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REVIEW OF THE [No. 1 of 1909.]

REPORT

ON

15

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 2nd January 1909.

CONTENTS.

PAGE.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

Situation in Persia	...	3
Despatches forged by the Persian Royalists and attributed to Reuter	...	ib.
Appeal to Indians for charitable help to destitutes at Tabriz	...	ib.
The Balkan trouble	...	4

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police—

Detectives after an ascetic	...	4
<i>Ibid</i> ...	...	ib.
Babu Aswini Kumar Dutt's wife refused permission to communicate with her husband	...	ib.

(b)—Working of the Courts—

Sessions Judge Mr. K. N. Roy	...	5
Some important pronouncements about the High Court	...	ib.
Bond for keeping the peace	...	ib.

(c)—Jails—

Nil.

(d)—Education—

Dr. Mukerji and the disaffiliation of certain law colleges	...	5
Duty of private schools and colleges	...	ib.

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

Sanitary improvement of Burdwan	...	6
The improvement of stables and cow-sheds, etc.	...	ib.

(f)—Questions affecting the land—

Settlement work in Midnapore	...	6
------------------------------	-----	---

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

Nil.

(h)—General—

The deportations	...	7
The deportations and <i>swadeshi</i>	...	ib.
The Reform Scheme and deportation without trial and the Partition of Bengal	...	8
The recent deportations	...	ib.
The deportations	...	ib.
The deportations	...	9
The Reform Scheme	...	10
The 17th of December 1908	...	ib.
The Reform Scheme and the Partition of Bengal	...	ib.
The Reform Scheme	...	ib.
<i>Ibid</i> ...	...	ib.
Lord Ripon's Rural Self-Government in the Reform Scheme and the undoing of the policy of Lord Curzon	...	12
The Partition of Bengal and the Reform Scheme	...	ib.
The Reform Scheme	...	13
<i>Ibid</i> ...	...	ib.
The Reforms	...	ib.
A cartoon	...	ib.
The Reform Scheme	...	14
<i>Ibid</i> ...	...	ib.
The Reform Scheme and the concurrence of Indian opinion	...	15
The Reform Scheme	...	ib.
Lord Morley's Reforms	...	16
The Reform and the Legislative Council	...	17
The Reform Scheme	...	18
<i>Ibid</i> ...	...	ib.
The Reform Scheme	...	19
<i>Ibid</i> ...	...	ib.
Desirability of the publication of a <i>Bengali Gazette</i> by the Government	...	ib.
Mr. Carey and some Presidency College students	...	20
Mr. Carey and the students of geology of the Presidency College	...	ib.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The Indian Crimes Act	...	20
Sections about meetings and associations in the New Criminal Law Amendment Act	...	21
The new Act	...	ib.
The Criminal Law Amendment Act and Regulation III of 1818	...	22

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

Nil.

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

Nil.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

What the London correspondent of the <i>Indian Mirror</i> says ...	23
What is sedition ? ...	ib.
Alleged necessity of unity in the country ...	24
Government and Bankim's works ...	ib.
England has destroyed the Indian industries ...	ib.
The deeds of the <i>Bande Mataram</i> ...	26
The retirement of Babu Sarada Charan Mittra ...	ib.
The King's speech ...	ib.
Lord Minto's speech ...	ib.
The Nagpur Congress ...	ib.
<i>Ibid</i> ...	ib.
Delegates to the Madras Congress ...	26
Lord Ripon's opinion on the Partition ...	ib.
The Partition ...	ib.
The agitation against the Partition ...	ib.
The Reform Scheme, how to be given publicity to ...	ib.
The deputation to Lord Minto ...	27

URIA PAPERS—concluded.

Australia's demand to enter the Indian Civil Service criticised ...	27
A graceful act on the part of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab ...	28
A gathering of pilgrims in Jaipur ...	ib.
Restrictions on the smuggling of fire-arms to India ...	ib.
Disfigurement of Queen-Empress's statue at Nagpur ...	ib.
A fire in the Puri town ...	ib.
A death due to lightning in Dharkot ...	ib.
Improvement in the prospects of low paid postal officers in India ...	ib.
Improvement in the prices of rice and paddy in Mayurbhanj ...	ib.
A meeting in favour of the Indians in the Transvaal ...	ib.
Indignant observations on a murder in Calcutta ...	29
Observations on the obsequies held on the dead body of the late Kanai Lal ...	ib.
Observations on the present unrest in the country ...	ib.
Favourable price of rice in Kharial ...	ib.
The standing crop in Angul ...	ib.
Cholera in Bamra ...	ib.
The rabi crop in Bamra ...	ib.
The results of kheda operations in Bamra ...	ib.
The Alipur Durbar ...	ib.
Price of rice in Cuttack ...	ib.
The state of the paddy crop in Balasore ...	ib.
The state of the crop in Bhadrak ...	ib.
The price of rice in Mayurbhanj ...	ib.
Wild elephants in Keonjhir ...	30
The price of rice in Narsingpur ...	ib.
The weaving industry in Sambalpur ...	ib.
The price of rice in Gangpur ...	ib.
Public health in Cuttack ...	ib.
Public health in Bhadrak ...	ib.
Two cases of suicide in Gangpur ...	ib.
A remark on the Under-Secretary of State for India ...	ib.
Bestowal of the title of Maharaja on the Chief of Sonepur ...	ib.
The price of rice in Jajpur ...	ib.
The price of rice in Kanika ...	ib.
A railway accident ...	ib.
The Cuttack Hosiery Company ...	ib.
The Durbar at Cuttack ...	31
Mrs. Annie Besant on young Indians ...	ib.

URIA PAPERS.

The rumoured retirement of His Excellency the Viceroy ...	27
In memoriam ...	ib.
The cremation ceremony in connection with the dead body of the late Kanai Lal ...	ib.
Some recommendations in favour of Indian soldiers and officers in the British Army ...	ib.

I.— FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Namai Muquaddas Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 21st December has the following on the present situation in

NAMAI MUQUADDAS
HABLUL MATIN.
Dec. 21st, 1906.

Situation in Persia. Persia :—

The more the Persians study their present deplorable condition, the deeper they are submerged into the abyss of pain and sorrow. They find their sights trampled down, the sanctuary of their hopes, i.e., the National Assembly, demolished, an expert Russian Colonel made an undisputed master of their country, freedom-loving men rolling in dust and blood, their spiritual leaders shut up in prisons, their statesmen and speakers bound in chains and fetters, etc.

The present distress of the Persians becomes highly acute when they find that their Turkish brethren have cheerfully joined hands with one another, set aside malicious and hesitating persons, won over the filial love of the Sultan and opened a Parliament under the auspices of His Gracious Majesty.

It is obvious that the Shah is not really disposed to grant a Constitution to his people. He has betrayed his double-dealing policy by abolishing the Parliament on one side, and declaring to the foreign Consuls that he was in favour of the Constitution, which he might have restored but for the opposition of the anti-Constitutionalists. We, therefore, hold that the Parliament which the Shah may open will simply increase the present struggle in the country.

The only means of combating successfully against the present troubles in Persia is by accumulating the national strength and directing the same towards opening a parliament and restoring peace and order throughout the country. The sooner this is done the better for the nation : delay in achieving it would increase the anarchy in the country which may likely bring in the interference of foreign powers ostensibly to protect the life and property of their own subjects.

The paper then goes on to say that Hazrat Sattar Khan, the Commander of the National Army, has subjugated the whole of Azerbaijan, won over the hearts of its people and, under the instruction of the Provincial Assembly of Tabriz, is making necessary preparations for an attack on Teheran, and quotes his reply to the message from Amir Bahadur Jang, Commander of the Royal army, in support of his statement.

2. The *Namai Muquaddas Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 21st December

NAMAI MUQUADDAS
HABLUL MATIN.
Dec. 21st, 1906.

Despatches forged by the Persian Royalists and attributed to Reuter.

doubts the genuineness of the Anglo-Russian note which has recently been presented to the Shah stating that the Council of State did not fulfil the promises made by him as regards the opening of

the Parliament, and advises the Persians to rely on their own efforts to restore the constitution notwithstanding the joint protest made by the ambassadors of all the Powers against the abolition of the Parliament and ask the Powers not to interfere with the civil affairs in Persia lest it might have disastrous consequences to themselves.

The paper then goes on to say that despatches like the above are (often) forged by the Royalists especially the Persian representatives in foreign courts in order to thwart the movements of the Persian Nationalists, and attributed to Reuter with a view to their being easily copied by the Press and widely circulated. St. Petersburg has been made the centre of issue of such forged despatches, and Russia pointed out as being the supporter of the Persian nation.

3. The *Namai Muquaddas Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 21st December

NAMAI MUQUADDAS
HABLUL MATIN.
Dec. 21st, 1906.

Appeal to Indians for charitable help to destitutes at Tabriz.

describes the painful condition of the widows and orphans at Tabriz left destitute owing to the Civil War in Persia, and appeals to the sympathy

of the Indians, especially their compatriots, to help them according to their mite whether for the sake of humanity or for their being co-religionists.

MHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 25th, 1908.

4. The *Mhir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 25th December in the course of an article on the Balkan trouble writes:—

The Balkan trouble.

The trouble assumed such an ominous form

at first that many imagined that in this trouble the European Powers had stood against the Turkish Empire. But England and France being influenced in favour of Turkey the wind of the trouble has taken another direction. The British Government being the first to desire the friendship of Turkey, the feelings of animosity of other powers disappeared to a considerable degree. Now one by one, everybody is proceeding to gain the friendship of Turkey.

The English Admiral Gambas has been sent to Constantinople to improve the Turkish Navy and Mr. Cracord to reform the Turkish Custom Department. It is clear from this that the British Government has resolved to help the Turkish Government. The taint of the Gladstone policy has now entirely vanished from the throne of England. The Islamic world is to-day showering benedictions on the British Government for their sympathy and unselfish conduct. The blood of the followers of Islam will flow when there is danger to the English. Praise to you, English Government. How shall we praise the merits of your benevolent rule?

Referring to the warlike attitude of Austria and Germany towards Turkey, the journal writes:—

Considering the stage which has been reached through the grace of God, Austria will be at a loss to find her way of retreat in a single battle, should she not rectify her blunder (in time). It is amusing to notice that the feeling of Germany has considerably changed. Seeing the conditions all around, she has come to realise her own mistake. She does not like to be involved in the Balkan trouble; rather she is of opinion that those who are directly interested in it should settle it themselves. Let us see what course the matter takes. We want the victory of truth and the downfall of falsehood.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

BIHAR BANDHU,
Dec. 26th, 1908.

5. The *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipore] of the 26th December is surprised to learn of an ascetic like Sivgunacharya alias Detectives after an ascetic. Sagunchand being shadowed by Government detectives, although he does not concern himself with politics.

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 26th, 1908.

6. According to the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 26th December, to suspect such a man of sedition is going to the extreme.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Dec. 27th, 1908.

7. It is reported from Barisal, writes the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 27th December, that the wife of Babu Aswini Kumar Dutt having expressed a desire to send a letter to her husband, the local authorities have informed her that no communication will be allowed between her and her husband. Whether this restriction is approved by the higher authorities or is the effect of a whim of the local authorities it is impossible to say at present. Babu Krishna Kumar Mitra's wife has got permission to communicate with her husband in English, and the Police Commissioner of Calcutta has expressed his willingness to make over to Babu Syam Sundar Chakerbury letters and articles of clothing intended for him by his relatives. If the report from Barisal is true, the conduct of the authorities towards Babu Aswini Kumar Dutt and his family is sure to be characterised as barbarous by every Bengali. The attention of the Viceroy is drawn to the matter, and it is hoped that His Excellency will soon set things right in this connection.

(b) — Working of the Courts.

8. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 24th December, in a paragraph referring to a farewell meeting in honour of Sessions Judge Mr. K. N. Roy. Mr. K. N. Roy, District and Sessions Judge of Birbhum, held on Monday, says:—

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 26th, 1906.

Mr. K. N. Roy was everywhere an object of respect to good men for his independence of mind, strict justice, ability in deciding cases, and character. So far as these good qualities are concerned we do not know of any one who is his equal among the Judges of this country. Many a time Mr. Roy had to fight with the Executive Department of the Government. What insults Mr. Roy had to suffer from the Government for his independence of mind and plain speaking are not unknown to the readers of the *Sanjivani*. The Government has done justice to Mr. Roy, but the people of the country who know his merits, have given him a place in their hearts with honour.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 26th, 1906.

9. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th December writes:—

A farewell meeting of the Judges and the

Some important pronouncements about the High Court. Vakils of the High Court took place in the Chief Justice's Court-room on the day on which Mr. Justice Sarada Charan Mitra retired from service, in which Mr. Justice Mitra made some very important pronouncements about the High Court. He said:—"There is generally lack of time for hearing second appeals, and the number of Judges ought to be increased. In many criminal appeals Counsel are not engaged for the defence, which in my opinion should not be done, specially in capital sentence cases. We had once dismissed such an appeal. In one and the same case appeals preferred by some defendants were heard by us, and by others were heard in a different Court where a Counsel was engaged. The result was that the decision of the latter Court was quite opposite to ours, and all the accused were discharged. It then struck me that the decision arrived at by us was not correct, and I wrote to the Eastern Bengal Government about it, and the accused whose appeals were heard in our Court were also released."

10. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th December writes:—

Bond for keeping the peace.

Srijuts Anathbandhu Guha, Mahim Chandra

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 26th, 1906.

Roy and Jitendra Nath Mozumdar have been ordered to furnish bonds for keeping the peace to the extent of ten thousand, five thousand and one thousand rupees respectively. The charge against Srijut Anathbandhu is that he was present at the annual meeting of the National School, where the boys had recited some poems of Hem Chandra and Dinesh Chandra Basu, as well as portions of the Purans and acted some portions of Srijut D. L. Roy's Rana Pratap. The people of Mymensingh were astonished to find such respectable men as Srijut Anathbandhu Guha made to furnish bonds to keep the peace.

(c) — Education.

11. The *Banga Bandhu* [Calcutta] of the 22nd December severely criticises

Dr. Mukerji and the disaffiliation of certain law colleges. the conduct of Dr. Ashutosh Mukerji, the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, in a recent

meeting of the University in which certain law colleges were disaffiliated, and calls him a sycophant and a tool in the hands of the Government in its scheme to throttle the cause of legal education in the country.

BANGA BANDHU,
Dec. 22nd, 1906.

12. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 26th December does not consider

Duty of private schools and colleges. the present educational system of Government solely aiming at making the Indians fit for service,

as sufficient to allay the ever blazing fire of the present unrest. The paper regrets that the private schools and colleges are also working with the same end in view which is not satisfactory. They should change the system, and according to their means try to impart such education to their inmates as to befit them for earning an independent livelihood. The paper suggests that each of these schools should employ such men as teachers in their institutions who after having been sent to foreign countries, have returned with education in the various arts and industries.

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 26th, 1906.

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

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 28th, 1908.

13. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 26th December, referring to the grant of money by Sir Andrew Fraser to Sanitary improvement of the Burdwan, Hooghly and Chinsura Municipalities, for removing the want of drinking-water which is the cause of those places being insanitary according to Mr. Maddox, the late Commissioner, says:—

It would be a matter of satisfaction if the health of the towns of the Burdwan Division be improved. But what arrangements are the authorities going to make for improving the health of the mafassal villages? When would the rivers Saraswati, Kuti, Behula and others be cleaned of mud, the waters of which become totally unfit for use during summer?

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Dec. 28th, 1908.

14. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 28th December approves the Calcutta Corporation's proposals of improving the stables and cattle-sheds in the town, and says the sooner they are carried out the better.

(f)—Question affecting the land.

NIHAR,
Dec. 22nd, 1908.

15. The *Nihar* [Contai, Midnapore] of the 22nd December, publishes a correspondence on the settlement work in Midnapore, in the course of which it writes:—

We bring forward certain irregularities regarding settlement before the Government for its consideration. Our complaint is, why are not the officers receiving objections regarding survey and revenue? The Government by framing the law has laid open the way of receiving the complaints of the raiyats and judging the same. Why are the officers then still lowering the prestige of the law by not receiving and judging the objections under section 104E? The raiyats are asking for lawful judgment, but the officers are turning a deaf ear to them.

The Revenue Officer of the Udbadal Camp not receiving objections, Babu Sivaprasad Mandal wired to the Director of Land Records, and not receiving any reply to that till last week he has sent 95 objections to him by registered post.

We shall consider the irregularities regarding survey later on. We now deal with the assessment of revenue. We quote the case of a particular pargana as an example:—

During the last settlement, i.e., in 1281 B.S. the following rates were assessed in a certain village in pargana Keoramal:—

				Rs. A. P.
Homestead	...	...	...	4 1 0
Dhosa, dayam	...	...	...	1 10 0
Jal,	”	...	...	1 10 9
Jal, Chahoram	...	...	...	1 0 0
Dhosa, Aul	...	...	...	2 0 6
Jal,	”	...	...	1 10 9
Jal, Sayam	...	...	...	1 3 6
Khana and Gera	...	...	...	1 0 3

Superfluous to say that after a suit a remission of 3 annas was made in the rupee, and the above rates were fixed after that remission. In the settlement of 1247 B.S. the following rates were assessed in certain places:—

				Rs. A. P.
Homestead	...	...	...	3 2 0
Dhosa No. 1	...	...	...	1 3 0
Do. No. 2	...	...	...	1 1 0
Do. No. 3	...	...	...	0 10 0
Gera	...	...	...	0 2 0
Fallow	...	...	...	0 11 0
Jal Jaini	...	...	...	1 6 10
Ditto	...	...	...	1 3 0
Ditto	...	...	...	1 2 10
Ditto	...	...	...	1 2 0
Ditto	...	...	...	0 11 0

After the settlement of 1281 B.S. the raiyats of the Keoramal pargana instituted a case regarding the increased rates before the High Court. As a result the raiyats of so many as 24-Parganas got a remission of annas three in the rupee. Further, the tax of the homestead and *dhosa* of the appellants remained the same as in the survey of 1247, the tax on their ponds and *khanas* was remitted and an increase of Rs. 40 per cent. on the assessment of 1247 B.S. was made on their *jal-jamai*. It was understood by this that the tax on the homestead and *dhosa* remained the same as that fixed in 1247 and the ponds, etc., under the said decree were exempted. The suitors have since that time, i.e., for 60 years, been paying taxes on the homestead and *dhosa* at the same rate, and their ponds, etc., have also been exempted. They had no concern with the survey of 1281 B.S. The rates assessed on them by the present survey and settlement should be mentioned here. An increase of 3 annas in the rupee on the rates assessed in 1281 B.S. has been made on all their lands. The tax on the homestead before this was Rs. 3-2 per bigha, whereas it has now been increased to Rs. 4-1.

(h)—General.

16. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 23rd December referring to the recent deportations in Bengal comments as follows :—

The deportations.

There is no certainty to-day as to where the nine celebrated sons of Bengal have been deported. The law under which they have been deported does not require Government to assign any reason for action under it. In the opinion of the provincial authorities there is a probability of harm being done to the country if these men remain there. Therefore, they recommended their deportation to the Viceroy who gave his assent, under the impression that the local authorities must know better than he could do himself by travelling between Calcutta and Simla. But the public are unable to understand the reason of the deportations. Now-a-days no trouble is seen anywhere, nothing is heard about affrays between the police and the boys, the Government has stopped the delivery of speeches, and the newspapers that indulged in strong writing have been stopped. But one or two hot-brained and impatient boys have committed terrible murders, etc., and there were sufficient laws for the punishment of those offences, and there is also a sufficient number of policemen. And even if those were insufficient, the new Act has been passed, and how long would it take to repress a few bad boys? We do not understand why instead of this being done the old Regulation has been put in force. If there be any trouble in the country at present, then that is nothing but the lack of the peace of mind of the people. It may be that by this the hot brains of the boys have been made hotter, and they have been engaged in mad deeds. But will this trouble end by the deportation of old men? It is a fact that these nine gentlemen are popular, religious at heart, good orators and staunch *swadeshi*s, and are therefore the causes of the awakening of the people of the country. Is that the reason for their deportation?

PRABHAT,
Dec. 23rd, 1908.

17. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 24th December in an article entitled The deportations and *Swadeshi*. “Would *swadeshi* be banished by means of deportations?” writes :—

The words of a boy on the deportations—A boy aged eight years in the family of a certain man who has returned from England and is maintained by Government favour, said on hearing about the deportation of Aswini Babu:—“Uncle, though I used one or two British made articles before, now that they have arrested Aswini Babu I shall not touch a single such article any more.”

The promise of a certain dealer in foreign-made cloths.—The shopkeepers had voluntarily closed their shops on the day on which Babus Aswini Kumar Dutt and Satish Chandra Chatterjee were deported from Barisal and a certain hot-tempered dealer in foreign-made cloths in connection with the topic about closing his shop said:—“So long I did not listen to the words of the Babus for the hope of profit, but to-day when the Babu was arrested and taken away, I was greatly hurt in mind and thought that mean as we are we cannot give up the temptation of a few rupees, while the Babu (Aswini Babu) went away

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 24th, 1908.

smiling uttering the name of Durga, for the sake of the country, leaving behind all. I shall never import British made cloths."

Is there any doubt that the vow of boycotting foreign articles will remain unbroken in a country where the boys on seeing the insults offered to the workers for the country, can easily give up the temptation of eating and moving about, and the money-thirsty traders can easily forsake gains? We say, "there is the hand of God in the midst of sorrows and insults."

HITAVADI,
Dec. 25th, 1908.

18. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta], of the 24th December says:—

The meeting in the Town Hall with reference to the Reform Scheme and the Partition of Bengal that was to have been held to-day under the presidency of the Maharaja of Darbhanga has been postponed.

As members of a deputation, or as representatives or as speakers in a meeting at the Town Hall, none should hesitate, from a sense of overwhelming joy and gratitude when speaking about the Reform Scheme, to mention that the people in this country would not be able to feel themselves completely safe with respect to their lives and properties so long as the Regulation about the deportations of innocent persons without trial was not repealed. Therefore they would not be comforted or pleased even on getting the rights of self-government. Even knowing that the Partition of Bengal is a very bad action, the Government is not annulling it, and therefore the simple faith that people have in the justice and procedure of the Government can not remain intact. The representative men of the country ought now to make the Government understand that we are pleased at, and grateful for, the scheme for the reform of administration, but the minds of the people of the country would not be comforted unless the Regulation for deporting without trial and the Partition of Bengal were annulled.

BASUMATI,
Dec. 26th, 1908.

19. Referring to the official statement made in Parliament *concerning* the recent deportations, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta], of the 25th December makes Sir Andrew Fraser and Sir L. Hare responsible for them.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 24th, 1908.

20. The *Basumati* [Calcutta], of the 26th December in the course of a leader entitled "Nirbasan" (deportation), observes as follows:—

A fortnight has passed since the deportation of nine Bengalis without trial. Their countrymen are still immersed in the darkness of ignorance. We are against such deportations for many reasons. There is no doubt that the Government deports a person or persons on the assumption that he or they are guilty. But mistake is not impossible in a case where no public trial is held. It is a matter of alarm to the subjects that evidence which is not accepted in the Court, should find favour with the rulers. British justice is a matter of pride to the Britisher. Deporting (men), trampling that justice under foot and disregarding the laws of the land as well as those introduced by the English, cannot be supported in any way. It may not be that secret investigation will (always) point the way towards truth. Even the Police Commission has acknowledged that the Police get up false cases. Instances are not rare in which the police bring forward innocent men as guilty through mistake. How can we say then that the information relying on which the Government deports a person, is always infallible? There is no doubt that the method by which an innocent man may be punished, is always to be avoided.

It is also a matter of doubt, whether such deportations are lawful or not. It is also a matter worthy of consideration whether the Government has any right to put in force the Regulation of 1818.

When that Regulation was introduced, India belonged to the East India Company. India now belongs to the King of England. The King of England has since, the Magna Charta, lost the power of imprisoning men without trial through several laws. It need not be said that the representative of the King has not that power which the King himself has not. This is why we have said that it is doubtful whether such deportations are lawful.

Whatever there may be in the law, there is no want of precedents. The deportation of the Natu brothers of Bombay in 1897 and that of Lala Lajpat Rai and Sirdar Ajit Singh ten years later, are but events of the other day.

But such deportations were in vogue in this country even a hundred years ago. An account has been given of the deportation of a newspaperman of India named William Duel (?) in a work on American newspapers from 1069-1872 by Fredrick Hudson.

Since that time the officers of the East India Company and later the representatives of the King of England have deported several men without trial.

There was some discussion about this matter at the time of the Wahabi case. The distinguished Counsel, Mr. Annestie, came out from England to defend the accused in the above case. He held such deportations to be unlawful and petitioned the High Court to bring his client before Court according to the Habeas Corpus Act. On that the Advocate-General said that the High Court had no such power. But the Judges of the High Court decided that it is not that they had no such power. They also said that although such deportation was (ordinarily) unlawful in England still in that country too in the time of danger the Habeas Corpus might be suspended and such deportation or imprisonment might be made lawful. Such things, therefore, may be done in India. It was, perhaps, because the Calcutta High Court expressed such opinion that there was not much agitation at the time of the deportation of the Natu brothers in 1897.

There is not the slightest doubt, however, that the right of the subject shrinks through such acts. The special privilege of a subject under the British rule is that in all matters he may demand a fair public trial. If this arrangement of deportation without trial holds, his privileges are all gone. The Natu brothers, Lala Lajpat Rai and Sardar Ajit Singh have all been released, but the public has not as yet come to know on what ground they were punished and from what consideration the Government released them. Only this much has been observed that the Natu brothers and Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh were, respectively, deported when a crisis was reached regarding the plague measures in Poona and the proposed Bill of the Lieutenant-Governor in the Punjab. It is therefore guessed that the Government punished the Natu brothers and Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh, because it believed that they were respectively intimately connected with the unrest in Poona and the Punjab. But how can we take the evidence to be incontrovertible when there is doubt whether it will be deemed sufficient in a court for the purpose of conviction?

The affair of Bengal, again, is still more surprising. In the Bomb affair the accused have been arrested, and all of them, guilty or innocent, have been in prison these eight months. They will be awarded punishment in the Court according to their crimes. But those men whom there was no good reason for considering implicated in the bomb affair, have been suddenly deported without any trial. The new law was passed in hot haste because there was delay in the disposal of cases. If the deportees were guilty, they could have been tried under the new law. But instead of doing that, the Government has deported them without trial, putting the old law in force.

This act is as unnecessary as it is wrong. It is the duty of the King to avoid that act which is full of doubt. Now, many doubts will arise in the mind of the people—and discontent easily originates from doubt. It is, therefore, possible that the discontent which it is the intention and bounden duty of the Government to nip in the bud, will, instead of being rooted out, grow. We therefore hope and request that the deportees may be released. If they be guilty of any crime, let them be punished accordingly after a trial in open Court. The people of the country have no sympathy with offenders, but it is necessary that the offence must be fully proved.

21. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th December says:—

The deportations. The district of Bakergunge is as if dying on the deportations of Srijut Aswini Kumar Dutt and Satis Chandra Chaterjee. A meeting was held at Barisal on the 15th December under the presidency of Srijut Dinebandhu Sen, pleader, respectable pleaders, zamindars and others including Srijut Yatra Mohun Sen of Chittagong being present, all of whom expressed deep sorrow at the deportations. It is not only for those two gentlemen but for all the nine deported gentlemen that thousands of people in Bengal are sorry. Would not the authorities soon take steps to remove this sorrow?

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 26th, 1901.

BANKURA DARPAH.
Dec. 23rd, 1908.

22. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd December, gives credit to Lord Morley for generosity in sanctioning the Reform Scheme. Lord Morley's action encourages the hope that, though the Indians cannot expect to possess the moon, yet gradually they will be given Parliamentary institutions. Both Lord Morley and Lord Minto deserve the gratitude of the people for their kindness. A new era will date from now in the administration of India. The Reform Scheme will give complete satisfaction to the people of India. Some people may still say that the present concessions will not allay the discontent. But the writer believes that the fire of discontent has not been really kindled in the country. A few misguided youths indeed attempted to wreak their vengeance on certain officials, but their action has evoked the strongest indignation in the country. A certain amount of discontent had indeed been generated in the minds of certain people; but the Reform Scheme will remove that discontent. Some people ask Government to annul the partition of Bengal, but it is certain that the separation of the Judicial and Executive functions will give greater satisfaction.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA.
Dec. 23rd, 1908.

23. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 23rd December, points out that the 17th of December, Thursday, was the day on which the Sultan of Turkey granted a parliament to his people; and on the same 17th of December, Thursday, has Lord Morley proposed to grant some very elementary rights to the Indian people in the Councils of the Empire. It is not to be supposed, however, that more liberal-minded statesmen than Lord Morley will not, in time, grant full parliamentary institutions. What a contrast between the gift of the Sultan to his subjects and the very moderate reform proposals of Lord Morley! Let the Indians welcome what little they have got and let them demand for more.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA.
Dec. 23rd, 1908.

24. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 23rd December, observes that the reform proposals have not evoked so much enthusiasm in Bengal as they have done in Bombay. What may be the cause of this luke-warmness? The fact is that the Partition of Bengal has damped the ardour of the Bengalis. From all quarters the cry is heard "The Partition must be annulled or else there will be no peace in Bengal." Will the disgraceful act of Lord Curzon be made permanent? Lord Morley should listen to counsels of wisdom.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA.
Dec. 23rd, 1908.

25. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 23rd December thanks Lord Morley, Lord Minto and Sir Herbert Risley for the parts they respectively took in giving shape to the generous reform proposals. If these proposals are accepted by the Parliament without any serious mutilations, then much may be expected from them in future. History teaches that even in the British Colonies Self-Government was not granted all too suddenly. Australia and Canada were not at first Self-Governing Colonies, as they are now. From a study of the reform proposals it appears that India will be a gainer by them. Lords Morley and Minto deserve all credit for their genuine good-will towards India. Those who are not hard to please, will surely find much in the reform proposals to reassure their minds. People whom these generous reforms fail to please are no true lovers of their country and deserve to be pitied for the littleness of their minds.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 24th, 1908.

26. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 24th December in a leading article entitled "The Reform of Administration" comments as follows on the Reform Scheme of Lord Morley.

Words of Hope.

We think that there are many words of hope in the scheme of Lord Morley. Perhaps after this long while the retrograde current that has been flowing in the country since the time of Lord Curzon, is beginning to turn. We have become hopeful to hear from Lord Minto, in the evil days of National life and in the midst of the thick darkness of night, the echo of the great saying, that the Indians have the right to administer India, which Lord

Ripon had said about twenty-six years ago. We have become hopeful, but there is still some

Cause of fear.

The first cause of fear is lest the Liberal Government should go out of power before the scheme of Lord Morley is passed into Law. The present scheme of reforms may be either substantial or unsubstantial, in any case, it is quite certain that the Conservatives would not try to work it out. Even now, their leader Lord Lansdowne is speaking against it. The second and more important cause of fear is lest the Anglo-Indians should be dead against it. It will be remembered how Lord Ripon's scheme of self-government was a total failure owing to their opposition, and great doubt exists about the result of the present scheme if they act similarly. The third cause is our own indifference. If we consider the rights that we have earned as our own and use them properly, our strength, fearlessness, sense of responsibility and all would increase. But if we consider the rights as unsubstantial and being unable to give up mean selfishness and convenience refrain from helping the administration of the country, there would be no possibility of any present or future gain and our ability for working would gradually diminish. Then our united service for the country would be impossible.

A Principal Defect.

A principal defect is seen in the scheme, the Secretary of State for India having neither spoken nor written anything about the annulment of the partition of Bengal. We are bound to say that the Secretary of State for India has not given evidence of his political ability in not doing away with the cause of the widespread discontent.

Gains and losses.

It is difficult to answer the question naturally arising about our gains from the Reform Scheme. Considering it minutely there is no tangible gain. We have received neither a share of the power of administering the country nor any honour. Roughly speaking, there are three departments of administration, namely, Legislation, Executive control and above all Financial control. In the present Reform Scheme no power in the true sense of the term is given in those departments to representatives of the people. There is no ultimate power of legislation because the Government can veto any law passed by the representatives or can enact any objected to by them. If the representatives pass any resolution about the administration of the country, the Government would not be bound to act accordingly. Similarly about Financial matters, the representatives can pass resolutions, the Government not being bound to act on them.

If ultimate powers in any matter be not in our hands, where is the gain and what cause is there for joy? The first gain is that after such a long time the Government has admitted that the people have the right to discuss and deliberate about the administration of the country, with the Government officers. So long the rule was that the King should administer and the people should submit to it, but by the new Scheme some change has been made in this rule. True, the ultimate power of administration remains in the hands of the rulers; but before the rules of administration be put in force, the people would be able to pass their opinion on them. They would be able to pass resolutions for reversing them, and the rulers would be bound to show proper reasons if not acting in accordance with them.

The next gain would be that henceforth it would be practically impossible to act secretly. The representatives of the people must first be consulted on all matters of administration. This we believe would diminish the risk of injustice and high-handedness. All sorts of dark deeds may be easily done in secret, but the work that must be done before the eyes of the public must have at least a veneering of fairness.

But the greatest benefit of the Reform Scheme would be its effect on our National character. We have no ability for administration because we are ignorant of it. Now an opportunity has arrived of our getting experienced in it. So long we did not learn to exert our powers to improve the country

and the people at large by diminishing our endeavours for individual improvement, because so long we did not feel any responsibility for the country and for the people collectively. We hope that with the increase of power in the administration the sense of such a responsibility would come on us, which would teach us to put forth our united strength for the improvement of the country. This power has increased by our working together in the *swadeshi* and boycott agitations for the last three years, and we hope that it would go on increasing if the scheme be carried out. This scheme would in the end be the cause of great benefits if the Government officers try heartily to put it into practice, and our countrymen try to make fruitful the seed of future improvement hidden under it without rejecting it with suspicion. May God grant that our hopes be fulfilled.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 26th, 1908.

27. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta], of the 24th December, in a paragraph entitled the "Abandonment of Curzon," says that Lord Ripon's Rural Self-Government in the Reform Scheme and one of the principal matters in the Reform Scheme is the undoing of the policy of Lord Curzon.

Lord Ripon's Rural Self-Government in the Reform Scheme and one of the principal matters in the Reform Scheme is the re-establishment of rural Self-Government as proclaimed by Lord Ripon in 1882. It would not be saying too much to assert that this is the chief element in the proposed Reform Scheme, because this would be the principal means for the people to learn Self-Government. The fact that Lord Ripon had entertained the idea in his heart is a proof of his political insight and liberality. Far from working out his scheme Lord Curzon put an obstacle to the liberal aim of Lord Ripon by reducing the power of Local Self-Government in the municipalities. After such a long interval the abandonment of the policy of Lord Curzon has begun. In our opinion the work should be done thoroughly, and the harm done to the other departments e.g., the Education Department, and also the retrograde flow of the current of improvement in the country caused by Lord Curzon ought to be remedied. Since the establishment of the Calcutta University people in all parts of Bengal were seen to be greatly active in the cause of education. High English schools and colleges were daily increasing, and the number of educated men were being greatly multiplied. Lord Curzon was unable to bear this. He thought the educated men to be the thorns in the side of Government; and in a round-about way made over the Calcutta University to the hands of the Government and began to adopt various other ways to arrest the increase in their number, the result of which we are perceiving. The Government is interfering in all directions in the Education Department. The independence of the people of the country is disappearing from all the departments. It has now been difficult for the managing authorities of many colleges to maintain their self-respect in carrying on the work of those institutions. If the people be not given free scope in the matter of education and no place be left for them to work according to their sense of duty, then the development of the national life will almost come to a stop. The abandonment of the policy of Lord Curzon ought to be arranged for in the Education Department, too, as has been done in the case of Rural Self-Government.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 26th, 1908.

28. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta], of the 24th December in a paragraph entitled the "Partition of Bengal" says:—

The Partition of Bengal and the Reform Scheme.

Now that the Government of Lord Minto has become ready at an auspicious moment to abandon the Curzonian policy, the act ought to be completed by annulling the partition of Bengal. The Government is not unaware that the partition of Bengal sticks in the hearts of the Bengalis like a heated iron dart. Let the Government say and do whatever it likes, assume as furious an aspect as it likes, the minds of the Bengalis would not be pacified unless the partition of Bengal, the sign of Lord Curzon's lack of foresight, regard for his own opinion, and action according to his own will, be annulled. It is like a blister on our minds, and we feel pained even to think about it. We must perform all our just and righteous duties to attract the attention of the Government to this matter. If we incur the displeasure of the Government by doing so or be punished, we would gladly bear them. Another matter to be noted in this connection is that Lord Morley in the Reform Scheme has taken upon himself the power of appointing an Executive Council in new provinces. It may be conjectured from this that the authorities are contemplating the creation of

a new province of United Bengal with an Executive Council of its own like those of Bombay and Madras. If that be true, may God grant that the resolution be turned into act.

HITAVADA,
Dec. 24th, 1908

29. Of all the criticisms of the reform scheme, to the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta], of the 24th December, that of Babu

The Reform Scheme.

Sarada Charan Mitra, late Judge of the High Court

—“It is good, but not sufficient”—has been though brief, the ablest. This, in fact, is the opinion of all Indians, and the reform is not bad to begin with; but the Indians are not to remain satisfied with it for any great length of time. It represents the beginning of a sound policy, and therefore the paper offers its sincere thanks to Lord Morley and the Government of India.

After giving a brief summary, the paper proceeds:—

As for the non-official members, their number is to be increased in the Provincial Councils, and not the Supreme Council. Since the non-official members are to include the representatives of the tea and indigo planters and the Chambers of European Commerce, there is not the slightest danger of any unanimity among them. Besides, as such members would include men like Nawab Salimullah also, what has the Government to fear then. The non-official members have got no control over the receipts and expenditure of the Government of which at present there is the greatest need. This was referred to by Babu Ananda Mohan Bose in his open letter to the Hon'ble Mr. G. K. Gokhale, the President of the Benares Congress of 1905.

30. The *Sultan* [Calcutta], of the 25th December, accords a hearty

I bid.

welcome to the Reform Scheme announced by

Lord Morley, and says that the Indians have been

overjoyed at the prospect of obtaining an unexpectedly large share in the administration of the country. The Musalmans used to laugh at the deliberations of the Indian National Congress as being no better than the effusions of mad men. Whether they will find out their mistake now that the reform proposals are going to be adopted, is yet uncertain.

31. The *Pratikar* [Berhampore], of the 25th December, in the course of an article on the Reforms proposed by Lord

The Reforms.

Morley, says:—

The new reforms have produced great joy in the country. Needless to say that we also are offering our hearty thanks to the Government for this. Worthy sons of India like the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji, Hon'ble Sir Pheroz Shah Mehta, Hon'ble Mr. G. K. Gokhale, Hon'ble Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, etc., have thanked Lord Morley, expressing their joy at the introduction of the Reform Scheme. It is superfluous to say that the unrest of the country will be removed to a considerable extent when the scheme is properly brought into action. But it should be mentioned in this connection that the primary cause of this unrest is the partition of Bengal. Many thought that there would be a proposal regarding the modification of the partition of Bengal in some clause of this scheme; but it not being so, it appears as if the Reform Scheme has not been able to bring real joy with it. However, it is to be hoped that when the authorities have set their hands to the work of reform, then a solution of this complicated problem, too, will be arrived at. Our Anglo-Indian contemporary, the *Indian Daily News*, has lately acknowledged that the partition is the root of all unrest.

32. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta], of the 25th December, publishes a cartoon in which Lord Morley is represented as holding

A cartoon.

a pair of scales in one hand and a weight, on

which is written “The Decentralisation Commission,” in the other. The beam of the scales has the word “Bengal” written on it. In one of the pans, which stands for “Content,” is “Administrative Reform,” and this is outweighed by the contents of the other pan, which represents “Discontent” viz., “Deportation,” “New Acts,” “The Partition of Bengal.”

The letter press says:—

“Lord Morley—How is it that the scales are not even with this also? Is it the weights that are short or is it the scales that are bad? Shall I then put this one (that is The Decentralisation Commission), also?”

PRATIKAR,
Dec. 25th, 1908.

HITAVADA,
Dec. 25th, 1908.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 25th, 1908.

33. In a long article on Lord Morley's Reform Scheme, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta], of the 25th December, expresses satisfaction at almost all the principal items of the

scheme, and says that if the generous proposal to remove the official control on District Boards, Municipalities, etc., is carried out, it will confer a real boon on the country by redressing one of its principal grievances.

The most laudable feature of the scheme is the proposal to increase the numerical strength of non-official members in Provincial Legislative Councils and to give them some new powers. Its principal defect is that the voice of non-official members will not be binding on the Government in matters relating to the expenditure of public money. The provision to allow a debate on the budget cannot alone be sufficient to remove the present grievance as regards the expenditure of public money, which should, by all means, be made according to the desires of the representatives of the people. A more generous proposal on this head would have done honour to the liberalism of the Government and been more acceptable to the people of the country.

Another defect of the scheme is the proposal to maintain an official majority in the Supreme Legislative Council. But although a defect, it exists in the constitution of England herself, namely, in the power of the House of Lords to veto proposals of the House of Commons. The Indians have, therefore, no cause to take strong exception to Lord Morley's proposal in the matter.

The Scheme has been appreciated and accepted with pleasure throughout India. This appreciation gives the lie to the accusation placed at the door of the Indians by a number of mean-minded Anglo-Indians to the effect that the former have acquired the habit of abusing the Government in every work, good or bad. As a matter of fact, it is only when the authorities give the people a poisonous pill to swallow, or else spurns at their unanimous voice, that they oppose and censure the despotic ways of the Government.

As regards Lord Morley's speech on the Scheme in the House of Lords, exception is taken to his statement that it is impossible to establish in India any institution analogous to the British Parliament, and to his support of Regulation III of 1818, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, etc.

In conclusion, the writer highly praises the spirit of Lord Minto's speech on the scheme in the Supreme Legislative Council in which His Excellency appealed to the Indians to forget the bitter days of the past in the hope of better days in the future and co-operate with the Government for establishing peace in the country and cordial relations between the rulers and the ruled. His Excellency's noble desire, so nobly expressed in this speech, cannot, however, be fulfilled so long as the partition of Bengal will remain unrevoked and the political prisoners will not be released. These done, such a current of joy and good-feeling will flow through Bengal as will be sure to wash off every grain of unrest and dissatisfaction from it.

34. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 26th December, cries "Amen" to *I bid.*

the hope expressed by "Max" in the *Capital* that the operations of the Reform Scheme of Lord Morley will lead to good feelings between the Indians and the English by placing them on an equality in every respect. If, continues the paper, "Max" of the *Capital* be taken to represent the views of the Englishmen, it appears for the first time that Englishmen have expressed their willingness to mix with the people of this country, for in this matter the blame hitherto lay with the former, as they consider themselves superior to the Indians. One example is sufficient to prove this. It is on account of this feeling that a number of sycophant Indians have degraded themselves so far as to lick the feet of the Englishmen in spite of ill-treatment, and this for a petty worldly gain. If under the circumstances the Indians received good treatment, they are sure to reciprocate in gratitude by offering their love and esteem. A few instances of kind treatment would be enough to bring round those who have been shown to be the bitterest enemies of the English and to turn their hatred into love, but the treatment should be real and not showy. If the Englishmen disregarding all sense of colour treat their fellow citizens as their brothers and forget that being the rulers of the country they are entitled to more rights and privileges and

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 26th, 1908.

comforts, they should rest assured that the tie between them and the people of this country would become indissoluble.

Self-interest alone has hitherto stood in the way of good feelings between the two. If there be a real wish to do away with it, says the paper, "come and make a common cause with us, and then see what wonders we show to the world!" The Scotch have set an example in this matter, and if the English are really actuated by a similar feeling towards the Indians, the two may embrace each other as brothers and establish a reign of peace and good-will in this world.

35. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta], of the 26th December, referring to the Reform Scheme writes:—

The Reform Scheme and the concurrence of Indian opinion.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 26th, 1908.

Unanimity of opinion all over India about the Reform Scheme is most necessary. Let arrangements be made for holding meetings for supporting the scheme, like that of Calcutta, in the other principal towns also. As the Indians of the Transvaal, too, in South Africa are supporting the Reforms, and their leader Mr. Gandhi, after supporting the checking of the Anarchist disturbances in India approves of the proposed Reform, and as support is being given to the introduction of the Reforms and the quieting of the dissatisfaction, in all the moderate societies and papers of India, support may be said to be given by the whole of India. That the Conservative party in the House of Commons and the staunch Conservative Lords in the Upper House would not hesitate to go against the Reforms at the time of enactment is seen by our contemporary of the *Indian Daily News* just as we do. Lord Lansdowne has been going against it even from before. But the Conservative opposition must be weak if Lord Minto taking the whole of India with him would support Lord Morley. Therefore the duty of India is most onerous. Again, it is good that, with the exception of a few papers like the *Englishman*, almost all the Anglo-Indian papers are in a manner supporting the Reforms, all of them are reviewing them with a favourable look on India. Lords Morley and Minto are being pleased with it, and we too are offering our thanks.

36. Referring to the Reform Scheme of Lord Morley the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 26th December has the following:—

BASUMATI,
Dec. 26th, 1908.

There can be no doubt that in the Reform Scheme several important rights have been proposed to be conceded. The clamour of discontent that is so loud among the educated community to-day, would never have been heard, if Government had granted these reforms only five years ago. Statesmen should, by all means, conform to the times, and British Statesmen should never have permitted the right time to pass by. Nevertheless it is a matter of great satisfaction that Lord Morley is trying fearlessly to rectify the past blunders. If the Reform Scheme be faithfully carried out, if the Indian administrators follow the policy laid down by Lord Morley in a liberal spirit, then, it may be confidently hoped that the Indians will have a very good opportunity of learning the principles of Self-Government. But unfortunately most of the Anglo-Indian administrators are so much occupied with the thought of safe-guarding their own interests that they can hardly find time to think of others. Frequently they unconsciously lose sight of the fact that the natives require to be looked after. If now Indian rulers carry out the reforms with that generosity with which the reforms have been conceived, there can be no doubt that the present unrest and discontent will soon pass away. It is devoutly to be wished that the rulers would be able to rise above their petty self-interests.

No doubt, at first sight, the proposal to do away with the official majority in the Provincial Councils appears to be very good. Of course, Government will nominate certain non-official members. But if the greatest care be not taken to ensure that the members, whether nominated or elected, should be such as to be truly representative, then, the whole theory would end in failure even if full fourteen annas of the total number of members be non-official. In the Legislative Council, as elsewhere, the sycophants are totally useless. As Babu Sarada Charan Mitra has justly remarked, the system of election now in vogue fails to secure men who truly represent the country;

and the same authority believes that the rulers would try to increase their own powers as much as possible, and most people in the country share his belief. It is the middle class people in every country who are thoroughly conversant with the real condition of the country, the wealthy and the poor being, as a general rule, ignorant, ill educated and indifferent. The proposed system of election would, most people are afraid, fail if men from these latter classes alone be elected. As Mr. Mitra has distinctly said, adequate provision has not been made for the proper representation of the middle class people.

The extension of the right of interpellation is a distinct gain, considering what a farce is the system which now obtains. A member asks a question and the Government tries to find some flaw in it through which it can escape. The member has no right to ask a supplementary question and is therefore obliged to remain silent. Under the proposed scheme although Government will have the final veto, there will be an opportunity of discussing the most important questions affecting the country. "Half a loaf is better than no bread" as the saying goes.

If the Government grants the right of saying a few words about the budget, it will, of course, do a really generous act. But it must be said that no proposal whatever has been made to confer on the non-official members the right of saying a few words about the manner in which the revenues are spent. Hence, as far as the budget is concerned, the non-official members will only have the right of speechifying and no more. The manner in which the Indian revenues are spent is unnatural and uncommon. The military expenditure swallows up the bulk of the revenues and seems to rise higher and higher, and there is no knowing where it will end. All the most urgent internal reforms, such as sanitation, education, etc., are starved, and military expenditure and the compensation allowances, absorb the greater part of the revenue. There is no sort of check upon the rulers in the matter of spending the revenues, so that they do exactly as they like. And the evil will continue as long as the people are not given some hand in the settlement of the budget.

Although the details of the scheme are not yet known, yet from what appears from the indications it is certain that much good will result if the scheme be carried out in the spirit in which it has been conceived. Now what has been offered with a good grace, should be gratefully accepted.

HINDUSTHAN,
Dec. 26th, 1908.

37. The *Hindusthan* [Calcutta], of the 26th December, referring to the Reform Scheme proposed by Lord Morley writes:—

Lord Morley's Reforms.

On Friday, the 17th December last, Lord Morley made his statement about the projected administration reforms in India. On that very day the Sultan of Turkey granted a parliament to his subjects and expressed his joy at the first sitting of that assembly. The Sultan has himself delivered his opening address with a view to establishing the people's rights and has made Asia cheerful thereby. It is also self-evident that the picture of the distant future is cheering India to a certain extent. It is indeed true that Lord Morley has not as yet agreed to realise a future parliament for India, still we do not think that the future Brights and the Ellises and the disciples of Bright will not some day fill India with the full glow of people's rights—will not grant her a parliament.

"Time is infinite and the inclinations of men different."

We will not think that because there is no hope from Morley, there is no hope too from men better endowed than Morley.

(In Turkey) the all powerful Sultan is adding to the rights of the people by controlling his own power. This marks a new era. We the miserable inhabitants of poor India are expressing joy at the joy of Turkey and holding the petty political rights proposed to be given by Lord Morley as extraordinary. It is, however, true that the 17th of December 1908 is not so much a day of joy for India as it is for Turkey. But it is true at the same time that we too have got an opportunity for slight joy. We are not the Irishmen of Ireland, but the Hindus of India. The Irish Catholics want complete Self-Government and spurn away all minor good. We would far more take the little with a good grace. This is our duty; this is to be remembered by us.

Lord Minto, though himself a Conservative, is treading in the foot-steps of the Liberals. There is reason to be glad at this, but not to be surprised. The

ancestor of our Lord Minto, Sir George Eliot, gained his Earldom by becoming our Viceroy. When Burke, Sheridan and Fox conducted the case against Warren Hastings it was George Eliot who looked after that case. That was why he became our Governor-General, and at a later period he followed a liberal policy. Everybody knows how the incomparable Viceroy Lord Canning gave evidence of his liberality though a Conservative. On the other hand, the too-liberal Lord Elgin forgot even the elementary principles of the Liberal creed when he increased the stringency of the Indian Penal Code. It is admitted on all hands that Lord Minto has followed a liberal policy in initiating the reforms. He has given evidence of liberality in asking the help of the Indians in keeping down the unrest. It is true that Lord Minto is not being able to follow the path of Lord Canning at critical moments. But it is also true that the Governors-General under the Emperor do not get the same opportunity of giving evidence of independence as the Governors-General did under the East India Company.

38. The *Hindusthan* [Calcutta], of the 26th December, under the marginally noted heading, writes as follows:—

HINDUSTHAN,
Dec. 26th, 1908.

The Reform and the Legislative Council.

Our thanks are due to Lord Minto and his ministers. There is not the slightest doubt that they

have arrived at the Reform resolution keeping the good of India in their mind. Sir Herbert Risley, the worthy and learned Home Secretary, is also deserving of our thanks. The greatest proof of his ability is being obtained from the way in which he has framed his despatch out of the huge mass of resolutions and notes. Lord Morley is also worthy of our hearty thanks. He has engaged himself in the Reform Scheme with a liberal heart; he has also turned a liberal eye on all the actions of the Government of India. We are getting evidence of Lord Morley's real desire to do good to India, in his written remarks and in his criticism. The liberalism which was apparent in the earlier letter of Lord Morley has been developed in his later speech. This magnanimity of heart appeals to us very much. There may be delay in reducing resolutions to actions. But there is a great possibility of meeting with liberalism in the later actions of those in whose hearts narrowness does not prevail.

With a slight introduction we shall show the trend of the reform proposed by Lord Morley and Minto. Sympathetic readers will see that if the reforms are passed in the Parliament without further shrinkage and if the proposed reforms are introduced into India after being guaranteed by Royal statutes, we shall not have to be entirely disappointed. History shows that no colony of the English has got Self-Government all at once. Australia and Canada are the central jewels of British Colonies. Even these Colonies were in the past lacking in Self-Government. In these vast Colonies British authority reigned supreme. There was no vestige of the present independent Council of representatives in the past. So long as the number and power of the descendants of the French were strong against the interests of Englishmen in Canada Self-Government was hampered in many ways.

For a long time the descendants of the French remained destitute of all rights. That was why many French leaders from Louis Pepin to Louis Island created troubles by bringing about revolutions. Our Lord Minto has seen that for a considerable time after 1886 the wind of unrest was periodically blowing in Canada and that contributed to the rapid expansion of self-Government in that country.

We should consider those an object of pity who will not be satisfied with a reform by which the Indian Members in the Council will be able to see and show the way towards the good of the country, by which provinces like Bengal will get an Executive Council at least in name, and by which Indians being appointed in all Executive Councils will be able to help in the government of the State. Those who are only fault-finders can lay no claim to a high soul. The notable men of Bengal, Madras, Bombay, the United Provinces, etc., have been satisfied; satisfaction is also being expressed in all the journals. Lord Morley, too, has been satisfied with this universal satisfaction. Lord Minto also is highly satisfied.

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
Dec. 26th, 1908.

38. Referring to Lord Morley's Reform Scheme, the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 26th December, says that although the Reform Scheme.

the scheme does not give all that the Indian Public desires, yet the reforms that have been granted are such as bespeak the liberality of the Government, and constitute the foundation of the fabric of future Self-Government in India. Lord Minto and Lord Morley deserve the heartiest thanks of the Indian people for the scheme. In the midst of the many good proposals which are contained in the scheme there are two proposals to which exception is taken, namely, the proposal to maintain an official majority in the Supreme Legislative Council and the proposal not to give to the opinions of non-official members of Provincial Legislative Councils the power to bind the Government in any matter. In fact, the scheme gives to the Indians only a part of those rights and privileges which they justly claim. In this state of things the people must on the one hand show their ability and competence by carefully and continuously making the best use of the rights and privileges they have obtained, and, on the other hand, earnestly and steadfastly work for gaining the remainder of the rights and privileges they claim. One cannot, however, be certain and at ease about the reforms granted so long as they are not enacted and carried into effect.

Although Lord Morley has made no mention of the Partition of Bengal in his reform scheme, yet the subject does not seem to be quite an irrelevant one in this connection. The present unrest in India is due to the Partition. Lord MacDonnell has said that Bengal as it now exists is unfit for a Council, and that the Partition is the greatest blunder ever made in India. It is believed that no amount of reform will please and pacify Bengal so long as the partition will remain unrevoked.

Again, the severe and rigorous attitude which the ruling power has taken against the people of the country, the manner in which the power of the police is becoming supreme and all-embracing, the enactment of harder and harder repressive measures, and, above all, the practice of deporting people without trial and causelessly searching people's houses, will work against the success of the reforms.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 26th, 1908.

39. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th December, in an article headed *"Ibid. Scheme that is above exception,"* writes as follows about the Reform Scheme:—

The scheme of reform that has reached India seems to contain much that was not expected. It may be known on reading the scheme that there is hope of as much rights of administering India as may now be expected by the Indians. If the scheme be worked out there may be hopes of more extended rights in future. Those who expect more at present is not aware of the real condition of the country. The British Government would never lag behind in bestowing extended rights on the people with the increase of their fitness for them. Nothing should be discussed at present. The scheme is only launched, and there will be some delay in effect being given to it. It may be that more rights may be bestowed on the people. Financial control is expected by many, and their hopes may be fulfilled. Any member of the Legislative Council may now move any resolution, the Government not being bound to assent to it. Some people do not like the arrangement, and who knows that it may not be reversed. The scheme is still subject to various conditions.

Lord Morley has formulated the scheme of appointing electoral colleges for sending representatives to the Council. It is not easy to decide what their nature would be. Their formation would also take a long time. Many works in this connection lie in the hands of the authorities in England and India. There are again many obstacles to the working out of the scheme. If the ministry be changed in England no one knows what would be done with regard to it. There is much delay for the fruit to come, but what has been known is pleasing. No one would deny that the Reform Scheme has been formulated for the good government of India, and all would thank Lord Morley for his good intention. These are surely indications of his good intentions, but all depend on our luck.

41. In giving its version of the Reform Scheme, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta], of the 28th December, has the following:—

The Reform Scheme.

The letter of Lord Minto written in reply

to Lord Morley's despatch on the Reforms shows the nobility of His Lordship's mind. It shows that His Lordship is benevolent, peace-loving and devoted to doing good without ostentation. Without blowing the trumpet of love for the people, he is sincerely inclined to widen the way to people's happiness. The stern features revealed at the time of making severe laws are not his real features. He is pained to find himself compelled to become hard-hearted from pressure from higher authorities in England. A Viceroy who has made such noble proposals cannot be really opposed to the interests of the people.

The paper thinks that if these proposals are carried into effect, they cannot fail in doing great good to the country. The Scheme is not hollow-sounding and would bear good fruit when acted upon.

Would that it was declared three or four years before.

42. Although showers of praise are being poured on Lords Morley and

Ibid. Minto from all quarters, writes the *Nihar* [Contai

of the 27th December, we must pause to think

what relation the Reform Scheme bears to our national life, what is the meaning of the rejoicings all round, and what are our responsibilities in the proposed reforms.

We must not lose sight of the fact that in the struggle for freedom the English people have gradually developed their sense of responsibility. That we are now able to conceive of a united Indian nationality is owing to our contact with such a nation as the English. According to English ideas every man is entitled to freedom, and we have a glimpse of this idea in the proposed reforms. Though the Indians have little power in the Imperial Legislative Council, yet it must be borne in mind that reform once begun cannot come to an abrupt end.

The proposed majority of Indians in the Provincial Councils is a distinct gain which holds out much hope for the future. It is of the utmost importance to the Indians to have complete freedom of action in village unions, Local and District Boards and Municipalities. Thus, gradually, greater things will come into their hands. The description given by Sir Charles Metcalf of the Indian village communities deserves the earnest attention of all Indians, who must show themselves capable of acting up to the model set before him.

43. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta], of the 24th December, mentions the fact

Desirability of the publication of a *Bengali Gazette* by the Government.

that many Government officers accuse the Bengali Weeklies of publishing distorted accounts of the actions and objects of the Government or of

keeping them unpublished. Besides, the remarks they make are made by Editors full of hatred against Government. By this the people get wrong impressions of the actions and good intentions of the Government. The paper then says:—

There is no limit to the faults of the Bengali papers. Well, let the Government issue a *Bengali Gazette*. The English-knowing readers are made acquainted with the actions and good intentions of the Government by reading the English Gazettes of the Government (e.g., the *Calcutta Gazette*, the *India Gazette*, etc.), and if the Government issues similar weekly Gazettes in the vernacular languages of this country, then it would be a matter of great benefit to the people and a great convenience for the people ignorant of the English language. It ought to be circulated freely to all teachers of the various Upper and Lower Primary schools and to the Panchayats of the Village Unions. Particular care should be taken to make the language easy and intelligible. If it contains the speeches of the Governors, the Commissioners and the Magistrates, the proceedings of the Supreme and Provincial Councils, and the important portions of the Resolutions of the various departments, specially the reports of the Agricultural Department about jute, paddy and other principal crops, the weekly market prices of the principal food stuffs in all the districts of Bengal and Bihar, the amount of rice,

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Dec. 28th, 1908.

NIHAR.
Dec. 29th, 1908.

SANJIVANI.
Dec. 26th, 1908.

jute, wheat, etc., in the various towns, the monthly reports of the Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta, Cawnpur, Narayanganj, etc., then it would be of great benefit to the zamindars, the raiyats, the farmers and all classes of the people. The Bengali weeklies are not in a position to publish them fully, and if a *Bengali Gazette* embodying all the above news in it like the *Calcutta Gazette* in English, reach all the villages in Bengal every week, then it would be of much benefit to agriculture and commerce.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Dec. 26th, 1908.

44. Referring to the order of the Government of Bengal sanctioning compensation to those students of the Presidency College, Calcutta, who had been sent away from Manbhum with their Professor Mr. Das Gupta, under police escort, by Mr. Carey, Deputy Commissioner, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th December observes:—

That Government often grants compensation to persons who are needlessly harassed by its officials is no news to us. Government has enough money in its possession, and can spend it in any way it chooses. But what action has it taken to punish the official for whose fault it has been forced to grant compensation to the aggrieved parties?

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 29th, 1908.

45. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta], of the 27th December, remarks as follows on the above incident.

The Principal of the Presidency College brought this new feat of the notorious Mr. Carey to the notice of the Government, and after a long time of correspondence between him and the Government, Mr. Duke has written exonerating Mr. Das Gupta and his students from all blame. He also has agreed on behalf of the Government to pay them their expenses.

But we ask, what have the authorities done with Mr. Carey for giving trouble to such loyal people as Professor Das Gupta and his students?

III.—LEGISLATION.

HITAVADA
Dec. 24th, 1908.

The Indian Crimes Act.

46. The *Hitavada* [Calcutta], of the 24th December, criticises the recent Indian Crimes (Amendment Act) as follows:—

The English Historians have taught us that all our former rulers were despots. Their word was law, and the people had no voice in the Government of the country. The British Government does not go a step beyond the law, and the laws themselves are made with the full consent of the people. As regards the first proposition there may be some truth in it or not, but as regards the second it is true to a letter. The English do not outstep the law; but what is that law. The popular impression is that it can be made at the will of the officials within two hours, and that there is no need of ascertaining the views of the people. It never lacks the support of Nawab Sulimullah and similar representatives of the people. There is no wonder then if Government makes what laws it likes to suppress the people with the support of such honourable members. The couple of laws embodied in the Act noted in the margin is of this kind. It is no doubt the duty of the people to support the Government in times of unrest, but this cannot be said in the case of any unreasonable acts of Government. To the question if these new laws to suppress sedition have been proper or improper the answer is that they are twelve annas out of sixteen improper, and have cast their predecessors in the shade because of the unlimited powers with which the police have been invested by them. It would result in the innocents suffering more than the guilty receiving punishment. The procedure laid down for enquiry will lead to back biting which is hated most of all by European Communities. The Anglo-Indian Associations, which suggested the formation of a special tribunal consisting of three Judges of the High Court, also recommended that of these Judges, one should be a Barrister, another a Civilian and the third an Indian; but the wise Government has ignored that portion of the recommendation which was in favour of the people. By providing the trial to be without a jury Government has only added insult to injury (*lit.*, applied salt to a fresh wound). This part

of the law is therefore terrible indeed, but the other part is still more terrible, for it is meant to make a clean sweep of all popular assemblies, as the meeting of three or four persons together is enough to send them into prison for three years. Of course the power of declaring any assembly illegal rests with the Governor-General in Council, but who is to report to him? Of course the police.

In introducing the Bill in the Council, Sir Harvey Adamson in his speech pronounced a number of persons still under trial as guilty. Any private individual would have been sent to jail for such utterances, and would not have been let off unless he apologized.

47. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta], of the 24th December, in a paragraph headed "Fear of future difficulties" referring to the new

Sections about meetings and associations in the new Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Criminal Amendment Act, says:—

For the last two weeks there have been crowds of important events all of which are difficult to deal with; but one ought to express an opinion on each of them. We have not yet fully expressed our views on the new law for summary trials passed by the Government. In the new summary trials there would be no jury, no pleader can be engaged, and, if necessary, the statements made by a deceased witness before his death would be accepted as evidence, and there is much in the new Act that is objectionable and may greatly hamper just decisions. But the sections about meetings and assemblies in the second part of the Act are calculated to produce much trouble in the future. If any secret society be established for the purpose of disturbing the peace of the country, or for increasing the oppression on the people, or sedition and such other matters, it ought by all means to be discovered and checked. If any punishment be provided for that, there would be no objection at all nor ought there to be any. But another matter in connection with that is very terrible. Government has enacted that the members and leaders of any meeting or association which is unlawful or illegal in the opinion of the Executive Government is liable to punishment according to law. The matter stands thus, that the existence or otherwise, and the punishment or immunity of any meeting or association would depend entirely on the favour of the executive officers, and none would be spared that would somehow arouse their dislike. We all know that it would be no wonder if any man or association incur the displeasure of the authorities. It is specially so because we are living under such a police rule that any one incurring the displeasure of the police is sure in many cases to incur that of the authorities too, the result being that the existence or otherwise of any meeting or association would depend on the favour or disfavour of the police. All can guess the results of all these. The enthusiasm and inclination of working together that was growing, and upon which depended to a great extent the social and political improvement of the country would die out. This Act would be a great evil to the country unless that portion of the Act be amended.

48. The *Basumatî* [Calcutta], of the 26th December, makes the following observations on Part II of the new Criminal Law Amendment Act:—

The new Act.

Basumatî,
Dec. 26th, 1908.

We have already shown how the wicked police will be able to blast for ever the peace and happiness of innocent people with the help of the new Act, and we propose to say a few words about the disastrous effect it will have on meetings and associations. The language of a legislative enactment should be clear, distinct and unequivocal. But the present Act totally lacks these characteristics. Whether it has a name or not, any gathering of men may be called an association under the provisions of the Act. It is a fortunate circumstance, indeed, that the words "with or without any object" have not been added. But whether the words, as they stand, mean the same thing, will be decided by the Magistrate holding the enquiry in the absence of the accused and by the Special Bench of the High Court. And the Counsel for the prosecution will, no doubt, argue, with irresistible effect, that a nameless gathering being designated an association in the Act, it tacitly implies that the gathering need not have any specified object. So every family, however inoffensive, will be liable to be prosecuted under the Act.

From the vague terms in which the expression "illegal association" has been defined, it will be difficult for the public to determine which associations are illegal and which are not. If the term "disaffection" could be interpreted as "want of affection" by a distinguished Judge in this country, what interpretations cannot be put upon the words of this Act to the infinite prejudice of the people? It is, indeed, difficult of comprehension why the rulers should have intentionally made the terms of this Act ambiguous, specially as the Police in this country are notoriously corrupt, and innocent people here often run the risk of being victims of unscrupulous devilish characters. As a result of the passing of the Act, many really useful associations must soon cease to exist, and incalculable mischief to the country would be the consequence.

There is, again, a very curious provision in the new Act, which is that the Viceroy will declare which associations are illegal. How can His Excellency do so without first scrutinising the work of each association? He must depend upon the reports of the lower police, who will thus have a very good opportunity of earning a few rupees.

The manner in which this Act has been passed shows how mightily the rulers have been upset. The very reasonable and simple amendment proposed by Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh was rejected. Sir Harvey Adamson tried to silence Dr. Ghosh by his arguments. None but those who are perfectly stupid can be influenced by the display of this Scottish argument of Sir Harvey. The word "intentionally" to which Sir Harvey took objection, was used even in the Irish Crimes Act, but it is not to be found in the present Act. It thus appears that it is far more rigorous than even the Irish Crimes Act.

49. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th December, in an article headed "Why has it been so?" writes:—

The Criminal Law Amendment Act and Regulation III of 1818.

As we said in our last issue so we say again that the Government has not done well to pass strict laws for the fault of only a few. The

throwing of bombs and the shooting of guns have almost ceased and the Government would have done better to wait till the decision in those cases. The delay in these trials must have induced the Government to feel the necessity of passing the law for summary trials, in order to lessen time and expenditure. There can be no help for what has been done already. The cases that have been dragging along for a long time and in which much money is being spent cannot get the benefit of the new Act. Who knows how long they would take and how much money is yet to be spent on them, besides the endless troubles of the accused. So, it seems that the disturbances may probably cease by themselves and the Government would have appreciated the soundness of what we have said, if it had only waited for some time more. The Government seems to have a wrong idea about the condition of the country, because they, governing such a large country, felt the necessity of passing such a strict law terrifying the whole country only to punish a few; and they had to deport some respectable men of this country.

We think that Lord Minto, wise as he is, did not give assent to the Act relying on his own prudence and he did not arrange for the deportation of some Indians under the terrible Regulation of 1818. The Government must have seen some faults in them to justify its action, but the people of the whole country is thunderstruck and terrified to see them deported because they know of no fault in them nor were they made acquainted with any by the Government. When Lala Lajpat Rai and Sardar Ajit Singh were deported, nothing was said by Government of their offence, but they were accused by some non-official newspapers or some non-official persons supporting the Government, of some crimes, one of them being that they were implicated in secretly communicating with some foreign kings to bring on a revolution, and with making arrangement for overthrowing the British Empire. It was subsequently concluded that the accusations against Lala Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh that were circulated were false and they were consequently released. It was never said, at least from the side of the Government, that they had committed any offence and were released through clemency.

No one in the country had ever dreamt that those who have been deported from Bengal would meet with such a punishment. No one had ever marked

them out nor had spoken of any offence committed by them, but now and then it was that some Anglo-Indian newspapers in the course of giving account of bomb-throwing and shooting used to throw poison of hatred on the people of this country and they would often hint at those who are now known to many as the leaders, and would advise the Government about the necessity of punishing them. Now that a new strict law has been enacted and the deportation regulation is still in force, yet the *Englishman* is not satisfied and its hintings have not diminished. It does not name any one in particular but hints at many. It is so rumoured that many people are still to be arrested. In the absence of any charge against the deportees people are conjecturing offences possibly committed by them and are getting terrified. Those gentlemen who have been deported, do surely deserve punishment if they had been implicated in any secret society or had ever spoken any such word as had the effect of generating the desire of killing Government officers in the minds of bad men. The Government did not even hint at such words before deporting them. The people of the country knew them to be ardent *swadeshi* working for *swadeshi* and advising the people for its spread. They had condemned the secret society and the throwing of bombs when they were first discovered and described their evil effects. Babu Krishna Kumar Mitra, in the *Sanjivani*, had strongly objected to such courses being adopted. It would not be surprising for the Bengalis to hope that, in the absence of any reason for such strict procedure, the deported men of Bengal would be released like Lala Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh.

It is a great misfortune to the Bengalis that in spite of the new Act nine celebrated men of Bengal should have been deported under the old Regulation. Why should the law by which Englishmen are deported should be applied to the Bengalis? If the Government only let us know what their offences are, there would be no cause of sorrow. When we think of the words of Lord Minto asking the leaders of the people to co-operate with the Government in establishing peace in the country and asking the people also to help the Government in improving the administration, we are unable to understand why it has been so. Why should such strict procedure be adopted during his administration who speaks in such a manner?

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

50. The *Khulnavaasi* [Khulna] of the 19th December, publishes the

What the London correspondent of the *Indian Mirror* says.

Khulnavaasi,
Dec. 19th, 1906.

substance of the views of the London correspondent of the *Indian Mirror* on the current agitation and its remedy. In his opinion the seditious movement should be destroyed by lawful means. In its efforts to kill sedition Government could have, in many places, followed quite a different path from what it has actually taken. Advice given by malicious people will never lead Government to a successful solution of the matter. A special court and trial without jury are not at all required. If the Government proceeds to check the current agitation in this country in the fashion it has been doing and adopt severe measures for the purpose, the result will be that even such people as do not at present mix with politicos will in future be led to give their hearty, active co-operation to that agitation.

51. In an article under the heading "What is Sedition ?," the *Bangabandhu*

What is sedition? [Calcutta] of the 22nd December says that the

direction of the *swadeshi* movement, made with the object of improving the material condition of their country, have nothing disloyal in them. It is rather those officials who are showing enmity to this movement and circulating false and exaggerated stories about it, who are really disloyal.

The Indian's demand of *Swaraj* is based on the noble Proclamation of her late Majesty Queen Victoria, and cannot be characterised as seditious. To the Indians the King has always been and is still a god. But to their

Bangabandhu,
Dec. 22nd, 1906.

misfortune they do not see their King now. And they believe that if they could see their King and tell him their mind, their demand for *Swaraj* would not go in vain. As a matter of fact, His Majesty's mind is filled with false and malicious reports against the Indians. Is the *swadeshi*, which is purely an economic movement, to be branded as seditious? Is criticism of despotic acts and arbitrary measures of the authorities to be called sedition? And does it bespeak disloyalty on the part of the people to grieve for the fate of their countrymen punished by the law?

It is true that the King is not to blame for the misdeeds of his servants in India. But when the uneducated masses of the country see that officials committing oppressions on them are rewarded instead of being censured, they naturally form the idea that those oppressions have the sanction of their Sovereign. They do not know that the King has no information about these things, and even if he has, he has no right to override his ministers, that he is only a stipendiary Emperor, and that he has no hand in the administration of his Empire. And this ignorance leads them to blame the King, while the real offenders are his servants.

The Indians are weak, and it is impossible for them to redress any injury done by officials. It is officials whose love of power leads them to create discontent in the country by interfering with the people's independence. These officials never give ear to the wants and grievances of the people and never care for the sacred relations that should exist between the rulers and the ruled. All that they care for in India is their salary. It is these men who should be tried for sedition. Who are really disloyal? Those who practise despotism, or those who speak of it? Those who kill natives by rupturing their spleens, or those who, like the *Punjabee* newspaper, publish the story? We, concludes the writer, truly and honestly say that a continuation of British rule in India is absolutely necessary for its welfare. We are always willing to show respect to our Sovereign, and admit the right of His Majesty's Viceroy to rule this country. But is it disloyal on our part to propose that the country should be ruled with the help of a national assembly composed of five or six hundred members like the British House of Commons?

BANGABANDHU,
Dec. 22nd, 1908.

52. The *Bangabandhu* [Calcutta], of the 22nd December says that if the Indians want to do any good to the country, they must first of all be united in bonds of patriotism.

Alleged necessity of unity in the country. Besides this, there is the want of the bond of discipline and a congregation of national force in India. It is madness to think that the English will willingly help the Indians in bringing about this national awakening and themselves take to hermitage after giving over this Empire to the Indians. In the opinion of the writer, India should better be wiped off the face of the earth than acquire Self-Government by mendicancy. If the Indians can become powerful through unity, then alone will they be able to claim Self-Government by collecting and manifesting that power. Unfortunately there is no effort in the country to gain unity. Preach the gospel of unity in every town and every village, educate the masses and learn to love them heartily. It is only when the masses will be united with the higher classes that the time of success will come. Want of unity has made many people turn traitors to the cause of the country. These traitors must be taught love for their countrymen and made to taste the sweetness of unity, and thus gathered back to the fold.

HITVARTA,
Dec. 24th, 1908.

53. Referring to the rumour that Government intends to suppress the publication of some of Bankim Chatterji's works Government and Bankim's such as the "Durgesh Nandini," the "Anandamath," etc., the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta], of the 24th December, considers that such intention, if translated into action, is likely to increase instead of allaying the present unrest.

HITVARTA,
Dec. 24th, 1908.

54. England is gradually forgetting, says the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 24th December, the principles of her free-trade policy England has destroyed the Indian industries. and veering round to protection in order to save her industries from being ruined by German and American competition. This is natural, but she does not care to see the state of India, the industries of which she has herself ruined.

The Deeds of the Bande-Mataram.

55. The *Mihir-O-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 25th December has the following poem which is continued from a former issue :— MIIH-O-SUDHAKAR.
Dec. 25th, 1908.

Alas ! Alas ! (they) incited Seraj-ud-dowla,
The crafty intriguing nation,
By thus denouncing Englishmen before him.
Still the Hindu brothers call upon the Mahomedans
To make them comrades.
Never be beguiled, never, never
For the sake of the treacherous.
This is not Seraj, this is the Englishman.
This is not Mirjafar,
He by worshipping whom the Hindus were rulers, is always
humble.
To whom Agir and Agin all are subjects.
And who are worthy to be worshipped by the Hindus !
For the trifling insignificant Hindus.
Say, why need he fear ?
Oh Mahomedans beware
Of the perverted Swadeshi.
Let nobody mix, let nobody combine
With the crafty Hindu.
The King does what he pleases.
Is it proper for the subject to quarrel with the King ?
Beware, beware, oh Mahomedans,
Our religious book prescribes loyalty to the King.
That is why I say, you brother, son of Moslem, sing joyously glory to
the Britisher !

56. Referring to the retirement of Babu Sarada Charan Mittra from the

The retirement of Babu Sarada Charan Mittra. High Court Bench, the *Basumatî* [Calcutta] of the 26th December says that he fully deserves the honour which the barristers, vakils and attorneys propose to do him by the presentation of an address. Will not Government reward his services by bestowing a knighthood upon him ?

BASTMATI,
Dec. 26th, 1908.

57. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 26th December says that every Indian is pleased with a long reference to India in the gracious speech of his Majesty at the prorogation of the Parliament on the 21st December.

BAHMATI.
Dec. 26th, 1908.

58. The *Hitavati* [Calcutta] of the 25th December characterises Lord Minto's speech. Minto's Speech on the Reform Scheme in the Supreme Legislative Council as very sound and substantial, and says that it should be the duty of every person to quell the prevailing unrest. This result, concludes the writer, can, however, be achieved without any effort by annulling the Partition of Bengal.

HITAVATI.
Dec. 25th, 1908.

59. The *Hitavaria* [Calcutta] of the 24th December regrets that Mr. Napier, the Magistrate of Nagpur, should have prohibited the National Congress from meeting at Nagpur in spite of the assurance that its proceedings would be conducted in a constitutional way. His order of prohibition has therefore revealed his narrow-mindedness. So long as such narrowminded men remain in this country, neither the country nor the rulers will be benefited, however liberal the policy of higher officials may be, and the paper prays that the Chief Commissioner and Lord Minto will rescind this Fullerian order of the Magistrate, as it is not wise to blot the page which India is about to turn on account of the recent Reform Scheme.

HITAVARTA.
Dec. 24th, 1908.

60. Referring to the same subject, the *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipur] of the 26th December observes that the action of the Government in suspecting the presence of sedition in gramophones, in the writings of standard authors and newspapers, in the ancient religious books, such as the Markandeya Puran, in school books like Burke's French Revolution, in the *lathi* play of the young lads of the country, and lastly in people's assemblies and religious associations, like the Arya Samaj

BIHAR BANDHU.
Dec. 26th, 1908.

which has done so much for social reformation in the country, would go to show that sedition has made India its home. God save from such sedition!

61. In referring to the delegates to the ensuing Congress at Madras, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 26th September

Delegates to the Madras says:—
Congress.

Those who do not like unity among their countrymen and whose sole aim is to serve their own interest cannot be kept back from going to the Madras Congress. They are sure to go and enquire of Mr. Mehta if the kick which he gave them did not hurt his leg. The paper then enumerates the names of these delegates from the different provinces, such as Messrs. Surendra Nath Banerjee, Bhupendra Nath Bose and others from Bengal, Malviya and Ganga Prosad Varma, etc., of the United Provinces, Gokhale, Khare, etc., from Bombay, etc., etc.

As for Mr. Mehta, the paper says he is the high priest for officiating at the sacrifice of the country's destruction.

62. Referring to the interview which Lord Ripon accorded to Mr. W. T.

PRATIKAR,
Dec. 25th, 1908.

Stead, Editor of the *Review of Reviews*, in which Lord Ripon's opinion on the Partition. the former told many things about the Partition of Bengal, the *Pratikar* [Berhampore] of the 25th

December, remarks:—

Lord Ripon said that "the way in which Bengal has been partitioned was blameable. For, as a result of this, many faithful, loyal and respectable subjects have gone against the Government. I would have partitioned Bengal, but I would not have partitioned it without getting the people of whole Bengal to consent to this." Needless to say that we are giving only a summary of his long conversation. On the whole he has said that had he done the act himself he would have taken the opinion of the whole of India. Doubtless this is an expression of opinion worthy of an experienced politician.

63. Referring to Lord Macdonnell's statement that the partition of Bengal is the greatest blunder ever made in India, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th December says

HITAVADI,
Dec. 25th, 1908.

that when Lord Morley also has more than once spoken of the partition as a blunder, it will be in keeping with his liberality and largemindedness to proceed to correct this blunder. When he has become desirous to please the Indian people, it should be his duty to remove this cause of pain in their hearts. The Liberal press in England and many Anglo-Indian papers also are advising the Government to annul the partition. In fact, Bengal will never be satisfied so long as the partition will stand.

64. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 20th December says that the

evils of the partition of Bengal which were long ago predicted by the people of the country, are now becoming patent to Englishmen themselves.

Both here and in England the partition is being freely condemned by eminent men. The Liberal Press of England is agitating against it. Many of the Anglo-Indian newspapers also have changed their tone regarding the matter. It is therefore believed that if the Bengalis can work on with composure and firmness the two Bengals will again be united.

65. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 27th December says that

DAILY HITAVADI,
Dec. 7th, 1908.

public meetings should be held throughout the country to express gratitude to the Government for the promised reforms. It may not be possible to make these meetings as numerous and enthusiastic as were the meetings protesting against the partition of Bengal, but still every effort should be made to acquaint the masses with the proposed reforms. And this is particularly necessary at the present time in view of the great panic, unrest and dissatisfaction which have been created throughout the country by the adoption of severe repressive measures by the Government, the enforcement of an old and worm-eaten regulation for deporting people without trial, the universal police espionage, the almost daily domiciliary searches based on the most untrustworthy letters and reports, the incidents of bomb-throwing and the dacoities said to have been committed by educated young men. In this time of peril the common people of the country should be made to understand that Government is framing measures for their good and has given hopes of even better things in

future. It is, therefore, proposed that public meetings should be held in the mufassal as well as in Calcutta for giving publicity to the Reform Scheme. And representative public men, elected in public meetings held in mufassal towns, should go out to villages to enlighten the masses on the subject.

66. Referring to the deputation consisting of the leading men of Bengal that waited upon His Excellency Lord Minto on the 24th December last for the purpose of expressing their gratitude for the Reform Scheme, the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 29th December says that the deputation ought also to have mentioned the deep sorrow which the country has felt at the deportation of innocent men as also for the partition of Bengal, and to have prayed for the removal of these grievances.

NIHAR.
Dec. 29th, 1908.

URIYA PAPERS.

67. Referring to the rumoured retirement of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 18th November

The rumoured retirement of His Excellency the Viceroy. supports the remark of the London correspondent of the *Dundee Advertiser* that His Excellency's successor should be a man of ability, political experience and sound judgment.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.
Nov. 18th, 1908.

68. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 18th November gives an account of a special memorial meeting that was

In memoriam. held in the Cuttack Baptist Chapel on the evening of the 11th November, 1908, in honour of the late Revd. W. Miller, who served as a Missionary in Orissa for many years, and the news of whose death in England reached that Province in the last month. The meeting was presided over by Mr. A. Das, who, aided by other speakers, made it clear that Revd. W. Miller, who worked in Orissa for 40 years, was noted for his humility, love for the Uriyas and devotion to the cause of the Christian Church. He founded the Cuttack Christian Society and collected many scattered Christian units under the banner of Jesus Christ.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 18th, 1908.

69. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 18th November gives an account of the proceedings that were taken by the

The cremation ceremony in connection with the dead body of the late Kanailal. relations and friends of the late Kanailal in connection with his dead body after it was made over to them by the authorities of the Alipur Jail, and

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 18th, 1908.

observes that thousands of men and women flocked to the cremation ground to have a look at the funeral proceedings. The funeral ceremonies of no other person were attended by such a large number of men and women. These funeral ceremonies are said to have eclipsed even those held in connection with the dead body of Upadhyaya Brahma Bandhab.

SAMVAD VAHAKA,
Nov. 19th, 1908.

70. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 19th November observes that

Some recommendations in favour of Indian soldiers and officers in the British army. not only the salaries of the Indian soldiers in the Government service should be increased but that some justice should be done to the Havildars and Subadars by admitting them to the commissioned

ranks, at least up to the grade of Colonels, at present, and by giving them some sort of independence in times of war, thereby giving them opportunity to prove their commanding ability and skill. The Indians proved to be the best commanders in the Mogal army and achieved success where the latter failed. The writer does not see any reason why the Indians should not be able to show the same degree of ability under the British Government if they be allowed opportunities to do so.

SAMVAD VAHAKA,
Nov. 19th, 1908.

71. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 19th November has the following paragraph on Australia's demand to enter the Indian Civil Service:—

Australia's demand to enter the Indian Civil Service criticised. "Dr. Arthur of Sydney wants to hold the Indian Civil Service Examination in Australia for facilitating the entrance of his countrymen into it, because England is too far from them, but we doubt whether the question is sane, when we consider the treatment

our countrymen are at present receiving at the hands of these colonies. They are taking active measures to exclude the Indians from their country because according to their notion they (the Indians) are unfit to associate with the colonies. In this matter they have gone so far as to prevent the Indian lascars from service in Australian mail boats. Therefore, people who are brought up with such prejudice against the Indians are obviously unfit to hold any post in India, both legally and morally. But as the Indians are not self-governing colonies of England they have no power to retaliate the wrong done to them by the English colonies."

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Nov. 19th, 1908.

72. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 19th November makes the following observations on the action of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, who postponed a garden party out of respect for the memory of

Mr. Manmatha Nath Bhattacharjya, Accountant-

General of the Punjab, who had died the previous evening "This, we believe, is the first time that a function of this kind has been postponed on account of the death of an Indian official, however highly placed. We congratulate Sir Louis Dane upon the eminently right step he has taken."

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Nov. 19th, 1908.

73. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 19th November states that there was a large gathering of pilgrims at Dasaswamedha ghat on the river Baitarani in the Jajpur town on the 8th November last. The

number of pilgrims is estimated to have been five thousand, of whom the majority were female visitors. It is said that the servants of God Jagannāth and Kalimata temples situated near the ghat realised a poll tax of one pice per head, refusal to pay which was met with blows and curses.

74. The *Nilachal Samachar* [Puri] of the 20th November approves of the

Restrictions on the smuggling step which the Government has taken to examine of fire-arms to India. the articles that are imported to India from abroad

with a view to put restrictions on the smuggling of fire-arms to the sea ports on the Indian coast, for this may further the cause of peace in India.

NILACHAL
SAMACHAR,
Nov. 20th, 1908.

75. The *Nilachal Samachar* [Puri] of the 20th November is sorry to learn that Queen Victoria's statue placed in a garden at Nagpur has been disfigured by some mischievous persons, and observes that the delinquents should be found out and punished according to law.

76. The *Nilachal Samachar* [Puri] of the 20th November states that a fire broke out in Harachandi Sahi in the Puri town, which, though extinguished in time, did not fail to do some injury.

NILACHAL
SAMACHAR,
Nov. 20th, 1908.

A fire in the Puri town.
A death due to lightning in Dharakoti.

11. The *Nilachal Samachar* [Puri] of the 20th November states that a man, belonging to Narayanpur in Dharakoti, while engaged in

mowing grass, was killed by lightning.

GARJATBASINI,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

77. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 21st November is glad to learn that Rs. 36,000 had been sanctioned by Government for improvement in the salaries of low paid officers belonging to post-offices in India, and hopes that this will prove very encouraging

13. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 21st November states that paddy is selling at 64 seers and rice at 20 seers per rupee in Bahalda in

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

Mayurbhanj. Improvement in the prices of rice and paddy in Mayurbhanj. A meeting in favour of the Indians in the Transvaal into that country and to repeal the Registration Act without any delay. The writer hopes that the good sense of the Transvaal Government will induce it to adopt the moderate proposals advanced by the meeting in question.

81. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st November is indignant to learn that a police officer was murdered in the Serpentine Lane, Calcutta, and that the offenders have not, as yet been detected and observes that as these wicked men are the cause of the unrest in the country, they should be punished severely.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

82. Referring to the respect and attention which many Bengali ladies and gentlemen paid to the funeral ceremonies in connection with the dead body of the late Kanhaiyalal, the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st November observes that many Bengalis seem

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

Observations on the obsequies held on the dead body of the late Kanhaiyalal. to have lost their sense of proportion inasmuch as they sympathised and honoured a man who had a charge of sedition, coupled with that of conspiracy against the state hanging on his head and who had committed a cowardly murder in broad daylight in the Alipur Jail. Whatever may be the feeling of a section of the Bengali community, the Indians in general have no sympathy with such silly and ugly manifestations.

83. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st November writes a long article on the present unrest in the country and recommends strong measures to extirpate the band of anarchists or revolutionaries that have proved to be the general scourge of the country.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

Observations on the present threat in the country. Favourable price of rice in Khairial. 84. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st November states that rice is selling at 20 seers per rupee in Khairial.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

85. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st November states that though a good crop was expected at Angul, the recent cessation of rain has caused much injury to it in many places in that district.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

The standing crop in Angul. 86. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st November states that cholera has again appeared in village Saruvali, Pargana Barakot in Bamra.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

87. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st November states that the prospect of the rabi crop in Bamra is bad.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

88. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st November states that out of 12 wild elephants caught in Bamra by the help of khedda operations two have died, while two female elephants have given birth to two cubs.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

89. The *Utkalbarta* [Calcutta] of the 21st November gives an account of the Darbar that was held at Alipur by Sir Andrew

UTKALBARTA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

Fraser, the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and observes that His Honour was always kind towards the Uriyas. The Uriyas are grateful to him for the amalgamation of Sambalpur and its attached states with the Orissa Division.

UTKALBARTA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

90. The *Utkalbarta* [Calcutta] of the 21st November states that paddy is selling at 20 seers and rice at 8 seers per rupee in Cuttack.

UTKALBARTA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

Price of rice in Cuttack. 91. The *Utkalbarta* [Calcutta] of the 21st November states that the paddy crops on higher grounds in the Balasore district have been a total failure. The loss in the crop raised on the lower grounds is estimated at 8 annas. The gloomy.

UTKALBARTA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

The state of the paddy crop in Balasore. 92. The *Utkalbarta* [Calcutta] of the 21st November states that owing to the early cessation of rain in the Bhadrak subdivision of the Balasore district a loss of 4-anna crop is estimated. Paddy is being constantly stolen from the field.

UTKALBARTA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

The state of the crop in Bhadrak. 93. The *Utkalbarta* [Calcutta] of the 21st November states that rice is selling at 11 seers per rupee in Mayurbhanj.

The price of rice in Mayurbhanj.

UTKALBARTA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

94. The *Utkalbarta*

Wild elephants in Keonjhur.

UTKALBARTA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

95. The *Utkalbarta*

The price of rice in Narsingpur.

UTKALBARTA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

96. The *Utkalbarta*

The weaving industry in Sam-
balpur.

UTKALBARTA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

97. The *Utkalbarta*

The price of rice in Gangpur.

UTKALBARTA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

98. The *Utkalbarta*

Public health in Cuttack.

UTKALBARTA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

99. The *Utkalbarta*

Public health in Bhadrak.

UTKALBARTA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

100. The *Utkalbarta*

Two cases of suicide in Gang-
pur.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

101. The *Utkaldipika*

A remark on the Under-Secretary of State for India.

of pounds on European soldiers in India in reply to a question put forward by Dr. Rutherford, as very unsatisfactory.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

102. The *Utkaldipika*

Bestowal of the title of Maha-
raja on the Chief of Sonepur.

Chief should have received his sanad in the Cuttack Durbar. The writer suspects that the Chiefs of Sambalpur do not like to sit with the Chiefs of Orissa proper in an open Durbar.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

103. The *Utkaldipika*

The price of rice in Jajpur.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

104. The *Utkaldipika*

The price of rice in Kanika.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

105. The *Utkaldipika*

A railway accident.

Byasasoraban and Jenapur railway stations, a chaukidar belonging to the Sukinda outpost while guarding the line became drowsy, fell asleep on the line and was at last mutilated by the train.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

106. The *Utkaldipika*

The Cuttack Hosiery Company.

the common manager of the Bhingarpur Estate, is turning out nice guernseys

and socks that compete successfully with similar articles imported from abroad.

The Company is maintaining a goodly number of workmen of different grades

who would have remained unprovided for otherwise. As the Company is

managing with a small capital of 17 thousand rupees, the writer hopes that

other gentlemen of means will be encouraged by the Company's example to

start industries in Orissa.

[Calcutta] of the 21st November states that wild elephants are doing great injury to the paddy crop in Keonjhur.

[Calcutta] of the 21st November states that paddy is selling at $31\frac{1}{2}$ seers and rice at 12 seers per rupee in Narsingpur.

[Calcutta] of the 21st November states that the weavers in Sambalpur are doing well in their business as the products of their industry are being readily purchased by the residents of that district.

[Calcutta] of the 21st November states that paddy is selling at 18 seers and rice at 7 seers per rupee in Gangpur.

[Calcutta] of the 21st November states that fever prevails in the Cuttack town.

[Calcutta] of the 21st November states that fever prevails in the Bhadrak subdivision of the Balasore district.

[Calcutta] of the 21st November states that a Muhammadan belonging to village Puran and a Hindu belonging to village Rameswar Chahapara in the Gangpur State committed suicide for reasons not known.

[Cuttack] of the 21st November looks upon the refusal of the Under-Secretary of State for India to produce papers in the House of Commons regarding the increased expenditure of three lakhs

of pounds on European soldiers in India in reply to a question put forward by Dr. Rutherford, as very unsatisfactory.

[Cuttack] of the 21st November looks upon the procedure adopted in bestowing the title of Maha-
raja on the Chief of Sonepur at the Alipur Durbar as unusual, for Sonepur belongs to Orissa and the

Chief should have received his sanad in the Cuttack Durbar. The writer suspects that the Chiefs of Sambalpur do not like to sit with the Chiefs of Orissa proper in an open Durbar.

[Cuttack] of the 21st November states that Rangoon paddy is selling at 15 seers, country paddy 18 seers, old rice at 6 seers and new rice at 8 seers per rupee

in Jajpur.

[Cuttack] of the 21st November states that rice is selling at 9 seers per rupee in Kanika.

[Cuttack] of the 21st November states that while the special train of His Honour the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal was passing between the

Byasasoraban and Jenapur railway stations, a chaukidar belonging to the

Sukinda outpost while guarding the line became drowsy, fell asleep on the line

and was at last mutilated by the train.

[Cuttack] of the 21st November makes a favourable notice of the Cuttack Hosiery Company, which, under the guidance of Mr. Hemendra Nath Roy,

the common manager of the Bhingarpur Estate, is turning out nice guernseys

and socks that compete successfully with similar articles imported from abroad.

The Company is maintaining a goodly number of workmen of different grades

who would have remained unprovided for otherwise. As the Company is

managing with a small capital of 17 thousand rupees, the writer hopes that

other gentlemen of means will be encouraged by the Company's example to

start industries in Orissa.

107. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 21st November gives a full account of the Durbar that was held at Cuttack by His Honour the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and observes that the Durbar proceedings passed off quietly and successfully under the able supervision of Babu Dayanidhi Das, Personal Assistant to the Orissa Commissioner, who seems to have fully satisfied the Durbaries.

108. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 21st November fully endorses the views of Mrs. Anne Besant, who recently delivered a lecture at Lucknow, in which she pointed out that

Mrs. Annie Besant on young Indians.

the students belonging to schools and colleges in India unnecessarily trouble their heads with politics, a subject meant for elderly men only. The Indian mothers being generally ignorant are not in a position to guide the conduct of students, who are neither obedient to their parents nor to their teachers. The students are generally puffed up with a little learning, which proves in their case a dangerous thing inasmuch as they become conceited and think themselves wiser than their parents. In many families the guardians are compelled to carry out the fond wishes of the children. This is an unhealthy atmosphere that must in due course bring forth undesirable results.

RAJENDRA CHANDRA SASTRI,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 2nd January, 1908.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Nov. 21st, 1908.

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 2nd January 1909.

CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.			
Nil.		(A)—General—	
		The reform scheme and the partition ...	1
		The proposed reforms ...	2
		The reform scheme ...	ib.
		Ditto ...	ib.
		Ditto ...	ib.
		The Government and the people ...	3
		The deportations ...	ib.
		Ditto ...	ib.
		The situation ...	ib.
		The Carey incident ...	ib.
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.			
(a)—Police—			
Retirement of a model Police Officer and the Police.	1		
(b)—Working of the Courts—			
Bande Mataram Printer's case ...	1		
(c)—Jails—			
Nil.			
(d)—Education—			
Nil.			
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—			
Nil.			
(f)—Questions affecting the land—			
Nil.			
(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation—			
Nil.			
		III.—LEGISLATION.	
		Nil.	
		IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
		Nil.	
		V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
		Nil.	
		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
		Another bomb outrage ...	4
		Viceroy and the deportees ...	ib.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1. In the course of an article eulogising the services rendered by Rai Brojendro Nath Chatterjee Bahadur, Superintendent, Calcutta Police, who retired from the service a few days ago, the *Indian Mirror* says:—

“Lord Curzon appointed the Police Commission with the best of intentions, but, to confess the truth, there has yet been no marked improvement in the Police Service as a whole. We do not know how it is, but the people seem to have an instinctive dread of the Police everywhere. A few educated men of good families are now and again being drafted into the higher Police Service. That is undoubtedly a very wise step, but the public do not complain so much of the higher, as of the lower, Police officers. In view of the wise, conciliatory measures which the Government is adopting in order to allay the unrest, we deem it a matter of essential importance that all that is possible should be done to improve the general tone of the Police Administration. In justice to the Police, we have to admit that they have often to perform unpleasant duties under the most discouraging circumstances. In connection with the anarchist conspiracy, they have done invaluable service to the Government and the public. But after everything has been said in their favour, it has to be admitted that the Indian Police have yet to be taught that they must not regard themselves as the masters of the public. A close examination of the causes of the unrest will show that dissatisfaction with the Police is one of them. Here in Calcutta, for example, a loud complaint was made against the lower ranks of the Police force in connection with the Beadon Square riots. There were official and unofficial inquiries, and eventually the matter ended practically in nothing. What we want to impress upon the authorities is that, rightly or wrongly, the belief should not be allowed to prevail among the public that the Government overlooks the faults of the Police. We know that the Police are the eyes and ears of the Government in many things, and for that reason it is necessary that the Government should see that the Police do not abuse the trust reposed in them. Nothing is more wished for at the present moment than that terrorism and violence should be put down with a strong hand. Let the utmost care, however, be taken to see that the innocent do not suffer in any way. Tact and judgment should be the ruling principles of all Police officers, high or low. The higher Police officers should specially bear in mind the fact that they have to work with subordinates, the majority of whom are uneducated and, therefore, devoid to a great extent of the discriminating faculty. Let them award reward and punishment to the good and bad, respectively, with an impartial hand. People wrongly think that Police officers cannot be honest. They can be honest, and many of them are honest.”

INDIAN MIRROR,
23rd Dec. 1908.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

2. The *Telegraph* prays that the Government may be pleased to drop the proceedings against Bishnupada Sen, Printer of the now defunct *Bande Mataram*. He has already suffered much under racking suspense and agonising illness, and the journal thinks it will not be too much to ask the generous Government to show mercy to the poor man who has already expiated his sin, if he has committed any, by suffering for a long time both physically and mentally.

TELEGRAPH,
26th Dec. 1908.

3. *Bengalee* writes:—

The reform scheme and the partition. “His Excellency the Viceroy has, in his own felicitous language, expressed the hope ‘that with the dawn of this new era the recollection of the dark days through which we have been passing may disappear.’ They will disappear surely enough, if the root cause of the present mischief is removed.

BENGALEE,
23rd Dec. 1908.

But the recollection of those dark days will necessarily be kept alive and the successful working of the great scheme hampered, if the partition, that monument of national humiliation and the abiding emblem of the contemptuous disregard of Indian public opinion, is not removed out of sight, or is not so modified as to give public satisfaction. When the Government has made such an honest effort to ameliorate the administration and to associate the people in the work of Government, it would be a thousand pities if that work is not consummated, or if the prospects of its success are imperilled by the continuance of an administrative arrangement which one of the greatest of living Indian authorities has declared to be the gravest blunder ever committed in India. Nor should we be true to ourselves or be the faithful exponents of public opinion if we did not invite the Government promptly to retrieve the blunder of the recent deportations. Deportations without trial, without the persons deported having any opportunity of explanation or defence, are opposed to our fundamental notions of justice. What is morally wrong cannot be politically expedient—so said one of the greatest of Anglo-Indian authorities. It would have been well for the reputation of Lord Morley if he had consented to repeal Regulation III of 1818. It is a dangerous weapon and its only use is in times of excitement and unrest when even the most cool-headed of men is apt to lose his mental balance."

INDIAN MIRROR,
24th Dec. 1908.

4. The *Indian Mirror* regards the despatches in connection with the reform proposals as the most interesting State documents that have ever come to the notice of the

The proposed reforms. Indian public. Lord Morley fully sustains the reputation which belongs to him. Equally liberal and generous has been the action of His Excellency Lord Minto and the thanks of the Indian public are due to these great statesmen in an unstinted measure. The journal urges the moderates to look ahead, take counsel together, and unite themselves into a solid phalanx against the enemies of the King and country.

BENGALEE,
24th Dec. 1908

5. The *Bengalee* trusts that Sir Herbert Risley, to whom the duty of working out the details in connection with the new system of Local Self-Government. It will be the last service that will be in his power to render to the country with which he has been connected so long, and the journal trusts that it will be service worthy of his great intellectual qualities and of his interest in this ancient land.

MUSSALMAN,
26th Dec. 1908.

6. The *Mussalman* records its approval of Lord Morley's reform scheme, which, it says, indicates a statesmanlike handling of the problem of Indian administration and is calculated to cause general satisfaction throughout the country. The most satisfactory feature of the scheme is the contemplated provision of a non-official majority in the Provincial Legislative Councils. It is hoped the Provincial Councils will henceforth be more popular than the Imperial one and be of real service to the country.

INDIAN MIRROR,
27th Dec. 1908.

7. The *Indian Mirror* writes:—
The reform scheme. "That there has been a notable change in the political atmosphere of the country since the announcement of reform proposals, is clear from several incidents which have happened during the past few days. The first is the deputation to His Excellency the Viceroy, which comprised the leaders of all sections of the community. The second is the fact that the unfortunate differences among Congressmen have almost disappeared, with the result that a strong contingent of delegates from both Bengals is expected to take part in the ensuing Congress in Madras. The third is the happy improvement in the tone of some of the papers, both Indian and Anglo-Indian which presents a striking contrast to the insinuations and recriminations which till recently did so much to embitter the mutual feeling of the two communities. We are particularly pleased with the sympathetic attitude which the Anglo-Indian community have taken up towards their Indian brethren with regard to the concessions which the latter are about to receive from the Government. The mass of the Indian people have been favourably impressed with the scheme. There may be Extremists here and there to belittle the value of the concessions, but their opinion, as that of a handful of determinedly dissatisfied people, may be ignored altogether."

8. Referring to the address presented by the deputation that waited upon His Excellency the Viceroy, the *Indian Nation* Government and the people. hopes that the cordial relations thus formally

declared between the Government and the leaders of the people will be enduring and bear practical fruit. It is only necessary that the leaders should declare their mind to the country in a manner that cannot be mistaken. The journal trusts that with such pronouncements earnestly, widely and repeatedly made, the troubled sea of public life in Bengal will settle down, and the country will revert to its normal condition of peace and quiet.

9. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* feels very much gratified by the assurance given by His Excellency the Viceroy in

The deputation. his reply to the deputation which waited on him

on the 24th instant in connection with the reform scheme, that "though the duties of governing may require an iron hand, the ultimate aim of the administrators of India will continue to be as it has been, the welfare of the people." The journal fully recognises this fact and trusts that though the Government was obliged to play the terrible for a time under special circumstances, it will ere long shew by its acts that it is the real *Ma Bap*—the friend and protector of the people.

10. Referring to the deputation that waited on His Excellency the Viceroy on the 24th instant, in connection with

The deputation. the reform scheme, the *Hindoo Patriot* states that

never before in the history of Indian Administration were people of so varied political faith joined together to express their unanimous feeling of thankfulness and loyalty for an administrative measure which is calculated to bring a new era of progress and contentment in the country. The expression of a desire for the continuance of Lord Minto's administration till its full term, shows how much His Excellency has endeared himself to the people and it is hoped that this sincere desire of the people will be fulfilled, and that India may enter into a new era of progress and prosperity under his guidance.

11. The *Bengalee* says:—

The situation.

"Our recollection of public events now goes back to something more than a quarter of a century, and we have no hesitation in saying that in the whole course of our public experience, we have not come across any measure which has more profoundly stirred the hearts of our countrymen, or has caused greater irritation and dissatisfaction than the partition of Bengal. Looking at the matter from this point of view, Lord MacDonnell's observation that the partition has been the gravest blunder ever committed in India is literally true. Is it wise to treat such a blunder as this as a settled fact and to stereotype the feeling of dissatisfaction by declining to modify it? Lord Morley no doubt has his difficulties. He may have sometimes to stand up for measures which he may not like. These are contingencies to which statesmen are liable. Call them the penalties or the privileges of their position; but whatever they may be, the statesman has often to put up with them. But at the same time we venture to think that a statesman of the intellectual eminence and wide vision of Lord Morley ought not to permit himself to be insensible to a situation which, in Bengal at least, will largely determine the eventual attitude of the public mind with regard to his scheme. After the first fervour of enthusiasm which the reform scheme has evoked (and very properly, as we think) has died away and the partition, unmodified and in all its naked deformity, stares every Bengali in the face, it will not fail to remind him, and that from day to day, of his national grievance and national humiliation and chill the ardour of his enthusiasm. A standing, every-day grievance, felt as such, no matter whether it is sentimental or otherwise, is a serious obstacle in the way of peace and contentment of mind; and we most earnestly appeal to His Excellency the Viceroy to remove this perennial source of unrest, even for the sake of the great scheme, with which for all time to come his name will be imperishably associated."

12. Sometime ago, writes the *Bengalee*, a party of Geological students from the Carey incident. the Presidency College were sent out in charge of Prof. Das Gupta for a tour in the district of Manbhum. The party were detained at Chaibassa by Mr. Carey, Deputy

INDIAN NATION,
26th Dec. 1908.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
25th Dec. 1908.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
26th Dec. 1908.

BENGALEE,
26th Dec. 1908.

BENGALEE,
26th Dec. 1908.

Commissioner of Manbhum, and after a while were sent back in police custody. On the return of the party to Calcutta, Mr. James, Principal of the Presidency College, took the matter up vigorously. As a result of the correspondence that ensued between him and the Chief Secretary to the Government, the Government has decided to defray the costs of the expedition and a notification has been hung up in the Geological Laboratory of the College acquitting those concerned of any sort of suspicion. The journal thinks that the notification which is the substance of a letter received by the Principal from the Chief Secretary is tantamount to adding insult to injury. There never was a question of suspecting a party of students who were headed by their professor and were accompanied by a darwan of the college. The only ground for suspicion was in the imagination of an erratic official. The question that Government was called upon to decide was not whether the party had anything suspicious about it, but what notice it should take of the conduct of an officer whose eccentricities were well known and who had succeeded in making himself supremely unpopular wherever he was sent. It is not a little surprising that the Government, while acquitting the students of a charge which never was lawfully brought against them and which could not be brought against them by any sane man, has had nothing to say about Mr. Carey. The least that Government should have done would have been to ask Mr. Carey to apologise to the professor and party for his by no means dignified conduct.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BENGALEE,
24th Dec. 1908.

13. *Anent* the recent bomb outrage on the Eastern Bengal State Railway line near Sodepur, the *Bengalee* observes that the miscreants who indulge in outrages of this kind have no conception of the mischief they are doing. They are imperilling the future of the country and bringing discredit upon their countrymen. Public opinion should declare itself in unmistakable terms against those who thus violate the laws of God and man.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
28th Dec. 1908.

14. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* draws the attention of His Excellency the Viceroy and the deportees. Viceroy to the refusal by the Barisal Telegraph Office to accept any message for Aswini Babu or deliver any from him. Aswini Babu is an invalid and it would be a relief to his wife who is also an invalid, to know what treatment her husband is receiving. There is nothing in Regulation 3 of 1818 to prohibit such communication and the journal hopes that His Excellency the Viceroy will be graciously pleased to issue instructions so that no obstacles should be placed in the way of the friends and relatives of the deported individuals to communicate with the latter or send them such necessary articles as clothes, bedding, etc.

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL
BRANCH,
41, PARK STREET,
The 2nd January 1909.

G. C. DENHAM,
Spl. Asst. to the Depy. Inspri.-Genl.
of Police, Crime and Railways, Bengal.