. Everybody knows, and the reports of Government agricultural farms have repeatedly said that the oil-cakes received in the process of extracting oil from mustard seed form an excellent and useful manure, specially for crops like sugarcane, potato, jute and paddy. The country would benefit in more ways than one by replacing the export of mustard seed with that of mustard oil. The money required to manufacture the oil will remain in the country, as will also the oil-cakes, which will serve as food for cattle and also as manure for the land. At present not only are oil-cakes too dear to be used as manure, but bone manure, too, is not available in consequence of the large exportation of bones by European merchants.

HITAVADI.

61. The same paper says that although India is mainly an agricultural country and one hundred and eighty millions of Government of India and the agriculture of the country. its population live solely by agriculture, and although India's manufacturing industries have been completely destroyed by European competition, the Government of India spends only a poor sum like ten lakhs a year on the agricultural improvement of the country. A very different state of things, however, prevails in Europe and America, although those places are mainly commercial and manufacturing. Denmark, with a population of only twenty-five lakhs, spends thirty-lakhs, Sweden fifty-two and-a-half lakhs, Italy ninety lakhs, the United States in America one crore and twenty lakhs, Austria two hundred forty-seven crores and fifty lakhs, Hungary two hundred and fifty-five crores, and Russia six hundred crores on their Agricultural Department every year. In the light of these figures, is it not shameful for the Government of India to remain content with spending only ten lakhs a year on the Agricultural improvement of a population of one hundred and eighty millions? Instead of doing anything to remove this reproach, Lord Curzon did not hesitate, in his Chamber of Commerce speech, to take the people of India themselves to task for their idleness and want of energy in keeping pace with the times.

HITAVADI.

62. The same paper has been pained and astonished to read what the purposes are to which Lord Curzon proposes to devote Mr. Phipps' liberal donation. One fails to see the need of an agricultural laboratory for a country whose people are too illiterate and ignorant to benefit by the researches to be conducted in such an institution and are sunk deep in debt and poverty. What good have the Government's model farms done to the country that one should expect a different result from the proposed Dehra-Dun laboratory? But not content with devoting a portion of Mr. Phipps' donation to the proposed institution, Lord Curzon wants to throw the greater portion of its burden on Indian charity.

The remainder of Mr. Phipps' donation is to be devoted to the establishment of a Pasteur institute in Madras. What good has the Kasauli Institute done to the country at large that another institute like it has been proposed? Has the Kasauli Institute been of any use to anybody except a few Europeans fond of dogs? But the strangest thing about this is that while His Lordship asks Indian charity to supplement Mr. Phipps' donation in the matter of the Agricultural laboratory, he will supplement the donation in the other case from the pockets of the poor and starving Indian tax-payer. Has anybody ever seen another such instance of solicitude for the weal of the subject people? Besides, will it not be improper to devote any part of the donation to the establishment of a Pasteur institute, when the donor's express wish was that it should be employed for the purpose of scientific research calculated to benefit the Indians? Was Mr. Phipps consulted about the proposed Pasteur institute? If he was, and if he approved of the proposal, then he has no right to say that his donation has been spent for the benefit of the Indian people. As for the chemical laboratory, that, too, will be of little use to the Indian cultivator. But there can be no doubt that it will benefit some Europeans who will draw fat salaries from it.

63. The same paper has been both pained and surprised to receive the Government of India's letter No. 184 on the subject of the difference of treatment accorded to Native and to European costume at Delhi on the occasion of the Darbar.

The treatment of natives at the Delhi Darbar.
The pain has been caused by the fact of Government encouraging such difference of treatment, and the surprise has been created by the fact that while Lord Curzon himself has been advising the people of India to stick to their native costume, his Government has been indirectly advising them to assume the European costume and style.

When the writer drew the Viceroy's attention at Delhi to the fact that natives of rank and position had not been allowed to drive in costly carriages on the roads which were thrown open to the meanest Eurasian driving in the wretched *ekka*, it was hoped that some remedy would be sure to follow. But the writer was disappointed. The reply which was received from the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India was as follows:—

"It does not appear that you yourself suffered any inconvenience, while those whom you allege did suffer inconvenience have made no complaint."

It is true Kali Prasanna Kavyabisarad did not himself suffer the least inconvenience in Delhi; but he considered it his duty to bring to the notice of the authorities what others suffered, and about which they complained to him, if not to the authorities. That no complaint was made to the authorities simply showed that the people who suffered lacked the courage to make complaints, and that they thought it better to suffer in silence than bring harassment upon themselves by making representations to the authorities. The truth is that Lord Curzon knows all this, but he will not admit that he knows. But does it redound to the glory of the Government that the people suffer all oppressions in silence, and do not, for fear of the police and the officials and despairing of justice, make any complaint whatever?

The letter referred to says:—

"The Government of India do not think that any useful purpose would be served by the enquiry which you suggest."

But is it true that no useful purpose would have been served by the enquiry suggested? Would not the enquiry have shown whether the Magistrate of Delhi did really pass such unjust orders as were referred to in the writer's complaint, and whether such orders were carried out or not? The enquiry would also have shown the Government that the people never venture to complain when they suffer hardships under the unjust orders of particular officials, because it is their firm conviction that no complaint against officials or the police bears fruit. That is certainly not a happy country where such distrust prevails between the rulers and the ruled.

If the enquiry suggested had served no other useful purpose, it would, at least, have given a warning to officials who sometimes act in a manner which shows that they possess no sense of responsibility and no sense of right and wrong.

The writer never expected to receive such a reply from a wise, far-sighted and keen statesman like Lord Curzon.

64. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 7th March writes as follows:—

The rumoured extension of Lord Curzon's service. The following telegraph appears in a recent issue of a Calcutta news paper:—

"London, February 27th.

I understand on good authority that Lord Curzon will favourably receive an offer of extension of his term of office if it be made. Should he accept a second term, he will probably take a holiday to Europe first."

Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty began by raising high hopes in the minds of the Indian people, who were glad to have as their ruler an eloquent, learned, and energetic young man of versatile talents who promised them not less than twelve great reforms. It is nearly five years since he first set foot on the Indian soil in the midst of great public enthusiasm, and to-day we find only two Commissions—the Universities' Commission and the Police Commission, making some noise in the country. It yet remains to be seen whether these Commissions will bring forth life-giving nectar or killing poison. Considered in the light of past events it seems it is poison and not nectar which they will give the people.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 6th, 1903.

NAVA YUG,
Mar. 7th, 1903.

A Plague Commission sat during the present Viceroyalty under the presidency of Chief Justice Jenkins of the Bombay High Court. There was Dr. Bomford on the Commission; but the Commission was singularly lacking in able medical men of long Indian experience. And what on earth did His Excellency mean by appointing a lawyer as President of the Commission? What good the Commission's work will do is known only to God and to His Excellency. However that may be, we think that plague has taken a firm root in the country like cholera and small-pox. No amount of inoculation and segregation will drive it away. These lead only to waste of money on an inevitable and incorrigible evil.

A great reform has indeed been effected during His Excellency's Viceroyalty. Under a circular issued by Sir James Westland, the late Finance Member of the Viceroy's Council, the right of an ill-educated Anglo-Indian to public service is considered superior to that of a highly educated native graduate.

His Excellency being a young man, no disadvantage attaching to age can stand in the way of his accepting an extension of service. But it appears to us that his love of *tamasha* and amusements is increasing with the increase of his age. Whether the weak and poor Indian is able to bear the strain of Viceregal amusements, is a question of which his five years' Indian experience has certainly furnished him with a solution.

If His Excellency cannot suit his actions to the requirements of the Indians, he will never be able to receive their support in favour of his extension. The fate of the late Maharaja Sir Sivaji Rao Holkar has raised a suspicion in the minds of the Indian people which may not be easily removed.

BHARAT MITRA,
Mar. 7th, 1903.

65. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 7th March is sorry that some European spectators of the Delhi Darbar, who profaned. The Jumma Masjid at Delhi took their seats on the platform of the Jumma Masjid, breakfasted on hog's flesh on the spot—a thing the sight of which is shocking to the Musalmans.

BASUMATI,
Mar. 7th, 1903.

66. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 7th March has the following:—

Prophets and astrologers like Tarini Prasad Lord Curzon on the hoarded Jyotisi are about to lose their occupation! They wealth of India. cannot read a man's fortune without studying the lineaments of his face and the lines on the palm of his hands, but a fortuneteller has recently sprung up among us who can read men's fortune without even looking at them. Though no prophets ourselves, we can safely predict a great success for such a fortuneteller. This fortuneteller is no other than our learned Viceroy, Lord Curzon. Without stirring out of the Government House, His Lordship has calculated that the people of India possess a hidden treasure worth 825 crores of rupees, a calculation correct to a rupee! Such is the extraordinary power of our fortuneteller that he has counted all the rupees which are concealed in iron chests or are buried in the earth, and of which even the lady of the house is not aware. It would do one good to learn the art from him. Cannot the income-tax assessors make an attempt to acquire it?

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI.
Mar. 11th, 1903.

67. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March publishes the following in its English columns:—

A fitting sequel to the Durbar. "Loyalty brings its own reward! Just at the beginning of the present English year, all India was at Delhi to give a fresh proof of their loyalty to the British throne and enhance its glory and prestige by making a desperate attempt at a display of their barbaric pearl and gold; and on that very spot the milk of human kindness and affection of the ruling race began to flow towards the subject people to whom they profess to have extended brotherly affection and fatherly care. Even distinguished Indians then felt in the heart of their hearts that the crime of belonging to a subject race is an unpardonable crime in the eyes of the English Government notwithstanding all that they say to the contrary. The Indian Press indulged in no vague accusation so far as the wounding of the feelings of the invited Indian people was concerned, but referred to specific arrangements in which there was clearly reflected a desire to treat the natives with the contempt which is due to their position. The editor of a certain Bengali paper who asked Lord Curzon to hold an enquiry into these matters,

only invited a slap on his face. He has been told that as he has come out with a safe back he has no business to trouble himself as to what has happened to his friends and countrymen. Thus the curtain drops over the affair of indignity inflicted upon the Indians on an occasion on which they thought they would be accorded a better treatment. But this is only the beginning of the sad tale; what wonder the Delhi Durbar has done in the way of bridging the gulf between the rulers and the ruled can be seen from a number of cases, all happening in the short space of a month and following close on the heels of the Imperial assemblage at Delhi. So many as eight cases in which the Europeans caused death and serious injury to the 'natives' have occurred during the short space of a month, and in all these cases the Europeans have mostly been acquitted and in some cases let off with a nominal punishment. It is no use going into the merits of these cases. Even granting for argument's sake that in every case there was absent an intention to cause death or violent injury on the part of the accused, one cannot divest one's self of the impression that the Europeans are insolent towards the children of the soil, that their contempt towards them often leads to fatal results and the consequence of judicial trial in these cases of death and affronts cannot be expected to have any deterrent effect. Very few people have a judicial temper. They do not care to weigh evidence, read the judgments of the Judges, and then think for themselves whether the accused Europeans have been properly dealt with. The unfortunate fact that so many cases have occurred and that in every one of them the accused has been indulgently treated, impresses most people with the idea that in these cases the judicial trial is but a mockery, and the primitive principle that might is right still governs the civilized world. Apart from these cases, whenever the Europeans and Indians are brought together it can be seen that the police, the persons in authority, deal out one sort of treatment to the natives and another sort to the Europeans. It can be fairly said that we should not grudge the ruling race the privilege which they must naturally enjoy. We have no desire to meet this argument; all that we want a sympathetic Viceroy to do is to never grant the Europeans and Natives any opportunity of mixing together. The Indians though they have passed years of subjection are yet sensitive, and what is the use of creating occasions when they only fall an easy prey to the contempt which so often characterises the behaviour of the Europeans towards the people of the land. If a European gets into a railway carriage in which there are Indians, the latter are put to some sort of trouble. Deaths, grievous hurts,—these make up the history of the tea industry in Assam. In the various *malls* the approach of a native is contamination. It would be better if the Government were to make a law laying down clearly the distance a native has to keep from a European when they happen to come together. That would put an end to these unfortunate collisions. Lord Lansdowne, we remember, once said in reply to a certain question put to his Lordship in the House of Commons that the number of cases of friction between the British soldiers and the natives was daily growing less. Do these eight cases occurring in so short a time go to corroborate His Lordship's statement? To our countrymen our advice is that as long as we are not physically fit to command the love and respect of a European, we should not go near him; for a kick first and a barren judicial trial afterwards is only advertising our weakness and humiliation."

URIYA PAPERS.

68. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 25th February is sorry to note that owing to mismanagement, the day

The election in the Balasore appointed for the election of Municipal Commissioners for the Balasore Municipality has been deferred to some other date, the Chairman of the Balasore Municipality having omitted to attend to something very important.

69. The same paper as also its contemporaries of the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 26th February and the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 21st February sympathises with the Raja of Puri, some of whose valuable estates were put up to auction for the recovery of arrear revenue and other public demands, and whose remaining estates are already in the clutches of his

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Feb. 25th, 1903.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Feb. 25th, 1903.
SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Feb. 26th, 1903,
AND GARJATEASINI,
Feb. 21st, 1903.

exacting creditors. They all hope that the Raja will yet find means to get out of his difficulties in an honourable manner.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,

Feb. 26th, 1903.

UTKALDIPAKA,

Feb. 28th, 1903.

70. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 26th February is extremely glad to learn that an extension of two years' service has been granted to Lord Curzon, who will thus be in a position to complete some of the administrative reforms which he has so earnestly taken in hand. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 28th February is also of the same opinion.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,

GARJATBASINI,

Feb. 21st, 1903.

GARJATBASINI,

Feb. 21st, 1903

71. The same paper as also its contemporary of the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 21st February speaks highly of the blue and black ink manufactured at Balasore by Babu Hira Lal De, and suggest that the public of Orissa ought to extend to him the patronage which he so richly deserves.

72. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 21st February approves of the donation of Rs. 100 which the Raja of Khalikote has made to the weekly newspaper *Prajabandhu* published in the district of Ganjam.

GARJATBASINI,

Feb. 28th, 1903.

73. The same paper regrets to note that a Marwari shop-keeper, while sleeping in front of his shop in Angul, was one night seriously wounded by some unknown hand, and that Babu Chandra Banerjee of the Angul Engineering Office was wounded in his attempt to seize a burglar, who escaped with impunity. The writer requests the Angul Police to bring the offenders to justice without any more delay.

74. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 28th February takes a favourable notice of the charity of Babu Ghanashyam Mahanti, a contractor of Angul, who has undertaken to erect a dispensary for the benefit of a doctor and his patients in that place.

75. Referring to the statement of Mahamahopadhyay Chandra Sekhar Samant of Khandpara in the columns of the *Uriya* and *Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 11th February last that Muhammad Yusuf of Cuttack has been able to discover infallible medicines for snake-bite and hydrophobia, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 28th February suggests that the discoverer should lose no time to invite the Bengal and India Governments to test the efficacy of his medicines, as by that means he will be not only in a position to confer a blessing on the entire human race, but will also be in a position to enrich himself by the assistance and patronage of the two Governments.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 14th March, 1903.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 14th March 1903.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

313. The British Government, says the *Bengalee*, cannot view the situation in Persia with complacency, for Russia already controls the Persian tariff as completely as the foreign relations of Afghanistan are controlled by the British Government. The opening of the Quetta-Siestan route, which cost India a large sum of money will therefore be of no avail on account of the trade which this route was supposed to foster being practically killed. It is a signal triumph for Russian diplomacy, and it remains to be seen what shape Great Britain's retaliation will take.

314. The *Bengalee* writes :—

England and Russia in the East. the newly created Indian trade with Persia, it is noticeable that Russian goods are gradually ousting

British goods even in Afghanistan. The Afghan is said to have developed a liking for Russian goods which he finds to be "more beautiful, more durable and cheaper" than British goods, and the Afghan Governor of Herat has, it is rumoured, become so enamoured of Russian goods—or is it Russian gold?—that he has actually recommended to his master, the Amir, the opening of direct trade relations between Herat, Turkistan and Russia. If the late Amir had been alive, it is doubtful if the Governor of Herat would have had the hardihood to make such a recommendation. That the English should be beaten by Russians in a friendly combat of under-selling each other, is scarcely in keeping with the traditions of a "nation of shopkeepers." But how is it that Russian goods should have been pronounced superior to English goods? Were the English goods "specially manufactured" for the Afghan market, as some of them are for the Indian market?"

BENGALEE,
7th Mar. 1903.

BENGALEE,
11th Mar. 1903.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

315. If the object of Government, writes the *Behar Herald*, is really to Police Reform. save the natives from Police oppression, then the present system must entirely be abolished and the very names of Sub-Inspector and Inspector disappear. Thanas should be placed under Sub-Deputy Magistrates, and they should do the duties now performed by Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. The moral tone of the Police, in the opinion of this journal, would thus be much improved and there would be no cause for any further complaint.

With the present set of Police Officers the *Herald* finds two faults, viz., their rude and insulting behaviour towards the people and the low and half-educated classes from which they are recruited. Both these grievances can, however, be removed by the employment of Executive Service men who are not only educated but capable also of winning the people over on their side.

Lastly, a Joint-Magistrate should be placed in charge of the District Police, or in other words he should take over the duties of the present District Superintendent of Police who should be viewed in the light of an Inspecting officer merely.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

316. As an instance of how exactions are practised by peons in Courts of Justice, the *Bengalee* relates how a successful litigant, before he had scarcely left the court-room, was asked by one of the peons attached to the Judicial Commissioner's Court, Lucknow, for *bakshish*. The former pleaded poverty, but the corrupt licitor struck him in reply. The cries of the man attracted the attention of the Assistant Judicial Commissioner, who immediately held an enquiry, as a result of which he dismissed the guilty peon and asked if the party concerned were willing to proceed against the peon criminally.

If presiding officers kept this instance before them, the prevalent evil would be put down in no time.

BEHAR HERALD,
7th Mar. 1903.

BENGALEE.
7th Mar. 1903.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th Mar. 1903.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
10th Mar. 1903.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th Mar. 1903.

INDIAN MIRROR,
11th Mar. 1903.

INDIAN NATION,
9th Mar. 1903.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th Mar. 1903.

317. Every case of Indian *versus* European has its humour, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, and the Diamond Harbour case. The soldiers' case has not proved an exception. The

Jury, which was wholly European, unanimously agreed that the hut was fired by one of the three accused soldiers, but as there was not sufficient evidence to show which of the soldiers "caused the act," it returned a verdict of "not guilty." In the opinion of the *Patrika* the Jury should have found all three accused guilty since they could not fix on any particular man. But of course this principle applies only in the case of "Natives" and not Europeans!

318. The verdict of the Jury in this case did not at all surprise the *Indian Empire*. It was the settled conviction of *Ibid.*

everyone present at the trial that Hawkins, one of the three accused soldiers, was the culprit. The evidence was entirely against him, but nevertheless the Jury returned the perverse verdict of "not guilty."

Every well-wisher of the country, continues the *Empire*, should see how an effective stop can be put to this lawlessness. Lord Curzon with his keen insight has seen the disaster that awaits India if no preventive measures are taken, and it is to him that this journal appeals to control the violence of Europeans who are brutally inclined.

319. Reverting to this case the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that the incidents in connection with it show the Government *Ibid.* how utterly the spirits of the people have been

crushed. Fancy a dwelling-house being destroyed by three solitary soldiers and not a single voice from among thousands of natives raised in protestation! Is there any object in such a miserable race of human beings existing?

Another feature of the case, continues the *Patrika*, is that it has confirmed the belief entertained by the people that when it is a case of European *versus* Indian, the former has nothing to fear.

If the Government can remove this impression, let them do so quickly, for the time is not far distant when a social upheaval and its attendant outrages will seize India.

320. In connection with the acquittal of the three offenders in the Diamond Harbour case, the *Indian Mirror* writes:—

"We Indians need never despair. We have profound faith in the Eternal Law of Justice and Karma. We are taught in our Scriptures the supreme virtue of patience. Bitterness of spirit and violence of language do not correct wrongs. The redress lies with the Almighty, and He shall prevail!"

321. Lord Curzon, who cares so much for efficiency and values experts, *Ibid.* will, the *Indian Nation* trusts, turn his attention Lord Curzon and the High Courts of India. to the constitution of the High Courts all over India.

The present system of recruitment has proved most detrimental to the efficiency of the Bench for two reasons. Firstly, successful barristers in England will not come out to India as Judges, and, secondly, the foremost barristers in this country pursue the very same policy. The consequence is that mediocres of the English and Indian Bars are the only ones willing to sit on the Bench.

Now, it is a great mistake to fancy that any sort of talent will do for India, for the old Judges, like Sir Barnes Peacock and his colleagues, would have done honour to the highest Court of Judicature in England.

It behoves the Government, therefore, to maintain the old standard if it wants the people to have any confidence in the Supreme Courts of India.

322. While congratulating Mr. Handley on his elevation to the Bench *Ibid.* of the High Court, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* Mr. Handley and the High Court. regrets that the officiating appointment was not given to a "native." Both Babu Saroda Charan

Sen and Mr. B. L. Gupta have previously officiated with great credit to themselves. But alas, it should always be remembered that the public services belong to Englishmen who have conquered the country. The "natives" have no right whatsoever to any one of the public services of their own country, though they are welcome to those bones and crumbs which their rulers in their infinite generosity may let fall from their hands. It is quite true that

the late Queen assured the people of India that they would be treated just like her other subjects, but it must never be forgotten that the meaning of the proclamation ought always to be understood in a Pickwickian sense.

323. In connection with Mr. Bell's officiating appointment as Second Judge of the Small Cause Court, the *Bengalee* writes

The Small Cause Court.

that when Mr. Ormond was appointed as such a

few years ago a public meeting was held to protest against the injustice. Mr. Ormond was an outsider and came over the heads of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Judges and the Registrar. The injustice is going to be repeated in the case of Mr. Bell. Besides, remarks the *Bengalee*, it casts a slur on the officers who are going to be superseded. The proper course for Government would have been to promote each of the officers from the Third Judge to the Registrar, and to appoint a Subordinate Judge to officiate as Registrar. Instead of following this, the only right course, Government is going to sanction an arrangement which is indefensible from every point of view.

324. The *Bengalee* writes in the following terms of the claims of Mr. B. L. Gupta:—

High Court vacancies.

“ We understand that Babu Saroda Charan Mitter will be appointed to officiate for Mr. Justice Hill when the latter goes on leave. It is, however, not yet settled who will be the *locum tenens* of Sir Henry Prinsep. We hope the claims of Mr. B. L. Gupta will not be again overlooked. They are certainly superior to those of any one else. It would be most deplorable if racial considerations were imported into the question.”

325. The supersession of able and popular Judges of the Small Cause Court in favour of Mr. Bell who is to officiate as

The Small Cause Court.

Second Judge does not, in the opinion of the same

paper, speak well of the judgment of the Officiating Lieutenant-Governor. It is true that Mr. Bell is the son of a late Legal Remembrancer of the Calcutta High Court, but talent is seldom hereditary and pedigree cannot constitute a right.

But what is more difficult of explanation is that, while there are two Muhammadan Judges in the above court, the Hindu Judges are conspicuous by their absence! Surely there is no lack of Hindu talent in the Subordinate Judicial Service!

326. There is no doubt, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, that many of

List of Jurymen.

the jurors, both common and special, are not

qualified to perform their duties creditably. It

hopes, therefore, that the heads of offices and firms will, in reply to the Clerk of the Crown's circular, send in a list of competent persons only, as recent verdicts have shocked the public and made them lose confidence in the jury system.

As regards the recruitment of special jurors the *Patrika* suggests that the names of all those Europeans who are clerks and assistants in firms and have no social position should be struck off, as it is better that the European community should have a small number of special jurors than a very large number of incompetent men who would lower the name of British Justice in India.

Although the number of educated and leading Indians is much larger than that of the Europeans taken class for class, nevertheless the number of European special jurors is much larger than that of the Indians. Should not the reverse be the case?

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

327. When a community which has been labouring under certain

The Municipality.

grievances, fails in spite of repeated efforts to

attract the attention of Government, then, in

the opinion of the *Bengalee*, it should resort to desperate measures. The attitude of the Hindu community towards the Municipal Act furnishes an illustration. The Hindu Commissioners declared that they would have nothing to do with a Municipality so unfairly constituted, and they have stuck

BENGALEE,
10th Mar. 1903.

BENGALEE,
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12th Mar. 1903.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Mar. 1903.

BENGALEE,
11th Mar. 1903.

to their resolution in spite of pressure, entreaty and allurement, as it is the only way of perpetuating their protest against the wrong that has been inflicted upon the native population whose representatives have been deprived of all voice in the municipal administration of the city.

BENGALEE,
11th Mar. 1903

328. Referring to the appeals made to the twenty-eight Municipal Commissioners who resigned in a body on the introduction of the Bill of 1899, to stand for the forthcoming election, the *Bengalee* writes:—

"The twenty-eight have been as good as their word. They have not budged an inch nor will, as long as the constitution remains what it now is. But how have the authorities kept their word? Was it not Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the author of the Act, who declared in a public place and on a public occasion that if he had any reason to apprehend that under the constitution he was proposing, the Corporation might lose the services of men like Babu Nalin Bihary Sircar or Babu Kalynath Mitter, he, for one, would have torn the Bill to pieces? Whatever might have been the anticipations of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, events have shown that the condition which, according to him, would have warranted the abandonment of the measure, has been amply satisfied since. Will the Government amend the Act as a redemption of the pledge given by its author?"

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

INDIAN MIRROR,
10th Mar. 1903.

329. Two or three years ago, writes the *Indian Mirror*, the prospect of Lord Curzon's extension would have been welcomed by the people, but to-day the rumour has caused uneasiness in their ranks, for they do not know what is likely to follow on the heels of the recent Railway circular by which Indians are not to hold appointments in the Railway carrying over fifty rupees a month. That is, Indian graduates with all their qualifications have no chance with perhaps illiterate Eurasians and cannot hope to get beyond ticket-collectors!

Eurasians aver that they are neglected. Lord Curzon cannot be deaf to their cry, and at the same time he cannot give anything that the Europeans are not willing to part with. But something must be given to "insistent beggars," so the Indians are deprived of the little they possessed in the Railway.

There is no doubt, concludes the *Mirror*, that Lord Curzon has done much to earn the gratitude of Indians, but truly the majority of his measures have proved bitter to a degree.

BENGALEE,
12th Mar. 1903.

330. Overcrowding, writes the *Bengalee*, was hitherto complained of only by third class passengers, but the evil in spite of the Railway grievance. Government of India's special circular letter on the subject, has now spread to second class compartments. This, continues the journal, is specially the case in the East Indian Railway. Cannot the authorities run more trains or provide more accommodation? Would such a state of affairs be tolerated in any other part of the world?

Lord Curzon has always evinced a special interest in the matter, and the *Bengalee* hopes that His Excellency will now take decisive measures.

(h)—*General.*

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA
7th Mar. 1903.

331. When men like Mr. Brodrick and Lord Lansdowne are appointed as Minister of War and Minister of Foreign Affairs, respectively, it is not at all surprising to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* that Lord Curzon is badly wanted at home. But His Excellency has undertaken many projects which he has not been able to complete. He is sincerely desirous of doing something substantial by which the people of India may gratefully remember him. A brilliant career no doubt awaits him in England, but his duty lies in India.

BENGALEE,
7th Mar. 1903.

332. In connection with Lord Curzon's extension of office, the *Bengalee* says that Lord Dalhousie came out to India at the age 36, remained eight years, and was carried home a cripple. The moral is obvious. There is no doubt that our present Viceroy

is phenomenally vigorous and energetic, but His Excellency could not serve the country through the rigours of an Indian climate for an unbroken period of ten years without seriously impairing his health.

Let those, therefore, that think that the universe would come to a standstill if Lord Curzon's tenure of office were not renewed, move His Majesty's Government to pass a Bill allowing His Excellency to take short leave without vacating his post.

333. Referring to this case, the *Bengalee* says that the characteristics of

The Bombay Railway case. the Hindu are dignity, fortitude and self-control,

whatever, would amount to suicide, morally and spiritually. But, in the interests of law and order, the same journal thinks that in some cases the adoption of John Bull's fighting propensities would yield a highly satisfactory result. For instance, when Mr. Moos, the Bombay Solicitor, was so deliberately and causelessly insulted by Captain Winter, the Commandant of the Hyderabad Contingent, he should have taken the law into his own hands and taught the gallant Captain a lesson that would have lasted him all the days of his life!

334. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* draws the following conclusions from "Nemesis."

the results of the Corbett case and similar cases :—

(1) Indian servants will be demoralised and instead of being loyal to their masters, they will be a source of positive danger.

(2) A most bitter feeling is being created among the masses of Indians against Europeans in general.

(3) Political danger to the country will surely result.

BENGALEE,
7th Mar. 1903.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
7th Mar. 1903.

The sooner, concludes the *Patrika*, the authorities realise that the encouragement Europeans are receiving in murdering Indians is in reality undermining the Empire the better.

335. It has been said that the members of the Indian Civil Service are the

The ablest and best service ablest and best rulers in the world, but it seems to in the world.

the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* that, for this statement to

be true it should come from the people of India.

Now what have these officials done for the people they govern? Have they introduced, any new act or revised one that was decaying? Have they mixed freely with the people and so acquainted themselves with their wants and wishes? In short, have they done anything to win the heart of the Indian? No, they have failed according to this standard, but as far as sending *badmashes* to jail and keeping the peace is concerned they have succeeded well. The law-abiding and domestic character of the people, however, has rendered the latter task easy, so that it is not a sign of particular ability on the part of the officials to keep the peace among a proverbially peace-loving people, nor is an expert thief-catcher synonymous with a good administrator.

336. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* recommends Mr. Allen's reorganisation

The Agricultural Department. scheme of the Agricultural Department to the

Government of India, as this Department is the

most important one under the State, and the salvation of India, to a large extent, depends on the development of the Agricultural resources of the country. The first Famine Commission suggested the creation of such a Department not only for the purpose of collecting statistics, but also with a view to improving the art and science of agriculture. What, asks the *Patrika*, has the Government ever done to promote their wise intention? If the Police force has to be increased or a military expedition undertaken, then will Government cheerfully open its purse-strings; but if it is appealed to in matters educational, agricultural or sanitary, then it will pitiously cry "no funds!" The apathy that has been shown to this most essential Department has rendered any progress impossible, but now that Mr. Allen has laid the matter clearly before the Government of India, this journal hopes that the proposals will seriously engage its attention.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th Mar. 1903.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th Mar. 1903

337. The same journal, reverting to this subject, does not agree with

Ibid. the proposal to transfer the agricultural class from

Sibpur to Pusa. Such an arrangement would not

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th Mar. 1903.

be very convenient to the students of Bengal. The school should be located in some central place in Bengal proper instead. Then, the administration of the Department should be conducted mainly by Indians under European supervision and the building of well furnished laboratories, where the analyses of soil, manure, etc., are made at a trifling cost, should be regarded in the light of an absolute necessity.

"The improvement of the Agricultural Department is however only a question of money. The Government can make it one of the most useful departments in the world if it makes liberal contributions for its development. The posts in the department should be sufficiently attractive to induce capable men to hold and stick to them. The present pay of the travelling overseers is too poor to attract brilliant students of the Agricultural Class of the Engineering College at Sibpur. They should be paid at the rate of Rs. 150 rising to Rs. 300. Care should, at the same time, be taken that all the money is not swallowed up by the establishment. Indeed, what is wanted is real work, and not a mere ornamental department."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Mar. 1903.

338. The Government notification announcing the reduction of Mr. Surji Kumar Agasti to the grade of a Joint-Magistrate has created a most painful sensation, more particularly as it was known that a powerful clique of Secretariat officials were bent on ruining his official prospects.

Mr. Agasti's career was as brilliant as possible until he thought it his duty to report the District Judge for incompetence. On making an enquiring, the late Sir John Woodurn told the Magistrate that his complaint was actuated by personal motives. In spite of facts the officiating Lieutenant-Governor has taken the same view of the case and degraded Mr. Agasti.

But what an unequal contest: a European Covenanted officer on one side and an Indian semi-covenanted officer on the other! The result certainly was to be expected.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Mar. 1903.

339. Discussing the question whether the Magistrate's mission in India was to hunt down criminals or remove the cause of crime, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, says that the experience of the people of India led to the conviction that the only object Magistrates have before them is to furnish the jails with a healthy and continuous supply of criminals. Why should they soil their hands with this sort of work; is not their mission a higher one? Of course there is pleasure in pursuit, but this sort of pleasure must be left to the police and should not be tasted by men so highly cultured.

The *Patrika* would prefer Magistrates to leave, like David Hare, unimperishable marks of their work in India instead of, as now, being forgotten as soon as they leave one district for another?

BEHAR HERALD,
12th Mar. 1903.

340. Referring to the decision of Lord George Hamilton, that India must pay an extra two pence per head to British soldiers in India, the *Behar Herald* writes:—

"So the autocratic Secretary must needs slay the slain! Those who really take an interest in Indian affairs and feel for our people must be shocked to learn this, and if the enormity of the act can be brought vividly home to the people of England, we feel sure much indignation would be shown. This therefore should now be our object. What Lord George has done will not be easily undone. But we may hammer away at this matter until the scandal is known to all men. Fancy taxing an over-taxed people without the slightest excuse whatsoever!"

III.—LEGISLATION.

BENGALEE,
8th Mar. 1903.

341. Referring to the suggestion made by the Advocate-General that the sale of liquor to habitual drunkards and to children under fourteen years of age should be prohibited, the *Bengalee* admits that it cannot see the wisdom of fixing this age: Why not fifteen or even sixteen? How is the publican to know whether the lad who has ordered a "peg" is under or above the prescribed age? Would the production of a baptismal certificate be required?

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Indian Mirror* wishes to know who the "thoughtful men" referred to by the British Indian Association are that approve of the Victoria Memorial Hall. of the situation chosen by Lord Curzon. It is certainly not the Judges of the High Court nor the Calcutta Bar. The members of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and of the Calcutta Trades Association and the European and Indian Mercantile Community are utterly opposed to the site. Who then are these "thoughtful men"?

Calcutta is insanitary enough, and the *maidan* forms the lungs of this over-crowded city, so it must on no account be encroached upon.

INDIAN MIRROR
12th Mar. 1903

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

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 14th March 1903.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Inspr.-General of Police, L. P.

