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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 14th December 1901.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 9th December has the following:—

England and Koweit.

The British Government would have brought itself into trouble if it had interfered in matters relating to Koweit. Koweit being the port where all *caravans*, intending to make pilgrimage to the Hedjaz and to the holy places at Karbala, Najoff and Meshad, have to land, is considered by all Musalmans as a very important port. Turkey, Persia and the many petty States in Arabia would have in that case felt themselves bound to defend the place. How the English, who are still fighting with the Boers at a great cost, would have fared in that case, everyone may conjecture.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
Dec. 9th, 1901.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. Referring to the compromise which has been effected between Babu Jadav Krishna Ray Chaudhuri, Pleader of the Calcutta Police Court, and the European police constable, who recently insulted him in open court, on the constable begging the pleader's pardon, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th December asks, what punishment has the Police Commissioner awarded to the constable for his high-handed and oppressive conduct towards a respectable pleader? Would an apology have been so easily filed if the complainant had been a less influential man, or if a Presidency Magistrate had not been a witness of the occurrence? Should the a constable, who had the audacity to insult a respectable pleader in open court, be kept in the service?

The Police Court constable.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 6th, 1901.

3. The same paper says that for some days past cases of cow-theft are occurring almost every night in the Chhatin village in the Bogra district. The carcasses of cows which are thus stolen are afterwards found lying in tanks and fields stripped of their skins. Information of all this was duly lodged by the villagers in the local thana, but no inquiry has as yet been held in the matter.

Cow-theft in a village in the Bogra district.

HITAVADI,

4. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th December says that one morning a number of carts laden with firewood were passing through Bankura town, when two warders of the Bankura jail came up and wanted to take away some of the carts by force. The carters objected saying that they had already sold the firewood to the servant of the Deputy Inspector, and a gentleman, who was passing, also protested against the conduct of the warders. Thereupon one of the warders unyoked the bullocks from some of the carts, challenged the gentleman to prevent him from taking them away by force and showered abuse upon him. It is not known why the carters were unwilling to sell firewood to the warders.

Oppression by two jail warders in Bankura town.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Dec. 8th, 1901.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

5. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 1st December complains of the high-handedness of Babu Barada Charan Ganguli, the Deputy Magistrate of Rajbari in the Faridpur district. He insults old and experienced clerks by using abusive words ("damn," "fool," &c.). He has dismissed Fazil, the old orderly, and appointed his private servant in his place. Applications for criminal proceedings are generally dismissed by him at the first hearing. He refuses to accept applications submitted a few minutes after they are called for. He refuses to accept cases of forcible harvesting of crops, on the ground that such cases come within the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts. He is in the habit of lightening his file by transferring cases to the Honorary Bench. Once the application of a woman named Jhapa Bibi was dismissed by him because she was not in the court-room at the moment she was called. Some-time ago there were 150 income-tax cases on his file, but one day he came to the Court at 9½ A.M. and struck off all of them.

The Deputy Magistrate of Rajbari in the Faridpur district.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Dec. 1st, 1901.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Dec. 1st, 1901.

6. In writing about the misdeeds of Babu Sris Chandra Banerji, the late Additional Munsif of the Madaripur subdivision of the Faridpur district, the same paper says that when he was in Madaripur he fined the *naib* of the Bandhabari *kutcherry* under the Kotalipara thana Rs. 50 for failing to attend the Court in obedience to summons. The order was afterwards annulled by the First Munsif. The *Weekly Chronicle* newspaper of Sylhet says that when Sris Babu was Second Munsif of the Habiganj subdivision in the Sylhet district, his high-handed conduct greatly dissatisfied the local pleaders and mukhtars. He prohibited the entrance of their muharrirs into his court, and confined two muharrirs for three hours each and sent another to the local Deputy Magistrate for trial for having entered it. The Deputy Magistrate released the muharrir. The pleaders petitioned the District Judge against Sris Babu, but to no effect. A few days after this he insulted Babu Sanatan De, a pleader, by having him called by a court peon in the manner in which parties and witnesses are called. On the 8th May 1900, the President of the Bar Library wired to the District Magistrate against Sris Babu, but to no effect.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI.

7. The same paper says that a case in which the District Engineer of Faridpur is the plaintiff and Jaydev Bairagi, a tenant of the Maharaja Bahadur of Faridpur, is the defendant, is pending in the Court of Babu Girish Chandra Sarkar, a Deputy Magistrate of Faridpur, for the last eight months. The case is being adjourned from day to day without any reason. One day Girish Babu sent a letter to the District Engineer, the plaintiff, through the defendant, and on the return of the latter with the answer demanded a security of Rs. 200 from him. Girish Babu says that the Maharaja Bahadur has enough money to bear the loss caused by frequent adjournments. If the wealth of the Maharaja Bahadur has become an eye-sore to the Deputy Babu, it is better that he should soon leave the place.

Neither the local people nor the Appellate Court are satisfied with Girish Babu's work. He has no foresight and is indifferent to his duties. He never sits in Court before 1 P.M. Parties and witnesses are kept waiting up to 8 or 9 P.M. and then dismissed. Under such circumstances prisoners have to fast, because the jail kitchen is closed at 5 P.M.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 6th, 1901.

8. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th December wishes to draw the attention of the authorities to the high-handed conduct of Mr. Vernède, formerly officiating Deputy Commissioner and now Joint Magistrate of Jalpaiguri, towards his subordinates and outsiders, and quotes the following cases as instances:—

1. Soon after his appointment to the officiating post, he beat the *mali* and the *syce* of the Deputy Commissioner on leave.
2. One day towards the end of September last, he expelled a treasury-poddar from the Treasury-room and beat a treasury-peon.
3. One day he insulted a clerk of the income-tax office.
4. One day he drove away an old and experienced pleader from his presence “নেকাল যাও” “নেকাল যাও।”
5. One day he insulted the Court Sub-Inspector who reported to the District Superintendent of Police.
6. On the 12th October last, he insulted a Hindu mukhtar and a Muhammadan mukhtar in abusive words (“fool,” “শুয়ার,” &c.) during the hearing of a case.
7. His peshkar, who is an old and experienced man, suffers greatly at his hands. Scarcely a day passes when he is not abused by his master.
8. On the 19th November last, he beat an old clerk who was acting as his peshkar.
9. If a witness fails to grasp a question, Mr. Vernède causes him to be shaken by his shoulders by a constable.

(d)—Education.

9. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 5th December draws attention to the inconvenience which has been caused to the students in the Chittagong Collegiate School by the frequent change of Head-master of the institution. Babu Dwarka Nath Basu, the present head-master, was a teacher of the school and is very much respected by the boys and teachers. It is hoped he will be kept in the post for some time.

JYOTI,
Dec. 5th, 1901

10. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th December complains that no Syllabus of text-books for the Upper Primary Examination in the Dacca Circle has been published as yet and says that intending students for that examination are being made sufferers. A list of books has long since been submitted by Maulavi Abdul Karim, B.A., Inspector of Schools, to the Director of Public Instruction, for sanction, but nothing has yet been done.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 6th, 1901.

11. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th December writes as follows:—
It is for more than one reason that we have been engaged in criticising the method of teaching of a Professor of English literature in the Presidency College, Calcutta. The Presidency College is a model institution. Many people are of opinion that the want of a sufficient number of professors possessing Oxford or Cambridge education, is the cause of the failure of higher education to produce better results in this country. But the man about whom we are writing in this place is a graduate of the Oxford University. He teaches both the B.A. and M.A., classes. He is a pet of the Calcutta University, which thinks that he possesses an uncommon mastery over the English language.

PRATIVASI,
Dec. 9th, 1901.

He ruins his students not only as a professor, but also as an examiner. We think that it is fit time to discuss the method of teaching and take a measure of the learning of a distinguished professor when the question of educational reform is engaging the attention of Lord Curzon.

Even to the B.A. and M.A. classes, the professor explains "father" as "male parent," "rain" as "condensed vapour," "powder" as "dusty substance," "foolish" as "stupid," &c. When he dictates notes to his students they tire of writing "small dash," "big dash," "1st N.B.," "2nd N.B.," "Charles says," "John says," "Arthur says," "so and so says," and so on. He is like a phonograph, and his notes are like phonographic reproductions of what others have said. Once a student said that in explaining the passage "Whisky never made man either fair or fat," the learned professor explained the word "fair" as good and honest, and said that those who explain it as beautiful are stupid. On another occasion the student said that the professor, uses adjectives used as nouns with the definite article before them as singular, and in witness produced three different note-books belonging to three different students, in which were written "which the spiritually minded ever tries to follow and attain but which ever eluded his grasp." This note was given by the learned professor who dictates to his classes notes carefully prepared at home. His English is rather queer, such as "the Earth was not long but circular or globular." It is this professor who looks down upon professors who are graduates of the Calcutta University and thinks that the fragrance of his reputation has spread all round and that professors like Mr. Percival are inferior to him.

12. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 9th December says that the attention of the higher educational authorities has been, times without number, drawn to the fact that the present course of studies in the Bengal Madrasahs is very defective, but up to the present nothing has been done to reform that course. The Muhammadan Educational Conference held in Calcutta in 1899, expressed its regret that the present system of Arabic education in the Bengal Madrasahs was doing great harm to the Musalmans of Bengal, and under the direction of that body a committee was formed to see what steps might be taken to reform the Madrasah course. But no one knows what the committee has done in this matter. We are aware that some people who call themselves the leaders of the Musalman community

ROZNAAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
Dec. 9th, 1901.

are against the proposed reform. They say that the present Madrassa course is quite in conformity with the requirements of the times. But our argument is that though since the opening of the Madrassas in Bengal thousands of students have completed the prescribed course of studies in those institutions, there is hardly to be found one among them who has been able to confer any good upon his co-religionists. What we find in most cases is, that such students, being unable to earn their livelihood, have become a burden upon their well-to-do neighbours. We, therefore, say that the knowledge which does good neither to its recipient nor to those at whose cost he was able to acquire it, is worse than blind ignorance. We pray that the authorities may be pleased to direct their attention to this question.

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

SAMA,
Dec. 6th, 1901.

13. Babus Lal Mohan Seth and Upendra Nath Shaha complain in the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 6th December that the *ghee* Sale of unwholesome food in Calcutta which is used in the manufacture of sweetmeats by the sweetmeat-sellers of Moyrapati in Barabazar, Calcutta, is so bad as to cause nausea to people passing by their shops. The Health Department of the Calcutta Municipality, however, takes no notice of this. The Chairman should direct his attention to the matter for the sake of public health.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 6th, 1901.

14. Referring to the last Resolution of the Bengal Government on the Municipal Administration of Calcutta, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th December writes as follows:—
Government Resolution on the Municipal Administration of Calcutta. People have not turned so mad/as to expect perfection within a year or two. The hope of enjoying elysian bliss so soon does not find place in men's minds. People only want to see what benefit they have derived from the enforcement of the Act which was passed by the Government with so much pomp and in defiance of public opposition.

No one hopes to secure the impossible. But what is that superior comfort which the Government has provided for rate-payers, who are oppressed with a 19½ per cent. tax, with the help of its own Commissioners?

According to the authorities the measures for municipal improvement taken under the new Act may be classified under the following five heads:—

(1) The establishment of different offices in different districts for the Engineering, the Health, the Building, and the Conservancy Departments. But people are not interested in the number of offices for these departments. Government has, therefore, nothing to be proud of in this matter. It should have pointed out what good has been done by an increase in the number of such offices.

(2) *Bustee improvement.*—But Government admit that the progress made in this direction has been “extremely small.” Why then so much boasting for so little work done?

(3) *Reform of the Collector's Department.*—We don't know what increased efficiency in work has this department gained by being reformed. Those rate-payers who had lost their old bills had to pay them anew, and the doors, windows and other chattels of the poor were distrained. One is left to imagine whether under such circumstances municipal servants extorted bribes or not. There is no doubt that great *zulm* was done. The Bengal Government's resolution on the Municipal Administration of Calcutta says:—“Since the close of the year sanction has been accorded to a Resolution of the Corporation exempting from assessment all lands and buildings, the annual valuation of which does not exceed Rs. 20. This, as the Chairman remarks, should afford a great relief to all the collecting departments by the abolition of a large number of bills for infinitesimal amounts.” But, in practice, the municipal servants realise taxes for such exempted lands and buildings. Oppression rather than reform marks the Collector's Department now-a-days.

The fourth and fifth heads refer to the keeping of accounts and other items of business. Outsiders are not in a position to judge what improvements have been made in these matters. As yet we see nothing in the way of an amelioration of the condition of the clerks in municipal employ.

On the whole, the rate-payers of Calcutta have gained nothing by the new Act.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

15. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 5th December has the following:—

The question of agricultural improvement. There was a time when India had her arts and manufactures. But she has none now. That is the reason why the Indian people are becoming poorer every day. The most stupid Indian sees this. It is not easy, however, to improve matters in this respect. The country, whose Sovereign takes no interest in her arts and industries, and whose laws place obstacles in the way of her industrial progress, can have little chance of improving. Consequently the people of India have had to fall back upon agriculture as the only means of earning a livelihood. Formerly, all the food grown in the country remained within it and people never knew what want of food was. But now a very large quantity of food-grains has to be sent out to foreign countries in exchange for commodities received therefrom. The result is that India is becoming poor, both in money and in food. The only way in which Indians can now improve their condition is to make their land, now their only resource, yield more crops. They are doing their best to get a larger produce from the soil, but success in this direction, too, depends very much upon the help of Government. It is impossible for the poor Indian raiyat to bring agricultural methods to perfection or to irrigate his lands on a large scale without Government's help. Unfortunately Government has not as yet rendered such help.

The fact that Government gives loans at a small interest for the purpose of agricultural improvement is not known to raiyats in general. Steps ought to be taken to make this fact widely known to them. At present, training in improved methods of agriculture is not so necessary, as the removal of the wants and impediments which prevent raiyats from raising larger crops on existing methods. The Chittagong model farm, upon which much money has been spent, has, for instance, done very little good to the country.

Export and increase of population have also made it necessary that more and more land should be brought under the plough. But the stringent rules of Government stand in the way of those who would otherwise take leases of uncultivated land for the purpose of cultivation. A large number of Chittagong people have been for the last few years trying to get leases of uncultivated land in the outskirts of Chittagong and in Burma, but they have not succeeded in inducing Government to give them permanent leases. Not only are the Chittagong authorities putting obstacles in the way of the extension of agriculture, by refusing to grant permanent leases, but last year they did not allow raiyats in times of drought to irrigate their lands from the numerous hill streams which exist in Chittagong. To establish model farms with a view of teaching raiyats improved methods of agriculture, and at the same time to refuse leases of uncultivated lands on reasonable terms and take away the raiyats' privilege of irrigating their land from natural streams lying conveniently near to them may, in Government's opinion, mean doing something for the agricultural improvement of the country, but it will not benefit the country in the least. To cut a tree at its root and then to water it at the top is a course of action which can only be viewed with contempt and ridicule.

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

16. A correspondent of the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 4th December

A silted-up canal in the 24-Parganas district. draws attention to the miserable condition of the raiyats of Mallikpur, Dakshina'la, Narayanbere, Bajarbere, Mala, Narayantala, Dona, Kalagachia, Pakur, Digre, Chaka, Jamira, Budha, Asta, Mahmudpur and about forty other villages in the 24-Parganas district, in consequence of the silting up of the Katakhal canal. The canal was re-excavated in the time of Warren Hastings and remained navigable and irrigated the villages on its banks till the year 1883. Since that year it began to deteriorate and from the year 1890 the villages in question ceased to obtain water from it for irrigation. The villages have, in consequence, suffered from failure of crops for the last ten or

JYOTI,
Dec. 5th, 1901.

BASUMATI,
Dec. 4th, 1901.

eleven years, and the condition of their residents has become extremely miserable. The trade of the villages has also been almost completely stopped by the silting up of the canal.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Dec. 4th, 1901.

17. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th December, writes as follows:—

Are railways a boon or a curse to India?

The benefit which India derives from her railway system will appear trifling considering the harm it has done to her people. To tell the truth, railways are the cause of the present deplorable condition of the Indians, as well as the cause of their death by starvation.

The poor and famished Indians have every year to pay £ 8,000,000 to British capitalists as interest on the capital which they have expended on the construction of Indian railways. This is one of the principal items in the heavy remittance which is every year made to England from India as home charges. It is not difficult to see how many persons could have been fed with this amount, if it had not been taken away. One also fails to understand what necessity had India, when she had no money of her own, to borrow money for the purpose of making railways? Even a boy can see that it is better to forego a comfort or convenience than to enjoy it at a cost which cannot be provided without making heavy debts.

Has the railway, after all, done us any good? Railways are profitable to a manufacturing country, because they facilitate transport and enable her to send her goods to various markets at a comparatively small cost. But to a country like India, which is not a manufacturing country, but is an essentially agricultural one, railway extension is decidedly injurious. As a matter of fact, railways are like so many veins for draining away India's blood. When there were no railways in India, her people suffered no serious inconvenience. But railways were nevertheless constructed, and the Indians were, as it were by force, taught their use. That railways are now felt to be a want is only because the people of India have now become accustomed to their use.

Even during the year 1898-99, when hundreds of Indians were dying like cats and dogs for want of food, and when the newspapers in England and America were publishing heart-rending pictures of famine-stricken people, Indian railways conveyed for export more than 37,000,000 cwts. of rice and more than 19,000,000 cwts. of wheat. Now, let us see what would have been the condition of India during that particular year, if this vast quantity of rice and wheat, not taking into account other food-grains which were exported, had remained in the country. One seer of rice or paddy a day is enough for a man. In one month, therefore, one man requires thirty seers of rice or paddy and in a year 360 seers or 9 maunds: 56,000,000 cwts. or 62,720,000 maunds of rice and paddy would, therefore, have maintained about seven millions of men for a year. The maximum duration of a famine cannot exceed six months. The food exported from India during the year 1898-99 would, therefore, have sufficed to feed fourteen millions of people during a famine which lasted for six months. The stoppage of only a year's export would have produced this marvellous effect. Now, consider how India would benefit by the abolition of her export trade in food-grains. All the food grown would remain in the country, there would be no deaths from starvation and food would be cheap. But the railways have become the cause of India's ruin. They afford facilities of conveyance at a small cost and large quantities of food-grains are every year taken away.

It is now clear that, whether the railways have benefited India by supplying facilities for the carriage of food to famine-stricken people or not, they have themselves been, in a manner, the cause of famine in India every year. Famines also are a source of profit to the Indian railways, because as soon as famine breaks out in a place, railways charge more than their ordinary rate for the carriage of food-grains there. As a matter of fact, the Indian railways derive their income mainly from the carriage of food-grains for export and the carriage of food-grains to famine-stricken places.

Do the Indian railways, then, confer no benefit on any one? They do. They have given British capitalists an opportunity for investing money which would otherwise become rusty in their hands, and have secured them an interest

at the rate of four per cent. on their investments. The interest will continue so long as India and the Indians exist. Even if the railways make no profit, Government must, in consequence of guarantee given by it pay interest at four per cent. from the Indian exchequer. Such is the sense of justice of the Indian Government. Any other Government would have pointed out to the capitalists the profit that railways in India were calculated to bring in and would have invited them to invest their capital in the construction of railways at their own risk without any guarantee from the Government. This might, at first, have made capitalists shy of bringing out their hordes, but would have saved India from the burden of heavy railway debts. No independent country would follow the policy of the Indian Government of constructing railways with money raised by loan, especially if it was already involved in debt. The policy of the Indian Government, however, was dictated solely by the consideration of the profit it was expected to bring to British capitalists and not by any consideration of profit or loss to India.

18. The same paper writes as follows:—

The best method of irrigation for Bengal.

In spite of all the efforts of Government to prevent the destruction of crops from want of rain and avert famines, no appreciable results have yet been attained. There may be many causes, besides drought, which produce famine. But so long as the Indian raiyat is not enabled to raise a crop without complete dependence on rainfall, so long will the people of India continue to be visited by famine. It is true, Government is excavating canals in many places to irrigate culturable land and thereby make the raiyat independent of rainfall, but canals are expensive works and are not possible in every place. Cheaper methods of irrigation ought therefore to be widely adopted in the country.

Wells are expensive in the North-Western Provinces where sub-soil water lies very deep, but are not expensive in Bengal. The writer has seen wells excavated in Bengal for two rupees only, and every one of such wells has irrigated ten bighas of land. Government can therefore excavate wells wherever water is wanted for irrigation in Bengal. Though the raiyats can themselves have wells excavated, their gross ignorance and conservatism stand in the way of their making such use of wells, because they never saw their fathers irrigate their lands in this manner. Somebody must teach them to irrigate their lands with well water, and who but the Government should teach them to do so? The number of energetic zamindars, who may be expected to impart the necessary instruction to their raiyats, is very small. As a class, the zamindars are too much occupied with domestic dissensions, law suits, hunting, travelling, pleasing officials and their own amusement to have leisure for this work. None but the Government can, therefore, take the initiative in this matter. It should charge District Magistrates with the work. And the District Magistrates should, in consultation with the zamindars and the educated men in their districts, make arrangements for the excavation of wells wherever wells are necessary.

19. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th December says that the booking office of the Rampur Haut Station on the East-Indian Railway is generally opened too late to enable passengers for the night mail train to buy their tickets and book their luggage in time. Sometimes the services of the booking-clerk are not to be had till after the train has left the Mallarpur station. This irregularity is caused by the Station-Master keeping the booking-clerk engaged at that time in his own work.

(h)—General.

20. A correspondent of the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 4th December says that as the land about to be taken up by Government as the site of the proposed dak bungalow on the side of the road between Midnapore and Gopinathpur in the Midnapore district, is the only suitable land in the neighbourhood available to, and selected as a building site by, the large number of poor people in the populous village of Mahapal, who have been compelled by the encroachments of the Subarnarekha to leave their old ancestral dwelling houses, it behoves the District Magistrate to make an enquiry and give up the idea of acquiring the land for the purpose of making a dak bungalow

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Dec. 4th, 1901

HITAVADI,
Dec. 6th, 1901.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Dec. 4th, 1901.

on it. While these poor men cannot conveniently acquire any other site possessing advantages similar to the one referred to, it would cause Government no inconvenience to construct the proposed bungalow on the land selected for the proposed building by the local zamindar.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 6th, 1901.

21. The *Hitaadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th December draws the attention of the postal authorities to the hardship suffered by the peons of the Morelganj Post-office on account of the smallness of the sum which they receive as boat-hire. The monthly allowance of two rupees which each of them receives as boat-hire, is quite inadequate. Correspondents from Barisal, Nadia, Sylhet, Tippera, and other districts say that in every month in the rainy season postmen have to spend nearly six rupees as boat hire.

HITAVADI,

22. The same paper says that the monthly salary of many of the postmasters of the Branch Post offices in the Sylhet district is Rs. 5 rupees each, while that of the peons under them is Rs. 7, 8 or even 9. Long and good service secures no promotion for these poor postmasters. They have to offer a security of Rs. 300 each and work whole time. That these men do not get increments of pay is a blot on the postal administration.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Dec. 1st, 1901.

23. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 1st December writes as follows:—

Ray Kaliprasanna Ghosh
Bahadur's management of the
Bhawal estate.

Kumar Rajendranarayan Bahadur, zamindar of the famous Bhawal estate in Dacca, died a short time ago. Ray Kaliprasanna Ghosh Bahadur had managed that estate for 15 years when the Kumar died. Bhawal is an estate with a rental of nearly four lakhs of rupees, and the Ray Bahadur is all in all in that estate. The Ray Bahadur removed the Manager's office from Jaydevpur to his own house in Dacca. He used to receive a salary of 600 rupees per mensem, together with a daily allowance of 10 rupees, although staying in his own house in Dacca. He would draw every now and then from the *Sadar* treasury at Jaydevpur, as loans in his own name, 2, 4, 10 and even 20 thousand rupees, naming, at his own sweet will and pleasure, some necessary expenditure or other, as the occasion of those loans. In this way, during nearly the whole term of his service, has the Ray Bahadur been drawing money from the estate treasury. How long this borrowing has been going on has not been ascertained up to this moment. The money so drawn has seldom been properly debited or accounted for. During the last stage of the Kumar's illness some money was required for his medical treatment. It is said that, on that occasion, the Ray Bahadur presented to the Kumar for signature a note of hand in which the amount to be borrowed was not stated. Instead of signing it, however, the Kumar tore it to pieces, for he, a zamindar with a rental of four lakhs of rupees, felt it very humiliating to be obliged to borrow, while on sick bed, on his note of hand, so paltry a sum as 12 or 14 thousand rupees. The Kumar's sister then furnished 20 thousand rupees for his medical treatment.

Shortly after the Kumar's death, Ray Kaliprasanna Ghosh produced a will which he stated to have been made by the Kumar, and presented it at the Dacca Collectorate. Mati Babu, an attorney-at-law of the Calcutta High Court, now appeared on behalf of the Kumar's heirs and set about making a complete enquiry into the affairs of the estate. He applied to the Collector of Dacca for a copy of the will, but the application was rejected. An application was then made to the High Court on affidavit, and before orders were passed on the application, the Collector of Dacca furnished a copy of the will.

The will lays down that the Ray Bahadur should never be called upon to render an account of his management, that so long as he lives he is to receive 600 rupees per month from the estate, while his wife, too, is to receive during her life-time, an allowance of 300 rupees. The Manager was called upon to submit accounts. He pleaded that the papers had been burnt. The officers of the estate are, for the most part, relatives or dependants of the Ray Bahadur. The doors of the office at Jaydevpur were, therefore, double-locked and a guard was set to watch the Ray Bahadur's house. A search was then made

for the papers. In the course of the search some moss-covered débris of the walls of a privy was recovered from the tank in the Ray Bahadur's house and the suspicion against him became deeper.

The Ray Bahadur's visits to Jaydevpur have ceased, and the office at Dacca has been abolished. An order has been issued, on behalf of the estate, calling upon the Ray Bahadur to render an account of his management. It is for lawyers to say whether the provision in the will in which the Kumar's heirs are solemnly charged not to call upon the Ray Bahadur for an account will be held to be valid.

Sometime ago the Ray Bahadur used to decide civil and criminal suits by the raiyats of the estate. There are so many as 150 unpaid peons in his office at Dacca. The Police Sub-Inspector, Babu Sarachchandra Basu, having made a report to the above effect, the deposition of the Ray Bahadur was taken. The Ray Bahadur denied the charge altogether. But subsequently his deposition having been proved quite false, he was charged under section 193 of the Indian Penal Code for giving false evidence. No one, however, knows what became of the papers of the case and how it ended.

The Ray Bahadur used to worship the big English officials and pay large subscriptions, and he has established a ward in the Mitford Hospital and named it after Mr. Luttmann-Johnson, the Divisional Commissioner. He has liberally contributed the money of the estate towards all objects for which subscriptions were demanded by the officials. It is for the reader to judge whether his title of Ray Bahadur is not due to these liberal contributions made at the expense of the estate. Babu Kaliprasanna has great influence with the European community in Dacca. We cannot make out the cause of the silence maintained by the Dacca papers.

Many say that the Kumar was a man of pure character and good business habits before the Ray Bahadur entered his service. Evil courses hastened the Kumar's end, and he departed this life with the sight of an empty treasury before his eyes.

24. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 4th December says :—

The Viceroy's present tour. Whether the Viceroy's present tour does any good or not, it will in a short time give us a number of good books on travel. We never expected more than this.

BASUMATI,
Dec. 4th, 1901.

25. Referring to the Indian National Congress, the *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 4th December writes as follows :—

The Indian National Congress. So long as the masses are not able to understand the aims of the Congress, no great hope can be entertained about its stability. When the heart of every Indian, young or old, will dance at the name of the Congress and feel a sensation similar to what it feels on the occasion of the Durga Puja, then shall we know that the work of the Congress has begun. In the last Provincial Conference held in Midnapore town, it was proposed that agents should be appointed to explain these matters to the masses, but nothing is heard about their doings. The stability of the Congress will be ensured when India will raise a subscription of a lakh of rupees every year, every subscriber paying only a pice to the fund.

PALLIVASI,
Dec. 4th, 1901.

26. The same paper writes as follows :—

The Viceroy and the tea-planters. Does that man also fall on evil times who lends a helping hand to those whose destinies are ruled by evil stars? The above question naturally rises in our mind when we see Mr. Cotton suffering for having tried to secure a livelihood for the starving coolies. We cannot avoid answering the question in the affirmative, when we consider the words in which the Viceroy, pleased at the hospitality of the tea-planters, replied to their address at Silchar.

PALLIVASI,

It is very probable that emboldened by His Excellency in this manner, the tea-planters will henceforth lord it over all. In vain we thought that His Excellency, whom we know to be the father and mother of the poor, would praise Mr. Cotton for having tried to alleviate the miseries of poor coolies, for considerations of policy have changed the whole aspect of the matter. As the planters, with tears in their eyes, asked His Excellency—"Lord! who are we?" His Excellency told them—"You are myself." Greater indulgence they could not expect.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 5th, 1901

27. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th December, has the following:—

The Viceroy told the Shan Rajas in Burma that as the railway had been extended to within fourteen miles of their country; they would now have opportunities of easily making their wants and grievances known to the Lieutenant-Governor. But what will they gain by doing so? Do not officials in this country always say that they know the grievances of the people of this country better than the people themselves? What then can people gain by bringing what they consider to be their grievances to the notice of the authorities? We are not speaking of Burma. But speaking for India, we do not see what the people of India have gained, although they are ever and anon bringing their grievances to the notice of the authorities. The making known of grievances benefits the people in no way, it only seems to offend the officials. The National Congress, for instance, has, during the last sixteen years, brought no end of grievances to the notice of the Government. But has Government ever shown itself willing to listen to the representations of the Congress? If the Viceroy carried out in India the advice he gave to the Shan Rajas in Burma, much of India's misery would pass away.

Speaking to the Shan Rajas, His Excellency also said that the railway extension to their State would secure them a prosperous trade and increased wealth. We, however, differ from His Excellency on this point. The illiterate and uncivilised Shans will undoubtedly acquire knowledge and become civilised under British rule. But their wealth and prosperity will not increase. They now live in ease and comfort and do not know what starvation is, but a short time hence they will know what it is to starve. Trade will certainly increase, but its profits will be enjoyed by English traders. Will the Viceroy be able to give a monopoly of the Shan State trade to the Shans alone? There is not the least likelihood of his being able to do this. The British people are extending their empire solely for the purpose of extending their trade, and will they consent to give up any portion of it for the good of others? To think, therefore, that railway extension will increase the wealth of the Shans is to indulge in a dream. The teeming population of India is every day becoming poorer, and will the people of the small Shan State become richer?

The Viceroy advised the Shan Rajas to disarm those of their subjects who were suspected to be bad characters. But he did not advise the disarming of the rest. Why does not His Excellency follow the same policy in India, and allow everybody, except known or suspected budmashes, to possess fire-arms?

His Excellency exhorted the Shan Rajas not to levy any illegal cesses from their subjects. But does not His Excellency know that many illegal cesses are levied in British India, and has His Excellency done anything to check such exactions?

Lord Curzon's condemnation of gambling, addressed to the Rajas was, indeed, very gratifying to hear, but will His Excellency do nothing to put a stop to the gambling which goes on on the Calcutta race-course ruining hundreds?

28. The same paper says that the tea-garden case lately disposed of by the High Court has disclosed many secrets about tea-gardens. Mr. Cotton's strictures had set the tea-planters on fire. But it now appears from this case that tea-planters not only oppress coolies but keep *hajuts* in tea-gardens for confining them. It will strike terror into every heart to hear that tea-gardens still possess *hajuts*. Let Lord Curzon hear that the Nonai tea-garden still possesses a *hajut* and let him enquire if other tea-gardens also possess one each. The papers in this case will show what oppression the tea-planters commit on the coolies who are bound by law to serve them. The coolies in this case were beaten till the arms of some were fractured, and they were then confined in the *hajut* room of the garden. None can say how long they might have been kept confined, if the police had not come to the garden to investigate another case. The case also explains why the tea-planters who oppress and ill-treat their coolies are never punished. It is idle to expect justice in such cases from European jurors.

SANJIVANI.

URIYA PAPERS.

29. Referring to the storm and rains in the last week of November, the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 27th November states that they were very injurious to the ripe paddy crops. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 28th November states that many trees in the north of the Balasore district were uprooted. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttaek] of the 30th November states that they did damages both to the paddy and *rabi* crops.
30. Referring to the deputation of a few Indian nobles to Cabul by Lord Curzon on behalf of the Government of India to greet the Amir on his accession to the throne of his illustrious father, the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Banra] of the 27th November states that this was a good move on the part of the Viceroy, as His Excellency will, by this means, both sympathise with the Amir and collect correct information about his State affairs.
31. Referring to the proceedings of the Railway Commission, the same paper suggests that the Commission should do something to alleviate the sufferings of the third class passengers and increase their convenience and comfort, as they supply a great part of the funds by which the administration of the railways in India is carried on.
32. Referring to the unprecedented mortality among children in Bombay, the same paper urges that humane steps should at once be taken to remove the immediate causes of such catastrophe.
33. All the native papers of Orissa are tired of the Boer war in South Africa and are thunderstruck at the appalling sum of money that has been spent in the prosecution of that war. They bitterly lament the loss of lives that has been caused by the unfortunate war, and hope that steps will be taken by the peace-makers to bring the war to a close at an early date.
34. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 27th November is glad to learn that a student of the Aligarh College, by name, Asafali Khan distinguished himself in the China Expedition by his bravery, which has secured for him the honorific title of C.I.E. The writer hopes that the students of other colleges will follow the example of Colonel Asafali Khan.
35. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttaek] of the 30th November rejects the estimate of *beali* crop in Orissa, made by the Agricultural Department, and states that the statistics of that Department regarding that crop are not convincing. The writer looks upon the estimate of *sarad* paddy in that province in the same light, and observes that as the estimate was made in September last, the state of things has since changed for the worse.
36. Referring to the appointment made by the District Judge of Cuttack to administer the estates of the Chowdhuris of Bhingarpur in district Puri, the same paper observes that a gentleman was imported from Bengal, while competent men were available in Orissa to do the work.
37. The same paper approves of the resolution of the Puri Municipality to remove the temporary shops round the Jagannath temple and in the *Bara Danda* road in that town from their present situations and congregate them in a select quarter, to be called hereafter a market. The writer observes that this is necessary in the interests of sanitation, but the proposed market should be held in a place within easy reach of the people for whom it is meant.
38. Referring to the noted strike of cartmen and drivers of hackney-carriages in Calcutta and its suburbs, which formed the subject of a Government resolution, the same paper points out that the evils that brought about the strike exist more or less in mufassal towns and states that it is incumbent

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 27th, 1901.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 27th, 1901.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

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HITAISHINI.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 27th, 1901.

UTKALDIPIKA
Nov. 30th, 1901.

UTKALDIPIKA.

UTKALDIPIKA.

UTKALDIPIKA.

on District Magistrates and District Superintendents of Police to keep a jealous watch over the dealings of the lower grade Municipal and Police officers, who never lose an opportunity to add an extra pice to their income, even though it be by irregular or unlawful means.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Nov. 30th, 1901.

39. The Hindole correspondent of the same paper passes high encomiums on the hunting habits of Mr. Price, a pensioned officer, who by one discharge of his gun killed a terrible tigress, which was the scourge of the whole Hindole killa. The importance of the event may be judged from the fact that about 25 men and women of that killa have been killed by tigers since April last.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAK,
Dec. 3rd, 1901.

40. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 3rd December has heard it rumoured that Mr. Cotton, Chief Commissioner of Assam, will retire in July next, and will be succeeded by Mr. J. P. Hewett. Assam has seldom had the good fortune to get a ruler like Mr. Cotton. Mr. Cotton always did his best to improve the condition of the province and do equal justice to all classes of his subjects. The people of Assam will worship his name and remember him so long as British rule lasts.

It is also said that Mr. Porteus, Judge of Gauhati, will retire at the same time with Mr. Cotton. In him the people of Assam will lose a true friend. He was a kind and upright Judge, and he never spared pains or his purse to do good to the poor.

PARIDARSAK.

41. The same paper complains that the Maulvi Bazar Local Board in Assam pays no attention to the want of the places which have returned no member to the Board. To take one instance: The Barmachal pargana has no representative on the Board, and the Board has not excavated a single tank or repaired a single bridge in the pargana, whereas it has excavated a large number of tanks and thoroughly repaired all the bridges in the Ita pargana, which has representatives on the Board. It is hoped that at the next election the Subdivisional Officer will see that some members are returned to the Board from Barmachal.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 14th December, 1901.

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 50 of 1901.]

REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 14th December 1901.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2737. The *Bengalee* complains of the existence of brothels tenanted by women of ill-fame in the vicinity of the Tejnarain College at Bhagalpur, and thinks that the Mufassal Police Act should be amended upon the lines of the Calcutta Police Act, so as to make it legal for the mufassal police to deal with such matters.

BENGALIAN,
10th Dec. 1901.

2738. The same paper is surprised to learn that the Inspector-General of Police, Assam, has issued orders that cooksheds used by the Civil Police of Assam are to be kept in repair by the constables themselves. It adds:—

BENGALIAN,
10th Dec. 1901.

“It is certainly a grievance that constables should be asked to repair their cooksheds. That forms no part of their legitimate duties, and should properly belong to the Public Works Department. Besides, the order is bound to prove a positive grievance to those constables who are Brahmans and are never accustomed to the kind of work demanded from them. They will feel it a degradation, repugnant to their religious feelings. We hope the matter will receive the serious attention of the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner, who, we are quite sure, will order the early recall of the Circular.”

(b)—Working of the Courts.

2739. The power conferred on Government to appeal against acquittals and to move the High Court for enhancement of sentence affects, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the European prisoner more than the Indian, as in the case of Mr. Lyall of Assam, who, though unanimously acquitted by the jury, now finds himself in jail.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th Dec. 1901.

Although guilty of rioting and grievous hurt, the punishment provided for which aggregates nine years, Mr. Lyall was sentenced to only one month's simple imprisonment, and provided with “a proper place” in the Alipore Jail. The *Patrika* asks why vicarious punishment is not permitted in the case of European prisoners. Mr. Lyall could then have sent a cooly of his to work out his sentence. “Of course it would not be strictly just to send a cooly to jail for the offence of Mr. Lyall, but then where is the help? There is no accommodation for European prisoners in Assam jails! And then it is not always expedient to be just when European offenders are concerned.”

INDIAN EMPIRE,
10th Dec. 1901.

2740. The *Indian Empire* observes that the sentence passed on Mr. Lyall, the Assam planter, is of course too lenient in comparison with what was passed in another case on some coolies who for rioting and causing slight hurt to a Manager's syce and others, were sent to long terms of rigorous imprisonment. It, however, hopes that the sentence passed on Mr. Lyall will have a deterrent effect, and helpless coolies will be saved from oppression. It draws attention to the practice of confinement in tea-gardens which was referred to in the Lyall case in the High Court judgment, which recalls the worst days of the Carline slaves, and proves the truth of the late Kristo Das Pal's opinion that the Cooly Act was the Slave Act.

BENGALIAN,
10th Dec. 1901.

2741. According to the list of holidays prepared by the High Court all Civil Courts in Bengal remain closed for the Christmas and the New Year's holidays from the 24th December 1901 to the 1st January 1902. The other Government offices remain closed, however, from 22nd December to 1st January. The *Bengalee* prays, on behalf of the pleaders and amlahs of the Civil Courts, that His Lordship the Chief Justice will be pleased to see his way to vary his previous order and allow the Civil Courts, like other Government offices, to enjoy the holidays from the 22nd instant.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th Dec. 1901.

2742. The following paragraph is taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—
Bhagavan Kaiberta, of Tippera, killed his wife because she persisted in leading an immoral life. Indeed the man made a clean breast of it to the Magistrate. The Sessions

Judge sentenced the man to transportation for life, and the High Court summarily rejected his appeal. We can cite cases to show that under similar circumstances the accused have been honourably acquitted in America and France. A greater provocation cannot be conceived than what the wife of Bhagavan gave him. Judges when they inflict a sentence ought to place themselves in the position of the accused before them. If they do it, then they will be able to ascertain the punishment that ought to be inflicted. A man who knows that he has a faithless wife becomes insane or partially insane. This is the general rule. What a noble ruler Sir Richard Temple was! Nobin killed his wife Elokeshi because of her liaison with the Mahunt of Tarakeswar. The Judges sent him to the Andamans for life, but Sir Richard Temple pardoned him. A man whose wife has disgraced him and made his whole life miserable is very much to be pitied if he loses control over his mind and takes the law in his own hand. It is a pity that the Judges who inflict such severe sentences in such cases have virtuous wives.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th Dec. 1901.

2743. Referring to the case of Shamsuddin, who was committed to *hajut* by the Joint-Magistrate of Kushtea, Nadia, without any evidence having been recorded against him, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks:—Possibly this Joint-Magistrate will in time develop into a distinguished statesman. But the mischief is, these young rulers are trained at the cost of the people. Soldiers are trained to hit the bull's-eye and to fight by means of sham battles. That is one thing. But the young Magistrates have to learn by dealing with human creatures.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Dec. 1901.

2744. While expressing satisfaction at Justices Prinsep and Stephen rejecting the application of Mohini Chandra Das and others, for the transfer of a case against them from Barisal, showing that their Lordships have a high opinion of the independence of Deputy Magistrates, who are generally natives, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to a letter of a correspondent of the *Hindu* at Karnool, which illustrates the fact that no Deputy Magistrate can afford to offend the District Magistrate without injuring his future prospects. This makes it difficult for them to act with independence.

A feature of the Backergunge case is the gravity of the allegation made on oath against Mr. Weston, the District Magistrate.

He is alleged to have utilized the full force of his official position for the purpose of coercing a helpless widow to do a disagreeable act to serve the interests of some private European gentlemen. She was even threatened with being arrested unless Mr. Weston's order was obeyed.

Mr. Weston should in his own interest as well as that of justice be called upon by Government to clear his character by bringing a case against his maligner.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Dec. 1901.

2745. The same paper enters into more elaborate consideration of the foregoing case. By refusing the transfer applied for, the High Court has placed both the Magistrate and the Deputy Magistrate in a false position. If the Deputy Magistrate now goes against the accused, how are the public to be persuaded that the latter's petition for transfer had nothing to do with the hostile attitude of the Magistrate?

Following the principle that applies to an accused of peremptorily challenging jurymen, an accused person, says the *Patrika*, ought to be given the privilege of challenging a court, and such prayers for transfer of cases ought to be granted as a rule.

It cannot believe that Mr. Weston is capable of such unchivalrous conduct as that alleged against him, and it repeats that the Government should give him an opportunity to clear his conduct by instituting a case against his maligner.

(d)—Education.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th Dec. 1901.

2746. The *Indian Mirror* notes the recent educational changes which have been introduced by the North-Western Provinces Government, and is of opinion that the new Matriculation Examination will necessitate the imposition of a severer tax on, and will seriously hamper the education of, youths in the United Provinces.

The *Mirror* next notices the refusal of the authorities to recognise Bengali as a legitimate subject of study in any aided or recognised school, and points out the hardship which this rule will inflict on the very large number of Bengali youths residing in the North-Western Provinces. To counteract the injury it is recommended that such Bengalis should open out schools independent of Government aid or interference, as has been done in Benares.

It equally deplores the exclusion of English from the lower classes. In view of the raising of the educational standard and the stiffening of the matriculation course, it would have been reasonable if the authorities gave every facility for the study of and improvement in English.

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

The new Building Regulations.

2747. The following paragraph appears in the

Amrita Bazar Patrika:—

“When the new Building Regulations of the Calcutta Corporation were passed we said that it would be henceforth almost impossible for the citizens of Calcutta to construct new buildings in the city. Elsewhere is published the case of Babu Charu Chandra Ghosh, from which it will appear that, although he applied for permission for the construction of certain buildings in July, the matter yet remains undecided. Not that Babu Charu Chandra has broken any provision of the new Municipal Act that he is being punished in this way. On the other hand, it is the Municipal men who are wholly in the wrong. As a last resource, Babu Charu Chandra has submitted his case before the General Committee of the Corporation, and we have now to see how long it takes that august body to dispose of it.”

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th Dec. 1901.

The Chairmanship of the Calcutta Corporation.

2748. The *Hindoo Patriot* hears that the Hon'ble Mr. Buckley is likely to succeed Mr. Greer as Chairman of the Municipal Corporation. It does not approve of the appointment on the ground that Mr. Buckley is on the eve

HINDOO PATRIOT,
9th Dec. 1901.

of retirement. It would prefer the post being filled from the ranks of the Indian Civil Service, whose members possess higher administrative ability than those of the Engineering and Medical services. It recommends the appointment of a civilian of 20 years' standing, who would not be more than 45 years of age, and such an officer should be required to complete seven years' service in the appointment before being changed. If it is not found possible to appoint a civilian, the *Patriot* asks the Government to consider the advisability of appointing a non-official, European or native, many of whom are fitted for the appointment.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

2749. The *Indian Mirror* notices the pamphlet on co-operative corn banks or “Dharma Golas,” published by Rai Parvati

“Dharma Golas.”

Sankara Chaudhri, Honorary Secretary to the

Indian Industrial Association, and remarks that if the system proposed by the writer does not prove a panacea in time of famine, it will doubtless reduce distress to a sensible extent. The experiment deserves consideration.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th Dec. 1901.

2750. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* objects to the hopeful and complaisant tone adopted by Mr. R. C. Dutt in his recent lecture on Indian Agriculture, and holds that agriculture

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is in a sad plight just now, and that improvement is required in various directions.

Owing to the land being overtaxed it is absolutely necessary to resort to manure and new agricultural implements. The *Patrika* summarises the needs of the agriculturist in the following paragraph:—

“From the above it would appear that it has become now essential to import agricultural implements from the West, which practically means America. We have already seen that the Russians are converting arid tracts into fruitful gardens by importing agricultural implements from America. Thus we need better ploughs and stronger bullock to work them. We need agricultural implements as invented in America, some of which have proved eminently successful. We need agricultural institutions studded all over the

country. In short, we need the earnest attention of the Government to this all important subject."

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2751. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* compares the condition of agriculture in this country and in Holland, Belgium and America, and finds that much remains to be done by the Government of India towards improving that condition. It deploras the absence of agricultural chemists who are doing such useful work in Holland and Belgium in analysing soil, seed-grains, fodder and manure, and points out that, although the Government here takes infinite pains to prevent a poisoner escaping the gallows, and has a number of scientists who are able to detect and identify poison in the stomach of a man dying under suspicious circumstances, it does not trouble itself in the least to deal with another kind of poisoner, more dangerous to humanity than the human poisoner, namely, the *sheko poka* or paddy pest, and such other noxious insects, which cause such destruction to the crops.

The journal believes that by improving this state of things, it would be possible for India to export more rice and wheat than it does now; breed mules, horses, cattle and sheep, and export them; revive the silk industry and cure tobacco; but it needs a Government which will understand its true interests. It appeals to the Congress to not only take up the subject, but give it a foremost place in its programme.

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

BENGALÉE,
11th Dec. 1901.

2752. A correspondent of the *Bengalée* appeals to the Traffic Superintendent of the Bengal-Central Railway to restore the steamer service in connection with the Bengal-Central trains, and to resume through-booking to Kotchandpur station, as passengers to Calcutta or other places are seriously inconvenienced, and have either to travel in bullock-carts all the way to Shibnibash over exceedingly difficult roads, or depend upon Messrs. Hoare, Miller and Company to convey them to Tarpur, up to which the steamer now runs. As the through connection with Kotchandpur and its neighbourhood has never been a losing venture, the correspondent is at a loss to understand why this course has been adopted by the Railway authorities, and hopes that the old order of things will be allowed to continue.

A railway grievance.

BEHAR HERALD,
11th Dec. 1901.

2753. The *Behar Herald* writes that the Mokameh-Buxar local mixed train, which formerly used to leave Bankipore at about 8 or 9-30 and reached Barh at about 11 o'clock, was a convenient train for litigants and lawyers proceeding to Barh. Now, however, the train reaches Barh after midday and causes great inconvenience to people bound for the Court. The *Herald* hopes the authorities will study the convenience of the public and so arrange matters that the train might leave Bankipore at 8 A.M., so as to arrive at Barh earlier in the day.

Ibid.

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12th Dec. 1901.

2754. A Jessore correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* appeals to the Postmaster-General, Bengal, to consider favourably the petition of the inhabitants of Panjia and surrounding villages, praying for the establishment of Sub-Post Office at Panjia. The office is badly needed, and the Postal Superintendent of the Nadia Division has supported the petition.

A Sub-Post Office for Panjia, Jessore.

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6th Dec. 1901.

2755. In view of the fact that the proposed transfer of the Govindpur subdivision to Burdwan will not remedy the inconvenience complained of by the Mining Association, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* would suggest instead

The transfer of the Govindpur subdivision.

the transfer of the Raniganj subdivision and thana Gangajhalghati, of the Bankura district, to Manbhum, as the best means of bringing a very large coal area under one jurisdiction. It repeats the suggestion that the subdivisional head-quarters should be transferred from Govindpur to some convenient point on the railway line, say Dhanbaid, and goes on to point out the anomaly in the laws prevailing in Govindpur being introduced in the district of Burdwan, where another set of laws exists.

(h)—*General.*

2756. The *Bengalee* quotes parts of the speech of Sir John Woodburn in the Viceregal Council on the 22nd March 1901, on the occasion of the debate of the Indian Mines Bill, in which His Honour remarked that the coal field of Jherria was spread over portions of three districts and indeed of three Commissionerships. The journal shows that barring five or six square miles, which abut on Hazaribagh, Jherria lies within the Govindpur subdivision of the Manbhum district, and therefore, strictly speaking, was spread over two districts and one Commissionership, viz., that of the Chota Nagpur Division. The Indian Mining Association, which inspired His Honour with the inaccurate and misleading information which entirely vitiates the decision His Honour then arrived at to transfer the jurisdiction to Burdwan, has not acquired any coal lands within the aforesaid five at six square miles, and if they intend doing so, this small portion can be transferred to the Govindpur subdivision without any appreciable disturbance of boundaries. It will then be seen, says the *Bengalee*, that the whole foundation of the case for the transfer absolutely falls to the ground, and that the Government, after having made up its mind, called for the expression of opinion of the responsible head and of the district and division, and the only reason that is vouchsafed for this extraordinary step is that it would go a long way towards meeting the wishes of the Mining Association.

BENGALIAN,
12th Dec. 1901.

2757. The *Indian Mirror* ventilates the grievances of Sib Narayan Banerji, late a despatcher in the Legislative Department of the Government of Bengal, who, after his confirmation in his new appointment by the Officiating Assistant Secretary, was unceremoniously dismissed by the permanent Assistant Secretary on the latter's return from leave.

INDIAN MIRROR,
7th Dec. 1901.

Lord Curzon is appealed to to order a sifting enquiry and call for all the papers in the case, and right the wrong that has been done Sib Narayan.

2758. The *Bengalee* hopes that Lord Northcote, in his forthcoming tour in Kathiawar, will take the opportunity of pressing on the attention of the States the necessity for timely preparation in the event of distress; and in view of the gloomy agricultural outlook in the Peninsula, such a warning would hardly be out of place or uncalled for.

BENGALIAN,
8th Dec. 1901.

As regards the other problem, viz., the control of the customs dues on articles imported into the ports of the States and then sent by rail to British territory, which His Excellency will be called upon to solve, the *Bengalee* advises His Excellency to do nothing which would abolish the privileges of the States or interfere with their valued rights.

2759. *Power and Guardian* is of opinion that the entire Press and all public bodies should protest against the practice of vesting the Superintendent of the Garo Hills with the second-class power of a munsif, and permitting him to administer both Civil and Criminal law to the serious detriment of the people of that benighted district.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
8th Dec. 1901.

An example of the abuse of this power and authority is found in a case where a man was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 50 for not renewing his gun license in due time. Precedents show that Deputy Commissioners used to let off such offenders with a fine of Rs. 2 only.

2760. Continuing its articles on the injustice of excluding Indians from the Public Service, *Power and Guardian* turns to the Survey of India Department and laments the fact that the recommendations of the Public Service Commission have been disregarded in this Department also.

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Against the opinion that natives cannot be trusted with expenditure of money, and on that account are considered unfit for service in the higher grades of the Survey of India Department, the journal holds that this reason is untenable, and points to the fact that Native District and Executive Engineers with greater authority over expenditure than any officer of the Survey Department, and Native Divisional Commissioners, Commissioners of Excise, Inspectors-General of Registration, who possess greater patronage, have always given satisfaction in the discharge of their more onerous and responsible executive duties.

Power and Guardian appeals to Lord Curzon to remedy the existing evil.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
10th Dec. 1901.

2761. The *Hindoo Patriot* questions the principle adopted by the Government in the matter of official residences and the grant of house allowances to officials, urging the introduction of uniformity. It thinks that with the exception of the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Commander-in-Chief, the Lord Bishop, the Mint Master, and the Commissioner of Police, the concession of providing official residences should be withdrawn, but if it is permitted to others, it ought to be extended to the Chief Justice of Bengal, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, the Collector of Customs, and the Chief Presidency Magistrate.

If on financial grounds this is not possible, the same grounds should be applied in withdrawing the concession where it is at present allowed. The Principal of the Medical College and the Post Master of Calcutta, for instance, could well reside outside their places of business.

With regard to the mufassal, it is inexplicable why the executive head should enjoy greater privileges than the Judicial Chief. The latter has no official residence, nor does the subdivisional head of the judiciary receive any house rent.

It is hoped that Lord Curzon will give his attention to the matter.

BEHAR HERALD,
11th Dec. 1901.

2762. Continuing its notice of the case of the Sikdars *vs.* the Ghatwal Kunj Behari Singh, of Simra, which resulted in the Sikdars being dispossessed of certain lands under the order of the Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas, the *Behar Herald*, though agreeing that the Sonthal Parganas do not provide for an appeal or revision to the Bengal Government in a case like the present in which the Commissioner's verdict is final, asks if the Government is bound hand and foot to sleep over a verdict, if it is even a flagrant violation of the law, and do nothing to prevent a repetition of the same or similar errors? The *Herald* asks the Government to express its opinion in this case, and if in its opinion the law on the subject is faulty, to take the earliest opportunity to set it aside or modify it.

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2763. Commenting on the protest raised by the *Englishman* against the introduction into the criminal law of the country of certain provisions from which both Europeans and Indians suffer, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks that it is the utter selfishness and culpable negligence of the Anglo-Indian and European community that has led to the deprivation of many valuable rights and privileges possessed in common by Indian and European residents of this country.

It has been proved that the perversity of European juries often gives a hold to the High Court to meddle with verdicts, and instead of finding fault with the High Court or the Magistrate of Nowgong, the Anglo-Indian papers should appeal to the good sense of their countrymen not to abuse their position as jurymen.

III.—LEGISLATION.

BENGALIEE,
7th Dec. 1901.

2764. In reproducing a letter addressed by Dewan Bahadur Raghunath Rao to a Madras contemporary, drawing attention to some of the most objectionable features of the Madras Court of Wards Bill, the *Bengalee* remarks that Government has apparently not been very happy in the choice of remedies.

The amount of opposition the Bill has evoked would in any European country have led to its being withdrawn. Evils in this connection certainly exist, but care should be taken that the remedy proposed does not prove worse than the disease.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

BENGALIEE,
10th Dec. 1901.

2765. The *Bengalee* complains that the policy of the Government is responsible for bringing into existence that unwholesome exotic, the Anglicised, denationalised Indian Prince. The descendants of a hundred heroes prefers to masquerade in European dress, is addicted to European food and drink, is partial to European amusements and extravagance, and permits himself to be preyed

upon by a host of European parasites, but in all this, the *Bengalee* insinuates, he is just what his guardians, the Government and the European tutor whom the Government has forced upon him, have made him. Against this denationalisation and demoralisation the *Bengalee* is glad to find the *Saturday Review* raise its voice, and it points out that as a preventive of the disease the prohibition of the employment of European tutors to Native Princes is necessary, and not the restriction placed on the foreign travels of Native Princes, which is but a curative process.

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

2766. The *Behar News* does not agree with the report circulated that there is no present reason to fear anything in the nature of famine in Behar, and recommends the authorities not to accept the views of the planters wholly and solely, but to look into the matter themselves.

BEHAR NEWS,
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2767. The Chapra correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* recommends the Lieutenant-Governor not to accept the conclusions of Mr. Bourdillon that there is no

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need for undertaking relief measures in Behar at present. Mr. Bourdillon, he says, visited the Sonepur Fair and "held a *mela* of European officials and planters" and formed his conclusions without conferring with the representatives of the Indian people, whom alone the famine directly affects. The officials of Chapra and even the Commissioner of Patna, previous to the visit of Mr. Bourdillon, were of opinion that relief operations were necessary. The correspondent does not know what led them to alter their opinion so soon. He asks the Government to boldly face the distress that is undoubtedly afflicting the labourers and the peasants.

2768. The recent cyclone, says the *Indian Mirror*, has darkened the agricultural prospects in Bengal, and a full crop is expected only in eight districts out of the forty-five. In Behar a worse state of things is anticipated owing to the failure of the June and October rains.

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At this awkward time, when distress seems close at hand, and apprehensions are entertained of plague assuming more serious proportions this season in Bengal, rumour hints at Sir John Woodburn's retirement from the service. Any change of Government, in the opinion of the *Mirror*, is most undesirable, and Sir John's presence is urgently needed in the Province, for he has successfully coped with similar difficulties before, and knows well how to feel the pulse of his people.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

2769. While pleased to see Lord Curzon exchanging friendly greeting with the Buddhist monks in Burma, the *Indian Mirror* would have been more glad if His Excellency had seen his way to acceding to their prayer for a rest-house for Buddhists in Calcutta.

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The advisability of conciliating that community is pointed out in the following words:—

"It would be a wise policy on the part of the British Government to show its sympathy with the Buddhist community. Anybody watching current affairs must have noticed that Russia has gained considerable influence over the Buddhists in Asia. The Czar, having set up his authority as the protector of Buddhist faith in his territories, has drawn towards him the sympathy of the vast mass of the Buddhist population in Tibet and in China. This is how Tibet has been seeking the friendship of the White Czar. It is also strange that Japan at this time should exchange friendly greetings with Russia. So it would seem that Russia is bent upon making friends with Tibet, China and Japan, three great Buddhist countries, for some ulterior purpose. Great Britain cannot very well afford to allow these countries to fall under Russian influence. We should therefore very much like to see the Government of India affording reasonable facilities to the Buddhists to visit their holy places

in India. Great Britain possesses considerable advantage over Russia in winning over the Buddhists, for so long as India is regarded as their sacred land, it is possible for Great Britain, by means of a conciliatory policy, to maintain her hold upon the whole Buddhist population in Asia. It is not much to build a few rest-houses for Buddhist pilgrims in India, but such an act may prove a great diplomatic achievement hereafter."

INDIAN MIRROR,
7th Dec. 1901.

2770. After a few prefatory remarks on the growth of power among the Europeans in India and the monopoly they hold of the trade and industries and the loaves and fishes of the country, leaving the Indians to starve in the midst of plenty or satisfy themselves with the crumbs and dry bones that fall from their masters' table, the *Indian Mirror* recommends the middle class to emigrate to Northern Australia and East Africa, which are countries which will just fit in with their requirements. Emigration offers the only solution to the bread problem in this country, and the hope is held out that in the fulness of time, Indian emigrants will return home with big piles.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 14th December 1901.

H. B. ST. LEGER,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.