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REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 3rd October 1908.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

REFERRING to the determination of the Shah not to open the Parliament again until the province of Azarbaijan submits to his authority as implied in a telegram sent from Teheran to the *Times of London*, the *Nemai Mogoddas Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 21st September advises the Persians to follow the recent principles of their Turkish brethren in not asking any Power (Russia or England) to help them in organising the Constitution. Addressing the Persians the paper says:—Have you not read the decrees passed by the Spiritual leaders who have declared that every Persian is bound to offer what help he can to the Constitutionalists?"

NEMAI MOGODDAS
HABUL MATIN,
Sept. 21st, 1908.

It is creditable to the Persian ladies of Stamboul to curtail their expenses on breakfasts, and send the savings to the Constitutionalists by way of help.

2. Referring to the telegram sent from Stamboul by the Persian ladies to Her Majesty the Queen Consort of England, asking for intervention in the Civil War and unlawful bloodshed in Persia, the *Nemai Mogoddas Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 21st September says:—

NEMAI MOGODDAS
HABUL MATIN,
Sept. 21st, 1908.

It is highly mortifying to note that while the brave daughters of the outskirts of the poor chaste mother-country have shown their sympathy with Persia, we the Persian men living abroad have done nothing for the mother-country.

Well, Persians in India! I take it you have no love for your country, which is an important principle of conscience. Have you become apostates? God forbid that you should ever become so!

3. Referring to the treatment of the Indians by the Transvaal Government, the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 24th September recommends retaliation by the India Government now that the former Government has applied for admission of its coal into India, duty free.

HITVARTA,
Sept. 24th, 1908.

4. Referring to the above the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 28th September has the following:—
Ibid. The English flying the flag of equity, equality and liberty, are ever ready to help the oppressed subjects of a foreign country. They abolished slavery from the world at the cost of a good deal of money and sacrifice of human lives. They have established themselves in Egypt, in order to remove the sufferings of the Egyptians. They imprisoned Theebaw, depriving him of his kingdom to remove the sufferings of the Burmese. Do they not then see the sufferings of their own subjects in their own colony? Is not this indifference a disgrace to them?

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Sept. 28th, 1908.

5. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th September speaks precisely to the above effect.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

6. Referring to the piteous appeal made by retired Indian sepoy residing in the Transvaal against the alleged treatment to which they with other Indians are being subjected there, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 26th September writes:—

BASUMATI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

Never were such piteous cries uttered by soldiers in any other empire in the world. What a humiliation to those who bled so profusely only lately to establish British dominion in the Transvaal! Is British statesmanship capable of appreciating the bitter ridicule that is implied in the protest made by the Indian sepoy?

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

7. Referring to the order issued by the Government of the United States excluding Indians coming from Canada from the States as undesirables, the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 26th September writes:—

The United States occupy the highest position among the civilised States of the world, and it is therefore meet that she should adopt civilised methods to exclude poor decrepit Indians. Evil-doers are never in want of excuses.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Sept. 22nd, 1908.

8. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 22nd September, in condemning the alleged high-handed proceedings of the police, says:—"The people do not feel the same security now as they felt in the early days of British rule. Since the institution of the Midnapore and Calcutta bomb cases, the people are passing their days in anxiety, not knowing when the 'thunder-bolt will' fall on their heads as a result of police conspiracy; when an innocent man will be arrested and sent to the *hajat*; when relying on an anonymous letter sent by an enemy, the Police authorities will implicate an innocent man in the bomb cases; and when happening to fall into the bad graces of the police, some unfortunate innocent son of a gentleman will be arrested suddenly and thrown into the solitary cell. Let the real culprits be punished, but the punishment of the innocent is desired neither by the ruler nor by the ruled. In all civilised countries, sentence is awarded after trial, and the accused are enlarged on bail when there is no apprehension regarding their appearance on the day of trial. But we find the reverse in the present extraordinary procedure of the authorities. From the poor living in cottages up to the Rajas dwelling in palaces, men belonging to every class are suffering the unbearable misery of a residence in a *hajat* for two or three months. At last finding no evidence in support of their actions the authorities are releasing the men. We have been dumfounded at the sight of these things. When the police are escaping scot-free in spite of these arbitrary acts, what hopes of redress can the subjects have? It is their impression that were not these arbitrary acts desired by the authorities, the police would not have escaped without punishment, after disgracing and insulting without any fault the sons of gentlemen?"

The panic-stricken people looked to the Lieutenant-Governor for redress. But the reply which the Government has given to the question of the Hon'ble Babu Kisori Mohan Goswami, and the contents of the letter of the Chief Secretary to Government of Bengal, have thrown them into despair. We have said all along, and are saying now, that the Hindu and Muhammadan subjects of India have never been disloyal. But they are not loyal to those officials who oppress the people in the name of the Sovereign. We are also not in favour of the discontent of the people is increasing but the discontent is not against the Government but against the autocratic members of it. We pray for a remedy for this state of things, and the only remedy that we can think of is reform of the present way of administration. We humbly pray the rulers to allay the great alarm of the ruled."

SANDHYA,
Sept. 24th, 1908.

9. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 24th September has the following:—

What is this that is happening, what is happening?

It is a very strange thing that the police made a search of the premises of Mr. P. Mitra, Bar-at-Law, in the expectation of finding therein property stolen in the Bajitpore dacoity. Raja Subodh Mullick's house also was searched once on a similar supposition. To speak plainly, one has to say that the British Government trusts none of us, respectable or otherwise, rich or poor, high or low, honest or dishonest, and does not act so as to maintain the

dignity of any of us. Our favour and honour are determined by Government's favour; our dignity of status is dependent on the *Feringhee's* smile and grace. Maharaja Pradyot Kumar and the Maharaja Dhiraj of Burdwan are just now held in high honour; they are of the aristocracy, because they are decorated with the decorations and with the favour of the English. Let this favour be destroyed, let the necessity arise of chastising these two and at once like thieves and dacoits, *doms* and *chandals*, their houses also will be searched, and they also will be made to rot in *hajat*. You, Lieutenant-Governor Fraser, can go to Raja Subodh Mallick's house in order to inspect a picture, and it is your police again, which relying on the statements of a boatman and a porter searches the house of the same Raja in order to find out property stolen in a dacoity. Mr. P. Mitra is a particularly honoured Barrister, rich with a large income, pious and of high birth. It is you Englishmen who honour Mr. Mitra greatly, have given him a high status by calling him to the bar, and it is your police again that make a search in Mr. Mitra's absence, entering into his female apartments, in order to find out property stolen in a dacoity. Fie, fie! will you say even after this that good relations should be established between the black and the white? Furthermore, what pain are you not inflicting on most eminent and socially respected gentlemen by keeping them imprisoned each in a separate cell in the *hajats* at Alipore and Midnapore? Raw youths, almost milk-fed infants, who have never in life undergone any privations, as well as old and honoured zamindars worn with disease, all of them you have kept in durance like thieves and dacoits. And yet their trial has not yet ended, and it has not been decided according to your methods which of them is guilty and which of them is not. You have classed Raja Narendra Lal Khan with dacoits; there are police sentries even on the roof of his house, and when he comes to Court his whole person is searched.

While thinking these thoughts, in turning over a copy of the *Statesman*, we came across an account of the manner in which Mr. Stolypin, Minister, is tyrannising over Russia. We felt inclined to laugh; laughing a constrained laugh, we put away the paper.

What shall we say? Let everybody read the story which has been published in to-day's *Amrita Bazar Patrika*; keep quiet after you have read it, and say nothing.

10. In commenting on the activity recently displayed by the police in the matter of house-searches for bombs, the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 24th September writes:—

Recent Police searches.

The Government is incurring popular ill-will by these indiscriminate searches. The police are mistaken if they imagine that the entire country is mad with the bomb craze. Fully 95 per cent. of the population have nothing to do with bombs. If even 10 per cent. of the population had been seized with the craze for bomb making and throwing the entire aspect of the land would now have been different. It is a number of mischief-makers who are playing on the credulity of the Police officials, with a view to paying off personal scores. A number of subordinate Police officers also, who long for promotion and who feel the social stigma of serving in the force, also recognise in the present an opportunity for making a bid for promotion and reward such as the constable who seized Khudiram got.

After all, what has the police so far done in the way of detecting crimes of this sort? Have they got hold of Mr. Allen's assailants or of the authors of the Kankirana outrage? Could they have got hold of Barendra and his associates if these men had been more cautious? Let us conclude by warning the police that their present activity is only creating ill-will against Government, where none such existed.

11. Referring to the frequent house-searches in Calcutta, the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 26th September says, that the authorities would do well to consider what mischief is being done by the indiscriminate house searches on the information of unscrupulous villains. They are bringing into contempt the British Courts of Justice and the British Administration.

House-searches in Calcutta.

12. The *Hilavarta* [Calcutta] of the 24th September, in an article headed "Cataclysm at Midnapore" reproduces the substance of a similar article in the *Hitavadi* noticed in page 1686 of the last week's report and says that a perusal of the statements of

The cataclysm in Midnapore.

SANDHYA,
Sept. 24th, 1908.

NAYAK,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

HITAVARTA,
Sept. 24th, 1908.

some of the accused who are said to have made a confession would look like the reading of the *Chandra Kanta* (a Hindi romance full of sly and knavish tricks). The paper likens the efforts of the police to a mountain in labour producing a mouse, as was the case with the Etawah conspiracy last year or the Raja Raicharan Dhaval affair this year. The serious allegations against the Deputy Superintendent of Police and Lal Mohan Guha do not justify their being entrusted with the enquiry into this case, nor is the retention of Mr. Donald Weston at Midnapore right, whom the accused in this case were said to have conspired to kill. No one objects to the guilty being punished, but before they are convicted they should be treated as innocent persons. From the judicial tribunal down to the police, it is said everyone of them has undertaken to root out unrest from the country, but to encourage in its name the repression of the innocent is by no means a sign of wisdom.

SANDHYA,
Sept. 24th, 1908.

13. In referring to the recent notification transferring Mr. Cornish, District Superintendent of Police of Midnapore, the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 24th September writes:—

Mr. Cornish is said to have been a good man. Will no good man be permitted to be in authority at Midnapore now? The authorities do things at their own pleasure and their ways are inscrutable.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 25th, 1908.

14. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th September in referring to the recent transfer of Mr. Cornish, District Superintendent of Police, from Midnapore to Birbhum, writes that Mr. Cornish had earned the

respect of the Midnapore public by his cool-headedness and considerateness. His transfer at the present juncture may occasion surprise, but considering the present attitude of the officials it should not. Evidently he is not held to be a subburduat man and he has probably no faith in the existence of a conspiracy against Mr. Weston and the other local officials, and finally he commands the respect of the Midnapore public. These are offences grave enough to justify his removal in the eye of the panic-stricken officials. And yet if considerations of justice and genuine good government had ruled, it is Mr. Weston who should have been transferred from Midnapore, now, instead of Mr. Cornish.

NAYAK,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

15. Referring to the grant of bail to the Raja of Narajole by the High Court and his detention in custody afterwards by order of the District Magistrate of Midnapore, the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 26th September write:—

Mr. Cornish, the District Superintendent of Police, thought that two chaukidars would be sufficient to guard the Raja's palace. Mr. Cornish is a popular officer, but Mr. Weston is universally condemned. Wherever Mr. Weston has been, he has shown his bluntness of intellect and meanness. But by his behaviour in the Narajole Raja's case he has brought indelible disgrace upon the British name.

ANUSILAN,
Oct. 2nd, 1908.

16. The *Anusilan* [Calcutta] of the 2nd October says that when the charge against the accused persons in the Midnapore case is to the effect that they conspired to kill Mr. Weston and other Europeans in the district, the case ought in all fairness to be tried by some other Magistrate than Mr. Weston. All the high officials who are at present serving in the district should have been transferred in justice to the prisoners.

BHARAT MITRA,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

17. Referring to the confinement of under-trial prisoners in the above case in lonely cells, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 26th September says Government is breaking its own rules. Indeed if these gentlemen die of the suffering they are undergoing at present, the country would be none the worse for it, but the people are rapidly losing their faith in the moral sense of the officials, who are breaking rules of their own making.

SANDHYA
Sept. 25th, 1908.

18. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 28th September writes:—
A Midnapore incident. So long at Midnapore unpleasant activity was displayed in the matter of getting hold of offenders, now a similar activity is being displayed in the matter of getting hold of witnesses. The *Bengalee* reports how lately a Muharrir of a Vakil on refusing

to give such evidence as the police wanted him to give, got arrested for being drunk and disorderly. Is this true? If it is, the matter is a serious one. Sir Andrew Fraser's régime is coming to a close and he is constantly in ill-health. He will be glad if only he can quit this country after these few days. So it is useless appealing to him and we must put up with outrages like these.

19. The following is a full translation of what appears in the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 25th September under the heading "*Swaraj in Jessore*":—

Swaraj in Jessore.

Mihir-o-Sudhakar.
Sept. 25th, 1906.

Long ago we dealt with Hindu *swaraj* in Jessore in the editorial columns of the *Sudhakar*. Jessore is the only district in Western Bengal of which the administration is vested in one section of the people. Sometime ago serious riots were about to happen in the said district over cow-killing. At that time we informed Mr. Collins, the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, of all the facts, and the Commissioner Bahadur personally went to the sudder station, inquired into the facts and effected some sort of compromise between the Hindu zemindar and Muhammadan raiyats. It is a matter of regret that all the zemindars of Jessore are Hindus and their Naibs and officers are oppressors of the Muhammadan raiyats. It is a matter of sorrow also that no good results from appeals to the Government. How long will the Muhammadans of Jessore thus continue to suffer? Though they are living under British rule they cannot enjoy the benefit thereof. It often recurs to their minds that they are being ruled by the rod of the Hindu zemindars. They have no "*Ma Bap*." They cannot expect any remedy whatever, no matter what the extent of the oppression perpetrated on them may be. On one side there are the indomitable Hindu zemindars, and on the other the Hindu Police Officers. From the insignificant constable down to the town *kotwal* all are Hindus. Being fallen into this inextricable mesh the poor Muhammadan raiyats of Jessore are being put to heavy losses, insulted and completely ruined. If any fact is reported to the police, they are driven away and get no help. We repeatedly asked the Government that at least one English Magistrate, one English District Superintendent and one Muhammadan Inspector should be posted in the district of Jessore. But we do not understand what objections the Government have to this. Do the Government like these acts of violence to be perpetrated, or is it a duty of the kind, just and peace-loving Government to hush them up? We publish below the report of a recent occurrence, and particularly request the Government to enquire into it. Let the Commissioner of the Division himself investigate the case on the spot; or bringing the oppressed raiyats to Calcutta, let him hear the stories of their sorrow:—

(1) A Madrasa was founded at the village of mauza Baganchra, police-station Sarsa, subdivision Bongong, in the jurisdiction of the district of Jessore. But with a view to destroy the Madrasa, staunch Hindu *swadeshi* agitators have instituted a false litigation. Alleging that the Muhammadans would kill cows on the 13th *Sravan*, the Hindus, through the "President Babu" of *Samta*, have filed a petition to the Deputy Magistrate of Bongong. But the Deputy Babu, in reply, has given the charge of enquiry to the Police Inspector of Bongong.

(2) The Police Inspector and the Sub-Inspector of the Sarsa Thana, in company with eight or ten constables and daffadars and chaukidars of eight or ten neighbouring villages, reached the village Baganchra. They called together the Muhammadans of the village taking them into the house of the Ganguli Brahmins of the said village, abused them all and began to beat them, the police remaining in the said Brahmin's house for eight or ten days with the object of bringing other Muhammadans before them who had absconded.

(3) The Muhammadans unable to bear the oppression and beating, made an application to the District Magistrate, who up to now has taken no steps at the instance of the petitioners.

(4) Nevertheless the oppression of the police and Hindus has become more frequent. Almost on every second or third day the police are coming to every Muhammadan's house to enquire about his movements and doings, and

tell him: "We hear from the Hindus that you will kill cows to-day." They thus remain three or four days in the house of Hindus, abusing Musalmans all the while.

(5) We do not know why the Hindus and the police are oppressing us in this way. The District Magistrate has done nothing by way of applying a remedy. So let a European appointed by higher authorities enquire into the oppression perpetrated on us and take the necessary steps. Otherwise poor Muhammadans will not be able to escape these oppressions, except by leaving the British territory.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

20. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th September says that Constable Ram Padarat Singh, who was in charge of prisoners proceeding by train from Calcutta, told a deliberate lie when he said that a bomb had been thrown into the carriage in which he was travelling between Kalipahari and Raniganj, on the East Indian Railway.

HOWRAH HITAVADI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

21. The *Howrah Hitavadi* [Howrah] of the 26th September says that the frequent house-searches by the police on the pretence of discovering fire-arms, and the harassment and humiliation to which the people in consequence are being subjected all over the country, can only be called the worst form of dacoity. These incidents can never be for the good of either the rulers or the ruled. They will not only spread unrest and disaffection in the country at large, but may even be fatal to the administration and the stability of the Government. If the wicked are taken under protection and the good are harassed, the consequences must be fatal. The greatest pity is that the rulers have no time to look to this certain and inevitable end towards which they are hastening. As a result of the confusion that has been created in the country, a gang of dacoits in the guise of policemen has come into existence, which committed a horrible dacoity in the house of a respectable man in the Bighati village, in the Hooghly district, and carried away property worth at least Rs. 10,000.

BHARAT MITRA,
Sept. 26th, 1908

22. In connection with the civil suits against the police in Dinajpur for the money obtained by extortion from the parties, what appears very strange to the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 28th September is that Government has helped the defence to the extent of Rs. 10,000, i.e., the people's money is being given away in defending cases in which the very people complained of extortion. One may imagine the moral effect of this conduct on the part of the Government on those youths, the charge of whose education has been undertaken by it.

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23. Referring to the speech on the great war between the Kauravas and Pandavas told in the *Mahabharat* delivered by Mr. Tamlie in the neighbourhood of Nasick the other day, and the police raid thereon, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 28th September says that any disturbance at Nasick fills it with alarm, since it was here that the first step towards the destruction of Ravan (the demon-hero of the epic *Ramayan*) with his kith and kin was taken.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 25th, 1908

24. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd September has the following:—

The Subdivisional Officer of Meherpur and the charge against a local pleader. Some mischievous and low-born man wrote an anonymous letter to the Police Superintendent of Nadia stating that Babu Charu Chandra Bose, a well-known pleader of Meherpur, and his son Ashutosh Bose were great *swadeshists*. The former, it was alleged, presided over *swadeshi* meetings and the latter as a contractor took a photograph of the Meherpur Treasury Office and sent for *goondas* in Calcutta for looting the Treasury. The letter urged on the necessity of arresting those gentlemen and searching their houses. The Subdivisional Officer was asked to enquire into the matter. It is needless to say that had the administration of Meherpur been entrusted to an inexperienced young Civilian or any senseless Deputy, the horrible scene of anarchy at Midnapore would have been enacted here also. The present Subdivisional Officer, Babu Chandi Charan Chatterjee, a man of mature experience and good sense, at once saw that the anonymous letter was written with the malicious purpose of wreaking vengeance on

Charu Babu and his son, and he was able to assure the authorities regarding the real object of the communication. The local men are sorry for Charu Babu, who is a popular pleader. Men who can stealthily adopt means for bringing ruin on an innocent gentleman are really enemies to society and fore-runners of disaffection. The authorities should try to find them out and bring them to book.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

25. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 25th September condemns the refusal by the Additional Sessions Judge of Alipore to allow the pleaders for Devabrata Bose and Charu Chandra Ray, two of the accused in the Alipore Anarchists case, to interview them in the Alipore Court, instead of in the Jail where they cannot hold any confidential talk. It is highly important that the accused should be given every facility for having legal advice, or else people will entertain doubts about the impartiality of the trial.

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26. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 26th September says that in granting bail to some of the Midnapore prisoners, Mr. Justice Coxe said that the principles of law obtaining in England did not apply to India. Are we then to understand that principles of law lose their importance when they are applied to countries other than England? His Lordship said that "other circumstances," besides the question of the probability of the accused's attendance in Court, have to be taken into consideration when granting bail. What these "other circumstances" are, His Lordship did not say. This kind of "throwing stones in the dark" cannot certainly be expected to enlighten the public on points of law. His Lordship again said that the District Magistrate was the fittest person to judge whether bail should be granted to an accused person. But men are not gods, and the baser passions often play an extremely part. It must be said that there are circumstances which make it important unsafe to place implicit faith in Magistrates.

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The levity and lack of restraint with which Mr. Baxter is conducting the case will, if permitted to go on any longer, bring Government into disrepute and make people lose all respect for the procedure of the Courts. People would have taken it better, if the accused had all been forcibly put into prison: they would have looked on it as a *fiat* of Government's will. It is not prudent to bring reproach on the Law Courts by the adoption of crooked, cunning methods.

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HITAVARTA,
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HITAVARTA,
Sept. 24th, 1908.

there is no Hindi-speaking student in the National College here, which is still in its infancy, there is a teacher for that subject, and the Bengali students take up Hindi with great alacrity, while the results of the last F. A. Examination show that six or seven Bengali students passed their examination in that subject. The Hindi-speaking people in Bengal also contribute to the general taxes and have a right to have a fair share in the little that is spent on education. The last census shows that of every 1,000 persons in the Province 528 speak Bengali, 341 Hindi, 79 Uriya and only 52 other languages; and the number of those speaking Hindi is increasing. Cannot Government provide for a single chair for the benefit of such a large number?

The paper again urges on the necessity of representations being made from Bhagalpur, Monghyr, Patna, Arrah and other districts, but thinks that the lead should be taken in the matter by the various Marwari Associations of Calcutta.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 24th, 1908.

The new Principal of the Sanskrit College, Calcutta.

30. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 24th September learns that Mahamahopadhyaya Satish Chandra Vidyabhushan has been appointed to succeed Mahamahopadhyaya Haraprasad Sastri in the Principalship of the Sanskrit College, and says that Vidyabhushan fully deserves the distinction bestowed upon him.

BASUMATI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

A review of Rai Sahab Haran Chandra Rakshit's book, "Pratibha Sundari."

31. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 26th September publishes a detailed criticism of Rai Sahab Haran Chandra Rakshit's book "Pratibha Sundari" pointing out numerous errors of idiom, style, etc.

(f)—Questions affecting the Land.

ANUSILAN,
Oct. 2nd, 1908.

32. The *Anusilan* [Calcutta] of the 2nd October is alarmed at the declaration made by the Government in the Cadasstral Survey Records that all lands belong primarily to the Government. This, says the paper, is inimical to the principles of the Permanent Settlement.

(h)—General.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 22nd, 1908.

Reduction of postage on newspapers.

33. Referring to the reduction of the postage on newspapers, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd September gives thanks to the Postal authorities, and says that the circulation of newspapers will henceforth be much widened on account of this desirable change.

HITAVARTA,
Sept. 25th, 1908.

A suggestion.

34. Referring to the same subject, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 25th September thanks the Postal authorities for the concession, but says it would not benefit the vernacular press for which half-a-pice up to five tolas in weight is desirable. Should the rate proposed by it be sanctioned, it will result in an increase of circulation of newspapers; and if a further concession be granted for newspapers up to 15 tolas in weight by charging one pice, it will enhance the educational value of these papers by dividing them into two classes, the cheaper one being confined mainly to news of general interest, while the other dealing with more useful literature.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Sept. 28th, 1908.

A suggestion.

35. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 28th September is also grateful to the authorities, but considers the concession as benefiting the Europeans rather than the Indians.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

Reduction in the postage on newspapers.

36. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th September also takes the above view of the matter.

BASUMATI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

37. Referring to the concession above referred to, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 26th September writes:—

Government has raised the weight of newspapers, which can be carried by post with a postage of three pies, from six tolas to eight tolas, while the weight of newspapers for which the present postage is six pies has been raised

from twenty tolas to forty tolas. This latter arrangement will benefit only the Anglo-Indian newspapers. What a pity that the party really deserving special consideration have been granted such a scanty favour.

38. Referring to the further reduction of the newspaper postage which is to come into force from the 11th October next, the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 26th September suggests, that instead of increasing the weights of newspapers, the existing postage rates should be halved, that is, half-a-pice and one pice should be charged for weights of six tolas and twenty tolas, respectively.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

Reduction of newspaper postage.

39. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 26th September observes that the discontinuance of steamer service carrying mails from Aluipur and other mofussil stations of the district to Begerhat has caused serious inconvenience, not only to the general, but also to the litigant public; and expresses the hope that the Postmaster-General will pay due attention to the representation addressed to him on the subject and do the needful.

KHULNAVASI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

A Postal complaint.

40. A correspondent of the *Hilavarta* [Calcutta] of the 24th September gives vent to its grief at the punishment of Mr. Tilak, and remarks that when the demoniacal sentence passed by Justice Davar was adversely criticised by both friend and foe alike, it was hoped it would attract Sir George Clarke's attention. The English understand the importance of public opinion, and would not trample under foot so cruelly; but the paper is greatly disappointed. Respect for popular opinion is left behind by Englishmen when coming to India; and no sooner do they set foot on the soil of this country than they begin to be initiated in the Sinista Khan method of rule. An Indian would hardly be found who has not criticised the judgment on Mr. Tilak. Even the *Indian Nation* and the *Spectator* have condemned in no measured terms the demoniacal sentence. The correspondent was under the impression that Government would come to see its mistake, and desist from committing the folly of transporting such a great man in his old age. Of all the misdeeds of Government committed during the last three or four years, the most notable are:—(1) the partition of Bengal; (2) the deportation of Lala Lajpat Rai and Sirdar Ajit Singh; and (3) the transportation of Srijiut Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

HILAVARTA,
Sept. 24th, 1908.

The punishment of Mr. Tilak

41. The above journal referring to the order of the Bombay Government, commuting the sentence of hard labour to one of simple imprisonment, says that it has given general satisfaction, but in its opinion there was just now no need of punishing him, as the articles on which he has been convicted are not at all seditious, nor do they contain any incitement to bomb-making. Several acts of illegality were committed during the trial, such as the appointment of a jury not conversant with the Marhati language. The accused was deprived of his right of appeal, on account of his trial being transferred from Poona to Bombay. Government retained the services of the eminent Barristers, thus preventing the accused from obtaining proper legal assistance. Looking into all these things which were like throwing salt on a wound, one cannot help concluding that Mr. Tilak was treated unjustly from beginning to end. Some kindness is now being shown to him, which, if genuine, may soothe the people to some extent. The Jail authorities should take particular care of his health, as he is suffering from a serious disease.

HILAVARTA,
Sept. 24th, 1908.

Mr. Tilak.

42. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 26th September is astonished at the sudden change in the attitude of the authorities towards Mr. Tilak, and asks if the commutation of the sentence of hard labour to one of simple imprisonment is due to liberality of Sir George Clarke, or is dictated by some political necessity. If the latter, why are efforts being made to infuse new life into the Indians by the way, in which such cases are being disposed of in other parts of the country? Is it believed that the Indians would be satisfied simply with the fair treatment of Mr. Tilak's person?

BHARAT MITRA,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

Ibid.

43. The *Basumali* [Calcutta] of the 26th September says that Government has done a gracious act by remitting the fine of Rs. 1,000 inflicted on Mr. Tilak, and by commuting his rigorous imprisonment into simple.

BASUMALI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

Mitigation of Mr. Tilak's sentence.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 29th, 1905.

44. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th September is very much pleased with the commutation of Tilak's sentence, and says that the circumstance shows that the British public has not yet lost its good sense. The paper hopes that the authorities will enhance their prestige and uphold justice by releasing Tilak.

SANDHYA,
Sept. 28th, 1905.

45. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 28th September writes:—
We have learnt three things from Tilak's imprisonment and the subsequent modification of his sentence:—

(1) That Government wanted to deport him; but afraid to incur odium amongst the English public by resorting to Regulation III of 1818, it got what it wanted done through the ordinary law.

(2) That Government is not afraid to bring the Courts into disrepute. The way in which Tilak's trial was conducted has created in the public mind an impression that administrative policy has been made to override the law. This idea has been strengthened by the subsequent modification of the sentence. Thus if Government has been a gainer by not offending English public opinion, it has been a loser by having forfeited Indian public faith in the impartiality of its Courts.

(3) That a thorn has been used to extract a thorn in this case. Many believe that as no Englishman was found bold enough to take on him the reproach of punishing Tilak, so the work of cleansing dirt was got done by an indigenous broomstick for the refuse-heap.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Sept. 28th, 1905.

46. The clemency of the Bombay Government in remitting the fines and reducing the terms of imprisonment to which the rioters at Bombay were sentenced, is characterized by the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 28th September as being something better than nothing; and remarks that if at the time of the occurrence a calm and peaceful policy had been adopted instead of a hard-hearted murderous one of unnecessarily causing the people to be shot, it would have saved the Government from earning ridicule and committing sin too.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 24th, 1905.

47. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 24th September writes that as to the selection of a site for the new district head-quarters of the Mymensingh district, the District Magistrate of Mymensingh and the Commissioner of the Dacca Division have disagreed.

The Commissioner is in favour of Bhengula, while the Magistrate prefers Madhupur. Madhupur will certainly be the best place for the new district head-quarters, if the Mymensingh district is to be partitioned for the public good. Both Bhengula and Jhupna-Muhuddi are situate in the north-west corner of the Mymensingh district. Moreover, there is a danger of Bhengula being in time swallowed up by the Jamuna, which is only 3 or 4 miles from it. But Madhupur stands on the Bansa, a gentle river which falls into the Dhaleswari. Madhupur is not submerged during the rains and is free from malaria. The Divisional Commissioner should visit Madhupur once before coming to a final decision.

SANDHYA,
Sept. 25th, 1905.

48. Mr. Beachcroft, Mr. Halliday and Mr. Hume, writes the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 25th September have all three gone to Simla, and this circumstance have made many people think of all sorts of things. Perhaps people are justified in having their suspicions aroused by this conjunction of three stars—a circumstance which is supposed to bring on evils.

PRATIKAR,
Sept. 25th, 1905.

49. Referring to the letter of an Anglo-Indian correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* on the question of legal expenses incurred by the Government in paying counsel for the prosecution in the Alipur Bomb conspiracy case the *Pratikan* [Murshidabad] hopes that some Honorable Member of the Provincial Council will interpellate the Government on the point and ask for an answer.

ANUSILAN
Sept. 24th, 1905.

50. The *Anusilan* [Calcutta] of the 25th September says that the High Court has lost its old dignity and has now become, as it were, subservient to the Government. Executive officers can now defy the orders of the High Court with impunity. Mr. Lyall, of Bhagalpur, did not hesitate to abuse Hon'ble Justices Mitra and Fletcher, and all that he was punished with was

an apology which he had to make to the Judges. The way, again, in which the Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police of Midnapur delayed the granting of bail to the Raja of Narajole, in spite of the order of the High Court, shows that the Executive is now more powerful than the Judicial.

51. His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, writes the *Anusilan* [Calcutta] of the 25th September, has amply justified his name as the *Ma Bap* of the police in the reply he has given to the representations made to him by Mr. K. B. Dutta and several respectable

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's reply to the Mr. K. B. Dutta's letter.

ANUSILAN.
Sept. 25th, 1908.

gentlemen about the doings of the Midnapur police in connection with the bomb case there. His Honour has fully supported the police and has disbelieved everything that was alleged against them by so many respectable persons. This has indeed been as we had expected. In fact, there is very little hope of Sir Andrew Fraser doing anything to control the police.

52. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 26th September writes:—

Government's reply to Mr. K. B. Dutta, of Midnapur.

We have heard what Sir Andrew Fraser, the friend of the police and the *Nayasindhu*, has said in reply to Mr. K. B. Dutta's representation, and

HOWRAH HITASHI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

we cannot commend the foresight of the man who expected anything else. The Midnapur public must now depend solely upon Providence. The intelligent public, including Indians and Europeans, will find even in the midst of these horrors something to laugh at.

53. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 25th September writes that Ramesh

Alleged canvassing by two Government officers for the sale of belati goods.

Chandra Sen, Deputy Magistrate of Kishorganj, and Babu Pratap Chandra Sen, the local Inspector of Police, are canvassing vigorously for the sale of belati goods. And such, writes the paper, is the charm of servitude.

SANDHYA.
Sept. 25th, 1908.

54. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th September writes, that if, as

Divisional Commissioners and transfer of Deputy Magistrates.

has been proposed, Commissioners of Divisions are vested with the authority of transferring Deputy

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

Magistrates within their own jurisdictions, the right will be greatly abused. But then, says the paper, it is for this very purpose that the change is going to be made; and besides those who choose to be Deputy Magistrates, must submit to the evils which are necessary to such service.

55. Another act of grace of Lord Morley for India, says the paper noted

Lord Morley's act of grace.

in the margin, is burdening this country with an expenditure of 45 lakhs on the army estimates for the training of troops in India, and asks if this increase is due to the present internal troubles since there is no longer any fear of Russia, and a treaty has already been concluded with Japan.

SHANAY MITRA,
Sept. 16th, 1908.

56. Referring to the grant of 45 lakhs of rupees from the Indian revenues

The further increase of Military expenditure.

by the Secretary of State for the recruitment and training of troops in England, the *Daily Hitavadi*

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

[Calcutta] of the 26th September says that the rulers are never in want of money when it is proposed to increase the Military expenditure. But when any project for the good of Indians is hinted the usual plea of want of funds comes in. The Indians must thank their evil destiny for this state of things.

57. The *Anusilan* [Calcutta] of the 2nd October is indignant at the saddling of India with an additional expenditure of forty-five lakhs of rupees in connection with the maintenance of Military forces in India

Increased Military expenditure in India.

ANUSILAN,
Oct. 2nd, 1908.

58. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 26th September thinks that Lord Morley's scheme regarding Indian students in

Indians students in England.

NAYAK,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

England is being formulated from the motive of preventing them from imbibing ideas of freedom while in England. The fact that many of the extremists are England-returnd men has perhaps led the authorities to think that every Indian who goes to England is sure to come back with extremist ideas.

59. Referring to the memorial made to Sir John Hewett for mitigation of the sentence of two years' rigorous imprisonment passed on Fazel Hasan, Editor of the

A memorial to Sir John Hewett.

HARUATI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

Urdu-i-Moula, for sedition, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 26th September says:—

The Editor deserves pardon, no doubt. But the allegation that he prevented Hotilal Varma, who had gone to Aligarh in April last with a bomb to murder the Viceroy, from carrying out his design, is perhaps not true.

III.—LEGISLATION.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 22nd, 1906.

60. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd September, is not surprised

to see that the non-official members of the Bengal Council have nominated the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga as a member of the Imperial Council.

As gold is more highly prized in this world than either learning or ability, it is no wonder that victory will be on the side of the Maharaja, and Bhupendra Babu will be defeated in open competition with him.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
Sept. 26th, 1906.

61. Referring to the allegation that the Hon'ble Jogendra Chandra

Ghosh gave his vote in favour of the Maharaja of Darbhanga in connection with his candidature for election as a Member of the Viceroyal Legislative Council on the later promising to pay

Rupees 50,000 in aid of the Hon'ble Mr. Ghosh's Scientific and Industrial Association, although he had given his vote in favour of Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose, at the first election, the *Howrah Hitaiishi* [Howrah] of the 26th September, says if the allegation be true the offer of the Maharaja is only another name for a bribe. Who shall say that there is no other gentleman in the whole of Bengal to represent it in the Imperial Council except the Maharaja of Darbhanga?

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

PALICIASI,
Sept. 18th, 1906.

62. The *Pallicasi* [Kalna] of the 16th September, is glad to observe

that the prophecy made by the late Mr. Ananda Mohan to the effect that "when thousands of labourers at Manchester would knock at their King's

door for rations we would know that our Swadeshi has been successful," has come to be fulfilled. The throne of God has been disturbed by the curses of the millions of hungry Indians. So do not look back. Go on enthusiastically with your Swadeshi.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 24th, 1906.

63. Referring to the report that the Manchester labourers are in a

miserable plight for want of employment, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 24th September, writes:—

The labourers of England are not like their brethren in India. The Indian labourers, when they get no work, live upon leaves of trees; but English labourers commit acts of violence and demolish the houses of rich men.

The English have not done wisely by hurting Indians to the quick. The whole of India is to-day resolved to boycott British goods, and the result will be that frightful anarchy will reign in England at no distant date.

ANUSILAN,
Sept. 25th, 1906.

64. Referring to the brilliant success attained by the *swadeshi*, the *Anusilan*

The boycott.

[Calcutta] of the 25th September exhorts the people of India to stick to the boycott, which is the only means of promoting the industries of the country. There is no hope of officials helping the Swadeshi; so the people must rely on themselves and by furthering the Swadeshi prevent the wealth of India from being carried away to foreign lands.

NAYAK,
Sept. 26th, 1906.

65. Referring to the sad plight of the unemployed in England, the *Nayak*

The boycott and its results.

[Calcutta] of the 26th September says that the good results of the boycott have just begun to declare themselves. Let not the Bengalis touch *belati* cloths during this

Puja season and the much desired blessing will, by the grace of the Divine Mother, be obtained ere long.

66. *The Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th September has a poem describing how the business look-out at Puja time this year is bad for the European merchants, how a large number of mills in Lancashire have stopped work and how the authorities, putting all this down to the swadeshi movement, are trying to suppress that movement. Continuing, the poem touches on the Muzaffarpur bomb outrage, on the discovery of the Maniktolla bomb conspiracy and on the recent arrests at Midnapore and then concludes with a reference to the terror in which the people are now living, of police raids on their houses

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 30th, 1905.

67. *The Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 24th September exhorts the Bengalis to celebrate the anniversary of the partition day the 30th Aswin (16th October) in towns and villages and observe the *Rakhibandhan* ceremony, because on that day the Motherland was divided in twain, and brother from brother was sundered.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 24th, 1905.

68. *The Nihar* [Calcutta] of the 29th September, reminds the Bengali that the holy *Rakhi* day is to be celebrated on the 30th Aswin. On that memorable day Bengal was divided and the Bengalis observe it by binding *Rakhis* about their arms. This observance proclaims the fact that there is no difference between the Bengalis of the East and West-Bengal. In commemoration of the holiness and solemnity with which the day is regarded the people observe "*Arandhan*" (refraining from kindling fire and eating cooked food). They forget all differences of caste and creed and go on interchanging *Rakhis* among themselves.

NIHAR,
Sept. 29th, 1905.

69. *The Anusilan* [Calcutta] of the 2nd October exhorts all Bengalis not to forget the Partition day Celebration on the 16th October. They should as heretofore enter a strong and unanimous protest against the Partition of Bengal, but they should not break the peace and transgress the law and thus bring themselves within the clutches of crooked-minded officials.

ANUSILAN,
Oct. 2nd, 1905.

70. *The Murshidabad Hitaisi* [Murshidabad] of the 23rd September has the following invocation to the goddess Durga:—

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Sept. 23rd, 1905.

Invocation to the great Mother.
We have been for a long time accustomed to the dreadful forms of the demoniac famine and dire distress, and our hearts are already filled with consternation. Though thy martial aspect, clad in red clothes and adorned with a garland of human heads, is quite in conformity with thy power of eradicating sin, the hearts of the Indian people will start in horror to confront such a sight as that. You may assume your martial aspect for the suppression of the demons and eradicating unrighteousness, but to transmit to us the words of hope and to show us the path of advancement you must appear in our midst as the great Mother of the universe—Incarnation of Power and Peace. Come, Mother, in the same form as you assumed in presence of Ram Chandra just prior to his killing Ravan. The Indians have been for a long time inactive. Infuse power into their hearts and point out to them the real path of their work. See that the Indian people do not go astray in despair. See that their stores are always full and they do not suffer from either disease or affliction. Shower your benedictions so that the authorities may cast off their undue suspicious and the rulers and the ruled may live happily. See that the Indian people are all initiated in the same religion and regarded as one nation. Indians, offer your ignorance, unfitness, envy and idleness at the feet of the Mother, and you will see that your country has become prosperous and peaceful.

71. In an article welcoming Durga, the *Anusilan* [Calcutta] of the 25th September implores the goddess to save Bengal from the demons and ghouls who in the forms of famine and pestilence are devastating the province. The people of Bengal

ANUSILAN,
Sept. 25th, 1905.

have had the misfortune to have their rulers furiously angry with them. They are now being oppressed and persecuted and have become a fallen nation, and it is all due to their own fault. They are reaping the fruits of their own mistake in drinking a poison which has ruined their health, wealth, peace and happiness. They are now quite powerless. The paper prays to the goddess to make the Bengalis strong enough to protect themselves, and also asks her to repress the demons who are looting poor people, robbing women of their chastity, and defiling temples. The people cannot speak out all their grievances, but may the omniscient goddess, prays that paper, read their minds and help them in their distress.

PURULIA DARPAN,
Sept. 28th, 1906.

72. Referring to the Durga Pooja the *Purulia Darpan* [Purulia] of the 28th September has the following invocation addressed to the great Mother of the universe.

The advent of the Mother of the universe is near. You, O Bengalis, are for ever weeping. Rejoice and make merriment for these three days. The Mother, out of kindness and pity, is coming to this desert of Bengal, a play-ground of the demoniac famine. Oppressed and down-trodden as you are, she is coming to console you with her hand outstretched and bearing tidings of blessing and hope. Come, Mother, come, while with you we shall forget our sorrows. We shall conceal the insults, oppressions and manifold sufferings in the recesses of our ever-enduring but indomitable hearts and go on proclaiming thy coming by suppressing the sighs of despair and singing songs of joy. Thy kindness may suffuse the whole universe with peace. Would you not bring peace to Bengal?

The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 28th September writes:—

SANDHYA
Sept 28th 1907

The uses of the Durga Puja.

People in this country, when orthodox Hindu ideas prevailed, used to say that the worship of Durga in the Kali Yuga produced the same effects as the performance of the Aswamedha (Horse sacrifice). The Horse-sacrifice had for its aim the concentration of power by the bringing together under a single suzerain of a number of petty kingdoms. Ages ago, when we Indians were a world-conquering nation our forefathers used to celebrate this sacrifice. At the present time a subject people constantly harassed by an excessively strong external force, as we are, we have betaken ourselves to the lap of the Mother, with the desire of preserving our national ways, our nationality. It is this which constitutes the utility of the worship of Durga for us now.

A nation so long as it is independent and so long as it has a distinct existence, can do whatever it lists. It can build or break at pleasure. When, however, it passes wholly into a condition of subjection to an external power, the mere preservation of its peculiar national ways is the paramount duty which faces it. Loss of independence is a terrible disease for the social body. It is much like consumption. A consumptive patient may be said in one sense to have been cured of his complaint if only his life can be prolonged for some considerable length of time. The treatment of such a patient is more negative than positive, consists more in the avoidance of certain things than in the use of certain things. He is, for instance, not to eat such things, not to approach certain other things, not to expose himself to this influence, and so on. If he indulges in pleasure and exercise (like riding for example) which others indulge in, death awaits him inevitably.

As it is with individuals so it is with societies. Hindu society, which has lost its independence, if it is to survive, can only do so by preserving its own individuality. A man in chains only hurts his own limbs if he tries to burst asunder his fetters. If, however, like Devaki Basudev, he can manage to keep himself in prison patiently awaiting the coming of the good day, the good day is sure to come at last. And a society has this advantage as compared with an individual, that its capacity of endurance is measured in thousands of years where that of individuals is measured in hundreds. Generation must succeed generation and century must follow century before through God's grace the auspicious morn will break. As a strong and free nation does not lose its

independence for the sins of a day so a single day's atonement cannot expiate for that sin.

Hindu society is seriously diseased in that it is subject to an external influence. Its treatment should consist in the abjuring of everything which cannot easily be assimilated. We should not do anything and everything that a healthy strong people like the French for instance may do. As a diseased limb of the body has often to be cut off to save the whole body, so particular parts of the social body in a diseased condition require to be fearlessly sacrificed. A house when it is under one's control may be repaired and rebuilt at pleasure : no such process is, however, possible so long as it is under the control of others. That is why social reform amongst us now seeks to proceed solely and wholly on English lines, in complete contravention of the truth that the usages, rules and prohibitions of a society form a connected and interdependent whole, which may be adopted or discarded only in their entirety. For illustration, if education is imparted to our girls on English lines, child-marriage must go, and with the raising of the marriageable age of our girls, they will insist on choosing husbands for themselves. We must in that case become Feringhees wholly, which means we must lose our social individuality, and that is social death.

As for the utility of the Durga Puja to us in our present circumstances, it acts much like the application of the ice-cap to the head of the delirious patient, it makes prominent the mutual independence of different members of our community. It reminds the dweller in the city who fancies himself the equal of the Englishman, when he comes to his ancestral home in the village and recites the mantras, to what depths he is fallen. When food offered up before the Mother is distributed amongst all who come for it, from the lowest Dom to the highest Brahman pandit, your feeling of kinship with them will be brought home to you.

A welcome to Durga.

74. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th September welcomes the goddess Durga as follows:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 29th, 1908.

O come, come, Mother, to our house once more after one long year. The province of Bengal is not now what it was last year. It has been converted into a veritable cremation ground. A demoness in the shape of famine has got the province within her grim jaws. Save, Mother, your sons from a terrible death from starvation. They are not even safe in their own houses. The terrific roaring of demons, the violent dancing of monsters and the hideous laughter of ghosts have frightened the Bengalis out of their wits. They know no other protector but you, and you alone are to save them. Bombs, sedition, a repressive policy of administration, oppression by the Police, searches held in every house, respectable gentlemen insulted, arrested and detained in *hajut*, all these have destroyed the peace of this once peaceful land. Bengalis have always been loyal, and things like bombs have till now been unknown to them. We are not sure, Mother, whether you are coming to feed your hungry sons, or to give them consolation and hope, or to destroy the sin that has established itself firmly among them. We do not think that you will come in your divinely beautiful form and save your sons from the ravages of famine and pestilence, and from all the unrest and persecution which are convulsing the province. Do not, however, take up your terrific aspect, but come as our Mother and bring back to the land its old prosperity, peace and health.

75. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th September addressing the goddess Durga says:—When Thou camest last year, Thou sawest skeletons of Thy sons dead of

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 30th, 1908.

Invocation to Durga

starvation in all parts of the country, Thou heardest the wails and weepings of helpless women and harassed men and the sighs of devotees at temples, and what didst Thou for the alleviation of these sufferings? Mother, Thou art credited with the power to supply food to the starving, to protect the weak against the strong, to defend the happy house when it is threatened with destruction by the violence of demons, who are enemies of righteousness. Why then dost not Thou respond to the repeated appeals of Thy sons and allay their sufferings. Thou hast heard their piteous wailings, Thou hast realised the

anguish of their hearts. That is why Thou Thyself hast impelled Thy sons to rouse Thee at an untimely hour. Ram Chandra roused Thee at an untimely hour in order to conquer Ravana and Thou didst assume the aspect of Mahasakti (Great Force) in order to humble the pride of that demon. Where is that aspect of Thine, O Mother?

Mother, we call Thee to us now in the hope of peace. Why then do we see Thee in Thy angry aspect? If Thou wouldst find Thy pleasure like the great Kali in roaming over a cremation ground, then trample on Thy enemies and Thy sons' enemies, and thereby deck out the cremation ground to Thy satisfaction.

We talk of Thy enemies, but who are they? It is they who have insulted the idol in the temple of Thy sons, who have humiliated females, who have been the cause of outraging female honour. If, O Mother, Thou hast realised the sorrows of Thy sons, then do take measures for their removal. Trampling down their enemies and decking out a great cremation ground with their corpses for Kali to roam about in, bring peace to Thy sons.

PRACHAR,
Sept. 1908.

76. The *Prachar* [Calcutta] in its September issue says that Narendra

Nath Gossain and his murder. Nath Gossain is not at all to blame for his confessions disclosing the bomb conspiracy, seeing that the conspirators had themselves admitted their crime before the Magistrate. Persons implicated by the confessions of Naren Gossain may be dissatisfied with him, but why should the educated public come down upon him and express joy at his tragic death? The iniquitous and brutal murder committed by Kanai Lal should never be regarded as an act of vengeance. If Kanai Lal is applauded as a lover of the country for his murder many others will come forward to earn a name by the same method. The paper exhorts everyone to restrain their tongues and pens.

ANURAGAN,
Sept. 25th, 1908.

77. Referring to Babu Devendra Nath Gossain's letter to the *Bengalee* the *Anusilan* [Calcutta] of the 25th September writes:—

Babu Devendra Nath Gossain's letter.

We are pleased at Devendra Nath Babu's loyalty and his love for the Police. But we cannot make out the sense of certain portions of his letter. His letter would have us believe that Narendra Nath Gossain was mortally ashamed of having been implicated in the anarchist plot, so much so that he was tired of his own life. But we should think that Narendra Nath had a very strong desire for life and was ready to be an exile for the sake of his life. Devendra Babu says, that as soon as he found Narendra Nath in the dock as an accused in the anarchist case he determined to disinherit him (Narendra). But Narendra lived for many days after his father had seen him in the dock. Did his father disinherit him in the meantime? Indeed many people are at a loss to make out what purpose Devendra Babu has in view in writing the letter.

MIHIR-O-SHODHAKAR,
Sept. 25th, 1908.

78. The *Mihir-O-Shudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 25th September, fails to

understand how the *Pioneer* could see an act of "heroism" in the diabolical murder committed by

Kanai Lal. Naren Gossain was himself implicated in the bomb case by the faithlessness of his friends. The paper quotes the opinion of Hazi Muhammad Imaail Khan, who says that Naren Gossain was a *sahid* and truly sacrificed himself for the good of the country, while Kanai Lal is an enemy to the country, being a bomb conspirator.

SANDHYA,
Sept. 25th, 1908.

79. In an article under the heading "What shall we do?" the *Sandhya* "What shall we do?" — [Calcutta] of the 25th September, writes:—

Perhaps you have now understood that all your respectability, wealth and titles are worth absolutely nothing. And Secretary Streatfeild has said this from his place in the Legislative Council. He says that if the Police entertain the least suspicion against a man they can arrest him and search his house, no matter whether he is a respectable gentleman, a learned man, a Raja, a Maharaja, a Sadhu, or a child. The fact is, that being as we are, a people subjugated by the English, we are all tied with the same rope, no matter

whether one of us may be the Maharaja of Durbhanga, another Mr. S. P. Singha, a third Chhiste Dom and a fourth Hara Pote.* These are not mere empty words but have much significance. We will explain all this

* Doms and Podes are people of the lowest castes.

by an example. What misery and distress had Pandit Panchanana Tarkaratna, a man who is held in high esteem by our countrymen, had to suffer! The Police arrested him, kept him in *hajat*, put a stigma on his name, and at last let him off. It was quite clear to us that he was innocent, but he had to go through endless sufferings all the same. Since coming home he has had to perform a *prayaschitta* (expiatory ceremony.)

Jitendra Nath Banerjee is a *sanvasi* and as such is revered in Hindu society. You have made him rot in *hajat* for some time and then let him off. Have you compensated him in any way for the insufferable hardships you made him go through for nothing? Raja Subodh Chandra Mullick is a prominent member of the Calcutta Kayastha society, and you have searched his palace again and again as if it were a robber's den, though you have never found anything there which is incriminating. The gentleman has left his own home and is now living at Beneres. Have you as yet succeeded in accusing him of any offence? And still your imps of the Police have trampled upon his honour and respectability, which are prized most by a gentleman. Raja Narendra Lal Khan is not a modern zamindar. His ancestors have been the Rajas of Narajole from the very days of the Badshas, and you have not helped in honouring him as a Raja. Everything that the Raja Bahadur possesses, Englishman, is within your clutches. There is no place where he can hide himself if he runs away from this vast empire of India. And you Englishmen, have treated him, the member of such an ancient house, like a pick-pocket. You have made him rot in *hajat*, have not granted him bail easily, and have kept him as a prisoner in his own house as if he were a thief. You are as it were ever on the alert to find out a plea for insulting him. And all this, though his trial is not yet over, and you do not know—nor does any of us know—whether he is innocent or guilty. Srijut Aravinda Ghosh was at one time a Civilian. He is the son of a great man, has lived in England ever since he was born, has grown up among you, and is an intelligent and learned man. His father-in-law is a high Government official, and his maternal grand-father was a man well-known and highly revered in Bengal. And it is such a man as Srijut Aravindo whom you have kept rotting in *hajat* among thieves and dacoits; and now again you have caged him up in a lonely hole. You have yourselves laid down in your law that a prisoner shall on no account be kept in solitary confinement longer than seven days, and yet Srijut Aravindo and several other gentlemen have been rotting in solitary confinement for nearly six weeks and who knows but they may run mad? And they have not yet been proved guilty by trial. What more shall we say? They are all sons of gentlemen and are all quiet and well-behaved people. It seems as if this bomb affair has taken place simply to put gentlemen to trouble.

Such then is the situation. It seems as if the Empire does not belong to the English, but to the Police who have inherited it from their father. Even a respectable man and a Deputy Magistrate like Srijut Bhasanta Krishna Bose has had to bow down to the Police. We are, therefore, led to ask—what shall we do? Shall we carry on a constitutional agitation, that fond dream of Surendra Babu's? We have done so these thirty years, but what has been the result? What is obtained by begging can never be lasting. The impartiality of the English nation has been amply proved in South Africa, Australia, and in all other Colonies. Prosperity and adversity are the same thing to the Indians who are a people subjugated by the English—at least, unless Indians can think both prosperity and adversity to be the same, they are sure to die. These house-searches which are being held everyday, are they not rudely violating the sanctity of the *pardah*? Where then is honour for us subject people? What shall we do? Sometimes we think that we had better be Hindus again and hide all our disgrace under the veil of piety. At times again, we are reminded of the terrible hardships that our boys are suffering in *hajat*, and our heart bursts with grief. Oh! tell us, Bengalis, what shall we do?

79. The *Anusilan* [Calcutta] of the 25th September publishes a translation of Mr. Ratcliffe's letter in the *Nation*.

A letter.

ANUSILAN,
Sept. 25th, 1903.

NAYAK,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

80. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 26th September says that considering

The charge against patriotic young men.

that the police are nowadays trying to implicate patriotic young men in the numerous cases of dacoity that are happening, their allegations should be taken with extreme caution. There is as yet nothing to show that what the police say is true. If there be any the least truth in these allegations it must be said that such methods are most culpable and cannot benefit the country in any way. The writer is prepared to worship the hero who would plunge the sword in the enemy's breast when engaged in open warfare for the country's independence. But the secret assassin or robber is despicable. Bombs and other violent methods are therefore to be condemned. Dacoities, such as are mentioned in "Devi-Choudhurani" or "Ananda-Matha" of Bankim Chandra are excellent instances of poetical fancy, but are not worthy of imitation. If any young man has been misled by reading "Ananda Matha" or "Devi Choudhurani" into thinking that the country will be benefited by looting the rich, it must be said that the wretch has lost his head, and the lunatic asylum is the fittest place for him to live in.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 26th, 1908.

81. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th September says that it is not

Who is responsible for the present unrest?

Indians alone who are responsible for all the sedition that now exists in this country, but that the rabid writings of a section of the Anglo-Indian Press have much to do with it. Tilak has been transported for seditious writing, but has anything been done to those Anglo-Indian papers who are always trying to create race hatred? In fact such writings can light the fire of sedition all over the country, and if ever the British empire in India falls to the ground it will be due, not to any act of sedition committed by the people of India, but to the fault of the English themselves. A man is found implicated in the bomb affair, and forthwith the *Pioneer* lays the blame on the whole population. The English themselves say that it is far better that a hundred guilty persons should escape than that one innocent man should be punished. A few persons may be guilty of being implicated in the bomb conspiracy; but is it at all justifiable to brand the entire Indian population as such? The *Pioneer* advises the Government to follow a repressive policy. Is that not likely to exasperate the people? Are not all the vitriolic writings of the Anglo-Indian papers likely to create unrest among the people? The officials, however, fasten all the guilt on the natives. Tilak has suffered what was decreed for his portion by Fate. Many other editors have also been sent to jail. But has any Native paper ever published anything more seditious than what the *Asian* wrote some time ago, or what the *Englishman* often writes?

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Sept. 28th, 1908.

Are we alone to blame?

82. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 28th September, also delivers itself to the above effect.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 28th, 1908.

83. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th September dwells on the

English profession and practice at variance.

differences between the avowed and the actual principals which guide British rule in India. In 1858 Queen Victoria promised to her Indian subjects equal laws and equal rights of admission to office with her British subjects. But at the close of a quarter of a century after that, instead of any practical redemption of those promises, the Indians were faced with repressive measures like the Arms Act, the Vernacular Press Act, etc. The rule of Lord Ripon which followed did indeed succeed in some measure in restoring popular faith in British justice and in the sincerity of British professions. But what has been the record of the 25 years which have elapsed since?—Englishmen strongly blame the old Musalmans rulers of the country for their custom of making men undergo the horrors of prison life without a trial. Are they not themselves open to a similar charge in their present conduct towards the alleged bomb conspirators? That not all of these men are guilty is proved by the acquittal of Panchanan Tarkaratna and of Jatindra Nath Banerjee. Moreover English law professes to hold a man innocent till the contrary is proved. Why then are all these men charged with conspiracy, some of whom are most likely to be proved innocent afterwards, now being made to undergo solitary confinement and live on prison fare? If the ancient Musalman practices in this matter may legitimately be styled barbarous, is not that appellation applicable to those of

the English? The Musalmans had no fixed laws to guide their conduct in such cases. They might have been capricious, but what is to be urged in defence of similar conduct by the present day rulers who are acting in the teeth of their own laws? What justification has Government for assuming the guilt of these men beforehand and meting out to them the treatment of criminals in the face of the standing principle of English law which holds it better that 10 guilty men should escape than that one innocent should unjustly suffer? The Englishman's house is his castle—this again is another of those principles which Englishmen profess to respect, but which is not respected at all in Bengal at least, if one may judge from the way the houses of Messrs. S. C. Mallik and P. Mitter in Calcutta were lately searched in their absence.

84. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 29th September publishes an exhortation over the signatures of Messrs. N. C. Kelker, Editor, *Mahratta* and K. P. Khadilkar, Editor, *Kesari*, asking for subscriptions from all Indians who love and respect Mr. Tilak, to meet the expenses of the appeal which has been preferred in the Privy Council against his conviction and sentence.

SANDHYA,
Sept. 29th, 1908.

85. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th September publishes a cartoon representing Lord Morley as holding in his hand a baby-soother in the shape of administrative reform, and trying to please the people of India with it. Below the cartoon is a poem the purport of which is that Lord Morley is sorry that Indians are so hard to please and that all his "nice and soft words" have not succeeded in satisfying them.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 29th, 1908.

86. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th September publishes a skit, in which Rai Bahadur Narendra Nath Sen and Mr. N. N. Ghosh are represented as disappointed women reproaching their lover (the Government) for the ill-requital of their sacrifices for his sake; the requital in one case being a petty Rai Bahadurship and in the other absolutely nothing.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 30th, 1908.

87. The *Anusilan* [Calcutta] of the 2nd October, [thinks] both the people of India and their rulers are responsible for the present unrest in the country. The present day Anglo-Indians are devoid of all sympathy for the Natives; and there is a class of Anglo-Indians who hate everything Native, and if they find any official having pro-Native tendencies, they do their very best to persecute that official. It is true that Indians do not love the English as they used to do before, but they (Indians) are by no means disloyal. They have lost much of their old love and respect for Englishmen simply because the latter now despise them and only care for squeezing out money from them. Let His Majesty the King Emperor assure the people of India of his sympathy as the late Empress did in the celebrated Proclamation. So let there be Governors like Lord Ripon, Sir Peter Grant, Sir George Campbell, Sir George Clarke, Sir John Hewett, and Sir Charles Bayley, and the people will not want anything more. They had expected much from Lord Minto, but they have been sadly disappointed.

ANUSILAN,
Oct. 2nd, 1908.

URIYA PAPERS.

88. The *Utkalvarta* [Calcutta] of the 29th August states that a man belonging to village Champaipal in subdivision Jajpur, district Cuttack was killed by lightning.

An accident.

UTKALVARTA,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

89. The *Utkalvarta* [Calcutta] of the 29th August states that floods in the rivers Kharsna and Brahmani have done great injury to the *beali* crop in the Jajpur subdivision.

Beali crop in Jajpur injured by floods.

UTKALVARTA,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

90. The *Utkalvarta* [Calcutta] of the 29th August states that Rangoon paddy sells at 11½ seers, broken rice (*khud*) at 8 seers and country rice at 5 seers per rupee in Jajpur.

High prices of paddy and rice in Jajpur.

UTKALVARTA,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

UTKALVARTA,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

91. The *Utkalvarta* [Calcutta] of the 29th August states that about 12 passengers were crossing the Balasore river at Mukela Ghat in a rickety boat, which suddenly capsized. Only two passengers and the *majhi* were saved. Nothing is known of the other passengers.

UTKALVARTA,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

92. The *Utkalvarta* [Calcutta] of the 29th August states that a man of the *goala* caste belonging to Purjanga Bisa in Dhenkanal while grazing his cattle in the forest was killed by three bears and that one man belonging to Bhanpur Ganjaidiha in that *killa* was killed by a tiger.

UTKALVARTA,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

93. The *Utkalvarta* [Calcutta] of the 29th August states that the *beali* paddy in Dhenkanal has been much injured by floods in the Brahmani.

UTKALVARTA,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

94. The *Utkalvarta* [Calcutta] of the 29th August states that it rains every day in Hindole, that relief is being distributed regularly and that the *beali* crop is nearing harvest.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

95. Referring to the dacoity committed in village Kulpi near Diamond Harbour in Bengal, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August observes that though there was a regular fight between the dacoits and the villagers, the Police was nowhere in evidence. This is a matter of great regret.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

96. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August brings the condition of the Cuttack Survey School to the notice of Government, and suggests that steps should be taken to procure the employment of passed students from the institution in the Survey and Settlement offices in Orissa and to bring the institution on a par with the Engineering School in Bihar. The poor Uriyas always need the patronage of Government.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

97. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August publishes a correspondence, pointing out in detail the deplorable condition of the Mehendipur street in the Cuttack Municipality and the inability or neglect of the Municipal Chairman to attend carefully to the petitions, submitted by the residents of that part of the Municipality regarding the condition of that street. The writer observes that the Municipality should not lose any time in looking after the condition of the road, that has been the subject of so much complaint.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

98. Referring to the reply, which His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, gave to the address of the Navadwipa Pundits on His Honour's recent visit to that station, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August points out that the words spoken by His Honour were no doubt very good, but His Honour should have spoken out a few consolation words to those Pundits, who had been recently insulted by the Police on unjust suspicions.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

99. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August is of opinion that, the manufacture of salt in Orissa should be revived without any more delay, for thereby Balasore will regain its old position among the prosperous districts of Bengal and Puri will be in a position to secure a living for a large number of Uriyas, residing on the seaboard tracts of that district. A great deal of distress in Orissa will disappear on the manufacture of salt being resumed. It is a matter of great regret that the Government will not permit the Uriyas to manufacture their salt by their own exertions.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

100. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August states that rice sells at 5 seers per rupee in Angul.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

101. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August states that though the *beali* paddy is harvested in the Cuttack district, it is not secure from the attacks of thieves. The *chaukidars*, who are paid from the *Chaukidari* Tax Fund, spend their days in earning wages as day-labourers. Who is then to look after the thieves?

102. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August thanks the Cuttack Relief Association for taking prudent steps in reducing the distress at Jenapur, Anyasipur, Mashra, Ahyas and other villages in the Cuttack district by stocking rice in those places and selling them to the poor at easier rates. The Association is also taking steps to help the members of the respectable poor classes in that district in various ways. UTKALDIPIKA.
Aug. 29th, 1908.
- The Cuttack Relief Association thanked.
103. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August states that a boat laden with rice, *hkud* (broken rice) and other goods suddenly came in collision with the Railway bridge on the Katajuri river in Cuttack and sank. Three passengers, who were in the boat, are said to have been drowned. The matter is under police investigation. UTKALDIPIKA.
Aug. 29th, 1908.
- A river accident in Cuttack.
104. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August states that the Lankhia village, in pargana Baruna, in district Cuttack, is in great danger, owing to a breach having been effected in the embankment of the Kharasua river. Immediate steps should be taken to save the village from destruction. UTKALDIPIKA.
Aug. 29th, 1908.
- The Lankhia village in Cuttack in danger.
105. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August states that there was good rain in Angul, and that there were several breaches in the embankments of rivers in that district. The rice fields are under water. UTKALDIPIKA.
Aug. 29th, 1908.
- The weather in Angul.
106. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August recommends the cigars manufactured by the Cigar Company in Kazibazar, Cuttack, to the notice of the public, praying that as the cigars are good ones, they should be encouraged by the generous public. UTKALDIPIKA.
Aug. 29th, 1908.
- Manufacture of cigars in Cuttack.
107. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August mourns the death of Mrs. Gupta, wife of Mr. K. G. Gupta, in London, at the age of 55. She had been for several years in Orissa and had made herself popular by her virtues. She was not only a good mother and a good wife, but a good woman. She was a standing example to her sisters, who followed her closely in the work of reformation. By her loss India has been deprived of a model Lady. May her soul rest in peace! UTKALDIPIKA.
Aug. 29th, 1908.
- The demise of Mrs. Gupta mourned.
108. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th August states that a Club has been started in connection with the Cuttack Town Library Hall, which promises to afford a meeting ground for the members of the different Indian communities in Cuttack. Steps are being taken to procure papers and magazines for the benefit of the members. The students of the schools and the college are expected to join the Club. UTKALDIPIKA.
Aug. 29th, 1908.
- A new Club in Cuttack.
109. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 29th August approves of the resolution of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to establish a new village in Burhasambar, in Sambalpur, and to bring 1,570 acres of jungle land under cultivation for the maintenance of the villagers. The village will be called Jharamunda, and its land transactions will be governed by the Revenue Rules of the Central Provinces Administration. SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.
Aug. 29th, 1908.
- The foundation of a new village named Jharamunda in Burhasambar.
110. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 29th August states that the Ranchi College, whose construction has been sanctioned by the Secretary State for India, will perpetuate the memory of Sir Andrew Fraser, who has put his heart into the undertaking. SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.
Aug. 29th, 1908.
- The Ranchi College to perpetuate the memory of Sir Andrew Fraser.
111. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 29th August is happy to note that rice is being made cheaper in Sambalpur and Puri, owing to a good rainfall. SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.
Aug. 29th, 1908.
- Rice made cheaper in Puri and Sambalpur.
112. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 29th August states that a bad type of fever prevails in Barpali; and that already several deaths are due to it. SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.
Aug. 29th, 1908.
- A bad type of fever in Barpali.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

113. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 29th August states that 200 deaths were due to cholera in Barakhemundi, in Ganjam.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

114. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 29th August states that there was heavy rain in that State, which has done some injury to the standing crop.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

115. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 29th August states that excessive rain prevents the agriculturists in Barpali from attending to their *rabi* crop.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Aug. 29th, 1908.

116. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 29th August publishes a representation, which Babu Radha Charan Das, a zaminder of Balasore, has presented to the public, drawing their attention to his claims for the vacant seat in the Bengal Legislative Council, and observes that Babu Radha Charan Das is no doubt a very good candidate.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Sept. 2nd, 1908.

117. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 2nd September regrets to note that the detention of Raja Narendra Lal Khan Bahadur in the Midnapur Jail has led to the abolition of the *Annachhatra* near his home, which was feeding a large number of poor men and women every day.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Sept. 2nd, 1908.

118. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 2nd September supports the argument of Babu G. C. Mukhopadhyaya in the *Calcutta Daily News* that the dacoities in Bengal may be looked upon as due to the provisions of the Indian Arms Act. The immediate result of this Act is that whereas the dacoits provide themselves with fire-arms and other weapons of offence, the honest villagers are disarmed and helpless. They, therefore, cannot defend themselves against the attacks of the dacoits.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Aug. 2nd, 1908.

119. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 2nd September states that floods in the River Salandi, in Bhadrak, have already done great injury to the standing crop.

SAMVAD VAHKA,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

120. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 3rd September states that Sir Henry Cotton in his budget speech called the attention of the British Parliament to the fact that the administrative machinery in British India needs wholesale reforms, which must be effected without delay, and observes that Sir Henry Cotton was right in all that he said. The Indians agree with his views, though the Anglo-Indians may not appreciate what he said.

SAMVAD VAHKA,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

121. Mr. Ram Chandra Mahanti, a correspondent of the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 3rd September objects to the way in which scholarships reserved for Uriya students in Orissa are awarded to Bengali students under various pretexts. The Uriya students may not be very bright, but their claims for scholarships intended for them must not be overlooked in any way. The Uriya students, backward though they are, need encouragement by all possible means.

SAMVAD VAHKA,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

122. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 3rd September states that the embankment on the side of the River Erada, in thana Jagatsingpur, district Cuttack, having given way to its floods, the *beali* and *mandia* crops in that part of the Cuttack district have been much injured.

SAMVAD VAHKA,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

123. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 3rd September states that Miss Gilbert, the philanthropic European lady in Orissa, has earned the gratitude of the poor people by paying regular visits to Bhingarpur, Aul, Kendrapara, Ganja and Jajpur, and by distributing pice and cloth to the famished. It is suggested that she should visit Dobgram and Jenapur, where the distress is acute. May God bless her noble and charitable work!

SAMVAD VAHKA,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

124. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 3rd September states that two women, while working in a field at a distance of two miles from the Jajpur town, were killed by lightning.

125. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 3rd September states that cholera prevails in the Bhadrak subdivision of the Balasore district, and that the injury done to the standing crop in that subdivision by the floods is so great that it will be very difficult to recoup the loss in two years.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

126. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 3rd September is of opinion that Bombay is in far advance of Bengal in *swadeshi* transactions, and has achieved better success in manufacturing goods for the use of the Indians. It is a pity that Orissa is in deep slumber.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

127. The *Nilachal Samachar* [Puri] of the 4th September is of opinion that the Baroda and Mysore Government have introduced good many reforms into their respective administrations, which must demand the respect of all Indians. Free primary education, separation of the Judicial from the Executive Department, and sanitary reforms are some of the wisest measures adopted by those two Native Governments. It is hoped that other Native States will follow their example.

NILACHAL SAMACHAR,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

128. The *Nilachal Samachar* [Puri] of the 4th September states that Anant Mahanta, a resident of Panidolgram, in pargana Lembai, district Puri, while crossing the rivulet that cuts the Janla-Jatni Road by swimming, was drowned. The writer suggests that a bridge should be constructed over the rivulet in question.

NILACHAL SAMACHAR,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

The weather in Puri.
last week.

129. The *Nilachal Samachar* [Puri] of the 4th September states that there was good rain in Puri

NILACHAL SAMACHAR,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

130. The Chanahatta correspondent of the *Nilachal Samachar* [Puri] of the 4th September states that a meeting was held at Chanahatta on the 9th of August, under the presidency of Chaudhuri Jagendranath Das, with the object of protesting against the provision of the Land Records Maintenance Bill. About 200 gentlemen belonging to 12 neighbouring villages attended the meeting. They were either landlords or tenants, and they unanimously came to the conclusion that the provisions of the Bill are injurious both to the landlords and the tenants, as they will have to undergo all the troubles of an annual settlement. It was therefore resolved to move Government to desist from pressing the Bill through the Legislative Council.

NILACHAL SAMACHAR,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

Public health in Talcher.
in Talcher.

GARJATBASINI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

Harvesting of the *saria* paddy in Talcher.
that State is diminishing.

132. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 5th September states that the *saria* paddy is being harvested, and that the distress of the people in

GARJATBASINI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

The weather and crop in Talcher.
crops are good.

133. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 5th September states that it rains almost every day in that State, and that the prospects of the standing

GARJATBASINI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

134. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 5th September states that the prospect of the standing crops in Baramba is good, though some injury has been done to them by floods in the Mahanadi.

GARJATBASINI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

135. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 5th September states that the *suam* and *saria* crops in Talcher have, to a certain extent, been injured by the floods in the Brahmani river.

GARJATBASINI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

136. The *Utkalbarta* [Calcutta] of the 5th September is of opinion that the Bengalis in Orissa are trying their best to get Raja Baikuntha Nath De, Bahadur, of Balasore, elected as a member of the Bengal Legislative Council and observes that the Uriyas should try their best to get Mr. M. S.

UTKALBARTA,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

Das elected as a member of that Council. Thus the election controversy has been resolved into a Bengali-Uriya controversy.

UTKALBARTA.
Sept. 5th, 1908.

137. The *Utkalbarta* [Calcutta] at the 5th September states that a man of the Goala caste belonging to Bamán in the Jajpur Subdivision was compelled by the prevalent

A tale of distress in Jajpur.
distress in that subdivision to sell his son to a Muhammadan and his daughter to a prostitute.

UTKALBARTA.
Sept. 5th, 1908.

138. The *Utkalbarta* [Calcutta] of the 5th September states that the Zamindar of Dehurda is lending paddy to his tenants at a small interest and is distributing rice gratis to about 200 poor men and women every day.

UTKALBARTA.
Sept. 5th, 1908.

139. The *Utkalbarta* [Calcutta] of the 5th September states that the paddy plants in Midnapur are being destroyed by insects and that the agriculturists are being thus put to great trouble.

Paddy plants being destroyed in Midnapore.

UTKALBARTA.
Sept. 5th, 1908.

140. The *Utkalbarta* [Calcutta] of the 5th September states that a woman, aged 22 years, fell into a well in Jadu Nath Deb Lane, Calcutta, and was drowned.

An accident.

UTKALBARTA.
Sept. 5th, 1908.

141. The *Utkalbarta* [Calcutta] of the 5th September states that 5 girls of the Kandara caste, belonging to Mauza Chandanpur in Jajpur, while proceeding to gather

Two girls killed by flood water in Jajpur.

man were carried off by flood-water, and that only three of them were saved by the help of the villagers. Of the remaining two girls no trace whatever is found of one.

UTKALBARTA.
Sept. 5th, 1908.

142. The *Utkalbarta* [Calcutta] of the 5th September states that floods in the rivers Burha, Brahmani and Kharsua have done great injury to the standing *beali* crop.

Injury to *beali* crop by floods in Jajpur.

UTKALBARTA.
Sept. 5th, 1908.

Injury to *beali* by floods in Kendrapara.

143. The *Utkalbarta* [Calcutta] of the 5th September states that floods in the Brahmani river have done great injury to the *beali* paddy in Kendrapara.

UTKALBARTA.
Sept. 5th, 1908.

A better state of things in Khandpara.

144. The *Utkalbarta* [Calcutta] of the 5th September states that according to the *Ganjam Gunadarpan*, rice sells at 11 seers per rupee in

Khandpara, the Raja of which place has given permission to his subjects to draw fuel wood from the forests free of duty.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Sept. 5th, 1908.

145. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 5th September points out that, the

The sympathy of the Cuttack Collector towards the zamindars of that district.

Collector of Cuttack has shown great sympathy towards the zamindars of the Cuttack district, by accepting arrear revenue in several cases, by giving permission in some cases to pay all the arrears in the November *kist*, and by putting to auction only one estate with the consent of its proprietor. The Collector was seen to receive revenues till midnight on the advertised sale day. The zamindars expressed their gratitude to the Collector by the jubilant cry of *Haribol*.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Sept. 5th, 1908.

146. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 5th September states that though

A ferry complaint in Jajpur.

the Ijradars of the Burha and Kharsua ghâts on the Jajpur-Barua Road charge ferry rates at the rate of one piee per man, the temporary boat that conveys the passengers across the neighbouring causeway in the flood season charges one anna six pies to two annas six pies per man. This is simply intolerable. The causeway should be put in charge of one of the above Ijradars, and its ferry arrangements should be guided by some regulations. The attention of the Jajpur Local Board and of its Subdivisional Officer is drawn to the matter at once.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Sept. 5th, 1908.

147. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 5th September is of opinion that

Government reply in connection with the Kankinara bomb outrage criticised

the reply of the official member to the question of the Hon'ble Rai Kisori Lal Goswami, Bahadur, regarding the Kankinara bomb outrage in the Bengal Legislative Council is not at all satisfactory. The Hon'ble Member wanted information about the Police evidences, but he was told that these evidences cannot be made public. The conclusion that the Government will not

hear any complaint against the Police, cannot be said to be the fruit of good judgment or bright statesmanship.

148. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 5th September supports the statement of the *Utkalbasi* that the absence of Uriya-knowing officials from the Ichhapur Post-office,

UTKALDIPKA,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

A postal complaint. in Ganjam, is causing great inconvenience to the public. It is strange that Uriya-knowing officials are not posted to the Uriya-speaking tracts of the Madras Presidency.

149. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 5th September complains that parties do not get back their documents punctually from the Registration office, Jajpur, and are thus put to great inconvenience. It is said that the delay extends in some cases to 4 to 5 months. The District Registrar is requested to put a stop to this anomaly.

UTKALDIPKA,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

The complaint against the Registration office at Jajpur.

150. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 5th September learns from its contemporary of the *Ganjam Gunadarpan*, that the diminution of distress in Barakhemundi has induced the Raja of that State to abolish the *Annachhatra*, and to close other relief operations in his State.

UTKALDIPKA,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

Diminution of distress in Barakhemundi, in Ganjam.

151. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 5th September states that a boat belonging to the Burba river ghât in Jajpur, while carrying passengers, suddenly sank into the river, thereby throwing all its passengers into the water. It is said that one of the passengers was drowned.

UTKALDIPKA,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

A river accident in Jajpur.

152. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 5th September states that many acres of land belonging to Olas, Baranan and other parganas, in the Madhapur Estate, situated between the Rivers Brahmani and Kharsua, have been submerged under flood-water continually for three weeks. The state of the crops standing in the land is simply hopeless.

UTKALDIPKA,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

The state of the crops in some parts of Madhapur hopeless.

153. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 5th September states that the agriculturists in Mahanga, in the Cuttack district, are reaping the *beali* harvest, and are in a better condition.

UTKALDIPKA,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

Harvesting of *beali* in Mahanga, in Cuttack.

154. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 5th September states that the zamindars of Cuttack, who had occasion to visit the district head-quarters on account of certain land-sale date, formed themselves into an Association, which held its first meeting in the Cuttack Town Hall under the presidency of the Proprietor of Kanika. The meeting was attended by about 50 zamindars, who by resolution thanked Government for meeting punishment on certain arrear estates and for granting relief to people suffering from floods and famine in the district. Local officers and others who had helped in relief works were also thanked. It was further resolved to place the Association on a permanent basis as several such Associations, though formed in the past, languished for want of adequate support. The Proprietor of Kanika was appointed as President, Mr. M. S. Das, C.I.E., Babus Behari Lal Pandit, Jogendra Nath Basu and Gokulananda Chaudhuri as Assistant Presidents, Babu Jagat Ballabh Ghosh as Secretary, and Babus Gopal Chandra Praharaj and Banabehari Palit as Assistant Secretaries. Rupees seven hundred were collected on the spot to meet the expenses of the Association of which Rs. 300 were paid by Kanika. Babu Gokulananda Chaudhuri pointed out that the Association should be on the alert as the rights of the zamindars were going to be interfered with on account of the revision settlement and as union among the zamindars was very necessary for the protection of their interests. He also made it clear that the Association must not deal with the political questions of the day and must confine itself to those questions that concern the landed interest.

UTKALDIPKA,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

The organisation of the Zamindars Association in Cuttack.

155. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 5th September states that about 250 persons were carried off by cholera in that State. The Raja of Bamra is building a

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

Cholera in Bamra.

sanitarium on the Pradhanpat hill in that State, where the sick people of that State may take shelter, whenever required.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

156. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 5th September is of opinion that the authorities connected with the Agricultural Farm in Cuttack should take early steps to invite the agriculturists in that district to their farm, with a view to enable them to appreciate the reformed methods of agriculture that are adopted in that farm.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Sept. 9th, 1908.

The high price of rice in Mayurbhanj. 157. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 9th September states that rice sells at 5 seers per rupee at Bahalda in Mayurbhanj.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Sept. 9th, 1908.

158. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 9th September states that paddy sells at 12 seers and rice at 5 seers per rupee at Akhnepada, in the Balasore district.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Sept. 9th, 1908.

159. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 9th September learns from its contemporary of the *Ganjam Gunadarpan* that the Raja of Barakhemundi has contributed Rs. 200 towards the Aska Scholarship Fund, and has promised to supplement the donation by an additional grant of Rs. 200.

SAMVAD VAHICA,
Sept. 11th, 1908.

160. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 11th September states that excessive rain has caused a breach in the railway line near mauza Chakna, and that this has proved very inconvenient to the railway passengers, who have to undergo all the troubles of a transhipment. The line is however now repaired.

NILACHAL SAMACHAR,
Sept. 11th, 1908.

A slight reduction in the price of paddy in Khurda. 161. The *Nilachal Samachar* [Puri] of the 11th September states that paddy sells at 15 seers per rupee at Khurda.

NILACHAL SAMACHAR,
Sept. 11th, 1908.

162. The *Nilachal Samachar* [Puri] of the 11th September states that of the distressed people wandering about in the Puri town, many belong to Kothdes, in Puri. It is said that one man died of starvation at Bhimatangi.

NILACHAL SAMACHAR,
Sept. 11th, 1908.

Cholera in Bhingarpur. 163. The *Nilachal Samachar* [Puri] of the 11th September states that cholera prevails in Bhingarpur, in Puri.

NILACHAL SAMACHAR,
Sept. 11th, 1908.

164. The *Nilachal Samachar* [Puri] of the 11th September states that the entire crop in mauza Ramchandrapur, in Puri, has been washed away by the flood-water. The Collector of Puri had inspected the mauza last year, and had given hopes that he would do something to save the future crop, but practically he has done nothing up to date.

NILACHAL SAMACHAR,
Sept. 11th, 1908.

165. The *Nilachal Samachar* [Puri] of the 11th September states that fever prevails in Bhubaneswar, and that several children have died of the same.

NILACHAL SAMACHAR,
Sept. 11th, 1908.

The state of the crop in Bhubaneswar. 166. The *Nilachal Samachar* [Puri] of the 11th September states that the state of the crop in Bhubaneswar is good.

NILACHAL SAMACHAR,
Sept. 11th, 1908.

167. The *Nilachal Samachar* [Puri] of the 11th September gives an account of the proceedings of the District Conference in Puri, which held a meeting on the 6th instant to appoint its office-bearers. It was also resolved to establish a weaving school in Puri, and to establish and organise village conferences.

GARJATBASINI,
Sept. 12th, 1908.

The crop in Boad is good. 168. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 12th September states that the state of the crop in Boad

GARJATBASINI,
Sept. 12th, 1908.

169. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 12th September states that the Raja of Athmallik has made special arrangements to relieve the distressed people in his State.

170. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 12th September states that a boat laden with rice, ~~mung~~, nut, ~~ghee~~, kerosine oil, sugar and other articles, belonging to a Marwari merchant, sank in the River Mahanadi, near village Kandarpur, within the jurisdiction of the Athgarh State. The accident has caused a loss of Rs. 2,000 to the merchant in question.

GARJATBASINI,
Sept. 12th, 1908.

The weather and public health in Dhenkanal.

171. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 12th September states that it rains every day in Dhenkanal, and that cholera has not as yet abated in that State.

GARJATBASINI,
Sept. 12th, 1908.

The *beali* nearing harvest in Athgarh.

172. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 12th September states that the *beali* crop in Athgarh is nearing harvest, and that when reaped it will do great good to the distressed people.

GARJATBASINI,
Sept. 12th, 1908.

RAJENDRA CHANDRA SASTRI,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 3rd October, 1908.



REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 3rd October 1908.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1149. Commenting on the treatment of Indians in the Transvaal, the

Our status as British citizens.

Bengalee states that the policy of the Transvaal Government and the impotence of the Imperial

Government to afford protection to His Majesty's Indian subjects have produced a most painful impression here. The conviction is forced upon the people that they are only subordinate members of the Empire, and that in their case equality of status is a myth, though it was definitely and solemnly promised. Those who are now in authority in the Transvaal were up in arms against the British Government only a few years ago. The connection of the Indian people with the British Government is of long standing; and it is a record of faithful service to the Government. Is it to be the reward of such service that they should be deprived of their status and punished and deported for no other offence than because they claim that status? The Transvaal policy which is really the policy of the late Boer Government masked in British guise, with the Imperial Government looking on in helpless impotency, is one of the saddest facts in modern British history. If even a single British subject were thus treated by a foreign Government, the entire resources of the Empire would be exerted for the vindication of the status of the British subject. But when a British colony makes it a part of its policy to insult and degrade British subjects, the Government is powerless to afford protection.

BENGALNY.
25th Sept. 1908.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1150. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says:—

The investigation officers in the Midnapore bomb case.

"If it was a singular fact that the investigation of the Midnapore bomb conspiracy case was entrusted to two subordinate Indian Police officers

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
23rd Sept. 1908.

to the supersession of Messrs. Cornish and Brett, the District and the Assistant Superintendents of Police, respectively, the greater wonder is that to-day's *Calcutta Gazette* notifies their transfer from Midnapore, while Mr. Weston, who has, on his own showing, been most interested in the whole affair, still remains at the head of the district, and is practically in charge of the investigation. We wonder if anything stranger could be conceived of. What now are the public to think of these transfers? Have they been removed because they are popular with all classes, as has been admitted by the *Statesman* and other papers, and because the panic-stricken people not only look up to them with respect but with confidence?"

1151. The *Mussalman* states that the Midnapore Police seem to have

The affairs in Midnapore.

surpassed their brethren in other places in misguided zeal and energy. The confessions and

MUSSELMAN.
25th Sept. 1908.

retractions of certain of the accused lead to the presumption that the executive of the district have conspired to bring to utter trouble and humiliation the respectable inhabitants of the place in order to run down swadeshim.

1152. The *Bengalee* strongly protests against the conduct of the police in

Further house search.

searching the house of Mr. P. Mitter, Bar-at-law, in the absence of the owner or any other male member

BENGALNY.
24th Sept. 1908.

of the family. Indian ladies, however, highly placed in life, are accustomed to live behind the *pardah*, and have nothing to do with the affairs of the world outside their own household. Indian opinion strongly condemns such searches when none but female members are in the house.

1153. The *Bengalee* observes that the warrant issued by the authorities at

The search of Mr. Mitter's house.

Dacca for the search of Mr. Mitter's house, contained a serious libel, inasmuch as it stated that

BENGALNY.
25th Sept. 1908.

information had been received to the effect that Mr. Mitter's house was used as a place for the deposit of stolen property. Now that a thorough search, has failed to substantiate the charge, it is a question for the lawyers to decide whether an action for libel does not lie against the Magistrate issuing the

warrant or the police or party who supplied the information. With regard to the search, the journal enquires whether the houses of respectable people are to be searched, merely because the police happen to have received information that such houses are used for unlawful purposes? And is a respectable man to be libelled in a magisterial warrant merely because somebody has chosen to give wrong information against him to the police? Evidently in these cases neither the Magistrates nor the police care to examine the character of the evidence placed before them. At this rate there is nobody in the country—no matter how high may be his position or character—who can regard himself as safe. The journal seriously asks the authorities to consider if this is the proper way to secure the contentment of the people and to allay the prevailing unrest. "Strange really are the ways of the bureaucracy. They would employ exactly the same methods for conciliating the people which others would employ, if not with the deliberate object of alienating them, at any rate, with full consciousness that such alienation can be the only possible result."

1154. *The Amrita Bazar Patrika* says:—

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
20th Sept. 1908.

Alleged "bombing" of a passing train.

"In Head Constable Ram Padarat Singh, the force has a jewel of the purest Indian police lustre! He possesses the gift of imagination even beyond the average run of policemen in this country. From such slender material, as the smashing by a passing train of a carriage door which he had opened, he constructed the sensational story of the hurling of the infernal missile by the ubiquitous terrorist. He would thus, he thought, not only conceal his own fault, but also find favour with his saheb masters by furnishing a fresh confirmation of their theory of the universality of 'bomb conspiracy' in Bengal. Is it not true that whenever the sahebs show a strong bias or notion or penchant, sure enough proofs are forthwith produced in support of the same by some Indian subordinate or favour-seeker? For, this is rightly believed to be a straight cut to favour. And Ram Padarat took up that road, just as many others are doing at this moment."

BENGALURU,
27th Sept. 1908.

1155. Commenting on a paragraph in the *Pioneer* telling its readers that "in England at least the anarchical movement is at the mercy of the police just as it is now in India," the *Bengalee* says:—

The police and anarchists.

"No one objects to the anarchical movement, or, for that matter, any unlawful movement being at the mercy of the police, although even in such a case it is to the interest of the public to insist that the police may not treat their victims with unnecessary severity. What is worthy of note, however, is that in India it is not merely the anarchical movement, but men who have as little to do with that movement as the highest official in the land that are at the mercy of the police. The recent house-searches, for example, did not in a single case affect any anarchist. The police, it is now apparent, acted merely on suspicion or on information supplied by informers, and in not a single case, so far as the public are aware, did they succeed in discovering any connection between any one of the persons whose houses they searched and the anarchical movement. They have travelled from one part of the country to the other, from the old to the new Province, and from the new back again to the old, and have proceeded as far as Gauhati in remote Assam—but with the same result in all cases. Indeed, these abortive searches have become so fashionable that the impression has begun to prevail that our friends of the Criminal Investigation Department are being regularly victimised by mischievous persons with a turn for practical jokes. All the same, the true victims are neither the police, nor anarchists, but innocent men, and naturally the unrest is being accentuated."

BANDER MATARAM,
20th Sept. 1908.

1156. *Bande Mataram* writes:—

Is it a dream still?

"The bomb has supplied the Executive with the necessary pretext for keeping the law in abeyance and giving a free hand to the police. It is now police rule that obtains in India. The police, of course, have always been the main pillar of the bureaucratic administration of India; but hitherto there was only winking at the doings of the police and not a complete surrender of the administration to their hands. Hitherto we have seldom come across such open and outrageously indecent advocacy of the police methods and such direct incitement to their unscrupulousness. The bomb has made the bureaucracy completely throw

off its mask, and our people are now face to face with the grim reality of a Government that owes no responsibility to the people it governs. Under such a Government there can be no such thing as liberty of the person, a liberty which every member of a civilized community is supposed to enjoy. The appearance of a new sort of crime in a society is no justification for suspending all fair, rational and commonsense methods of dealing with it and adopting an unusual and unduly oppressive procedure. But there can be no arguing with a bureaucracy. Its will is the law. Whatever it does must be for the ultimate good of the people, however cruel and illegal it may appear to the lay public! So it is not only useless but sheer weariness of flesh to dwell on the vagaries and high-handedness of the Magistracy and Judiciary in dealing with those of our countrymen who are being placed before them as enemies of law and order. We can only tell our countrymen that this is their actual condition, that the servants of the bureaucracy have an absolute control over their persons, that they can deal with them any way they like with perfect immunity, and that it is for them to consider whether it is at all worthwhile to live under such conditions. In ordinary times the people can have very few opportunities to be acquainted with the true nature of the Government under which they live, but during the periods of popular excitement they are enabled to understand from its conduct whether they enjoy any safeguard against its vagaries and weaknesses.

"Even loyal demonstrations and anti-national feelings afford no protection, for, we have heard that amongst the gentlemen now incarcerated at Midnapore without any hope of release before their conviction, or acquittal there are persons of pronounced anti-swadeshi tendencies. So neither flattery nor treachery can purchase any immunity from the evils of an evil system. Is it still a dream to wish to improve our political status? Let the *Friend of India*, which has firsthand information about the Midnapore affairs, and which at the same time thinks that we are under a tolerably good system of the rule, answer the question."

(b)—Working of the Courts.

1157. With regard to the ensuing trial of the accused in the Midnapore case, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* observes that if the European officers of Midnapore, connected with the administration of justice in any way, namely, the

Where is the Midnapore case to be held?

District Magistrate, the Joint-Magistrate, the District Superintendent of Police, the Jail Superintendent, the Civil Surgeon and also the District Judge, believe that the undertrial prisoners formed a conspiracy to kill all of them, then according to the jurisprudence of Great Britain they are incompetent to take part in the trial. There cannot be any doubt that these officers are all honest and conscientious men, but it is impossible for even angels in their position to be entirely free from what is called unconscious bias. Constituted as the human mind is, no man can help feeling the greatest antipathy towards those, who, he believes, had been conspiring to murder him. It is a common weakness of human nature that somehow or other if a man comes to believe a thing to be true, he will shut his eyes to every fact or circumstance against the same, and will accept that to be almost conclusive which is really the flimsiest of evidence. Consequently the journal is of opinion that Midnapore is not the proper place for conducting such an important trial. Midnapore is an assessors' district, whereas considering its great importance, the case is a fit one to go before a jury. The trial should therefore be held in a jury district by an experienced Judge whose mind has not been in any way affected by the Midnapore imbroglio, especially as intricate law points are bound to crop up in this connection.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
22nd Sept. 1908.

1158. The *Indian Empire* regards the proceedings of the executive authorities at Midnapore as a grave scandal. To

The Midnapore affair.

detain a man in custody for so many as three days after the highest Court in the land has ordered his release on bail, is a species of impropriety which would have been impossible in any other civilised country. It is because the conduct of the executive at Midnapore in connection with the postponement of the bail to the Raja will inevitably have the effect of lowering the prestige of the High Court, that the journal

INDIAN EMPIRE,
20th Sept. 1908.

desires to enter an emphatic protest against it. Sir Andrew Fraser must now see to what an immense extent the indulgence shown by the Local Government has demoralised the subordinate officials.

BENGALURU,
20th Sept. 1908.

1159. The *Bengalee* observes that in their judgment on the Midnapore case, their lordships, Justices Sharfuddin and Coxe, distinctly said that bail should be granted to under-

The Midnapore case.

trial prisoners in every case where there was unreasonable delay on the part of the prosecution in adducing evidence of a substantial character. Why should not the Joint-Magistrate then have granted bail to the remaining accused on that day? He was bound to do so in accordance with the express declaration of their lordships, and it is surprising to note that the Magistrate not only refused bail, but gave it as his reason for refusal that he had reasonable grounds for believing that the accused were guilty. Such a declaration could be made only by a Magistrate, and that only at the final stage of the enquiry. To have made such a statement at the present stage was certainly prejudicial to the accused persons.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
24th Sept. 1908.

1160. Criticising the comments of the *Times of India* on the mitigation by Sir George Clarke, Governor of Bombay, of the sentence passed on Mr. Tilak, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says.—

Bombay Governor's clemency to Mr. Tilak.

"We are quite at one with the *Times of India* that the head of the executive Government should never interfere with the independence of the judiciary. As a matter of fact, the prestige of the Indian High Courts received a deadly shock when what is known as the "Fuller Minute" of Lord Lytton was promulgated. But, at the same time, when judicial sentences are regarded as an outrage upon justice, humanity and commonsense by a vast majority of the people, it should be a sacred duty on the part of the ruler of a province or of the whole Empire to step in and reassure the public by some generous measures, even at the risk of meddling with the independence of judicial Courts to neutralise their bad effects. We believe, however, that the action of the Bombay Governor is no interference at all with the independence of the Judges of the Bombay High Court."

BENGALURU,
21st Sept. 1908.

1161. If the sentence of five years' rigorous imprisonment passed by the Sessions Judge of Nadia on the accused in the Nadia bomb case is merciful, notwithstanding his

Nadia bomb case.

tender age and want of intelligence, the *Bengalee* wonders what sentence the Judge would have passed if there had been no recommendation for mercy. The offence the accused was charged with was undoubtedly a serious one, but the evidence before the Court was enough to show that he was more a fool than anything else. In these circumstances and in view of the recommendation for mercy, a much lighter sentence would have met the ends of justice.

BANDE MATARAM,
22nd Sept. 1908.

1162. According to *Bande Mataram* the refusal to Babu Sharat Chandra Sen of an interview with his client, which he sought for the purpose of taking from him the instructions

Try again and then retire.

necessary for the proper conduct of his case, is a further illustration of the gradual encroachment of the executive upon the domain of law. To keep undertrial prisoners in solitary confinement is in utter defiance of both the spirit and the letter of the law, and to prevent them from having interviews with their legal advisers is to deny them the bare chance of an ordinary trial in the law Court. The journal wonders if the Government will next proceed to appoint its own pleaders and counsel to conduct the defence on behalf of the accused. That will considerably smooth matters, shorten the trials in the law Courts, and make them much pleasanter by removing the many difficulties that have up till now so hindered the steady progress of the prosecution. The journal advises the members of the legal profession, who are engaged in this case, to apply once more to the Superintendent of the Alipore Jail, to the Police Commissioner, and to the Magistrate of Alipore to be permitted to see their clients, and, if refused, to retire from their useless task altogether.

(c)—Jails.

BENGALURU,
18th Sept. 1908.

1163. The *Bengalee* learns that the authorities at Midnapore do not allow the accused, who were arrested in connection with the conspiracy case, the privilege of reading

Treatment of undertrial prisoners.

books or newspapers. The prisoners are also kept separate and are not allowed to communicate with each other. Such punishment is even severer than what they can expect if convicted. If undertrial prisoners are entitled to be regarded as innocent until their guilt has been established, there seems to be no reason why they should be deprived while in *hajut* of the ordinary comforts and pleasures of life if they are prepared to pay for them.

1164. *Bande Mataram* says:—

The solitary confinement of undertrial prisoners.

"The thing is done. The breakdown of British statesmanship so ostentatiously deprecated by the Indian Secretary has taken place. The bureaucracy has resorted to the policy of keeping the undertrial prisoners both at Alipore and at Midnapore in solitary confinement. We freely confess to having succumbed to a sort of a feeling of admiration when we found the bureaucracy unperturbed and unprovoked by the bomb into abandoning its ordinary method of coping with the difficulties in its way through the medium of the law Courts and the Legislature. To be able to stand with a calm face in the threatening presence of the missile of death, to keep the brute strength of the army well in the background, and resist the first and natural temptation of "martial law and no damned nonsense," to refrain from recourse to any extraordinary exercise of executive authority, to promulgate its easy reliance on a Draconic administration of the civil law alone as a sufficient remedy for the new political visitation,—thus to seek to bring home to the people of this country in particular, and of the world in general, an assuring demonstration of its moral strength and stability, was certainly statesmanship of a truly imperial stamp.

BANDE MATARAM,
23rd Sept. 1906.

"The behaviour of the bureaucracy since the tragedy at Alipore was discovered has dislodged the Government from the position of moral vantage it occupied at the beginning. It no longer dares to regard itself safe within the limits of the law, and is now thinking to encroach itself behind the parapet of executive *zulum*. Solitary confinement is a mode of punishment, and to relegate undertrial prisoners to it is to punish them before the imputed guilt has been brought home to them.

"The treatment accorded to the prisoners in the two jails thus betrays the utmost innocence on the part of the authorities of even a pretence of respect for the positive provisions of the law, and can only be looked upon as an extra legal exercise by the bureaucracy of its executive powers."

1165. *The Amitra Bazar Patrika* writes:—

The Midnapore accused. "We have received the following telegram from our special correspondent at Midnapore, describing the jail life of the accused:—

*AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA*,
26th Sept. 1906.

JAIL LIFE OF THE ACCUSED.

The prisoners are kept in small cells having a grated door, but no windows for passage of air. The cells are 5 to 6 cubits long and 3 to 4 cubits broad.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

They are kept separate and not allowed any communication with each other.

READING NOT ALLOWED.

Books or papers are not allowed.

Abinash Babu prayed for permission to read the *Statesman*, the *Daily News*, the *Patrika*, the *Bengalee*, the *Hindabadi*, and the *Bangabasi*, which were to be supplied to him by his friends. He also prayed for fruits to be sent by his relatives, as he was suffering from diabetes. His prayer was refused.

Others did not apply.

Jotindra Babu prayed for a Bible and a Ramayana. With much difficulty the petition for only the Bible was granted.

FOOD.

They get a slice of loaf and sugar in the morning; hospital rice, dal and curry at mid-day; rice and boiled meat forming the evening meal.

They have no separate latrines, and have to obey nature's call in their respective cells which are cleaned twice a day.

"The above needs very little comment. Fancy the situation. The accused are all gentlemen. Many of them are wealthy zamindars. Not a scrap of legal evidence has up till now been produced against them. And yet they have each to live in a cell which is 5 to 6 cubits long and 3 to 4 cubits broad! And they have been passing their days and nights in these holes since July! Is it not dreadful in all conscience? But to add to their misery they are kept separate and not allowed to communicate with one another. Nay, not only must they not talk but they must not read also. How long can an intellectual man lead such a life? They are, we fancy, not blindfolded; but though their eyes are free, these necessarily soon get tired by gazing constantly on the same dark space measuring only 5 by 3 feet. Then think of the roasting heat to which they are being subjected. There are no windows in these cells for the passage either of air or of light, and the inmates are certainly not supplied with hand *punkhas* to cool themselves. The latrine arrangement beats hollow every other thing. They have to take their food in the same cell where they have also to satisfy calls of nature! Can anything be more abominable to a Hindu? We simply wonder that the accused have not yet gone mad after leading such a dreary life and for such a length of time. Is it necessary in the interests of justice that they should be subjected to these terrible sufferings? We have appealed several times to Sir Andrew Fraser on this subject: we now beg to invite His Honour's attention to the telegram published above."

(d)—Education.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th Sept. 1908.

1166. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is sincerely thankful to Sir Andrew for his solicitude in preventing our hopefuls from being infidels. When the education of Indian lads was in the hands of Hindu teachers, the nation was not confronted with any such danger; indeed, religious instruction formed a part and parcel of the education imparted in our *patshalas* and *tols*. This state of things has ceased to exist; and knowledge and education must now be imparted either through European, or Europeanised Indian, teachers and professors. The necessary result is the evil pointed out by the Lieutenant-Governor. It might have been neutralised to a large extent if the people were left to themselves in the matter of education, Government merely supplying the funds; but since such a proposal is not likely to find favour with the rulers, the other remedy lies in taking special care in the selection of teachers and professors, that is to say, to give preference to such only as have a religious turn of mind, who in teaching literature or science, would seek every opportunity to impress upon their pupils the cardinal principles of religion without, however, entering into any creed or particular system of religious belief.

(h)—General.

BENGALER,
11th Sept. 1908.

1167. The *Bengaler* is of opinion that the remission of a part of the sentence on Mr. Tilak affords evidence of the growing consciousness of the authorities that the punishment inflicted on him was excessively heavy and disproportionate to the offence alleged to have been committed. The Government has now accepted, though in a half-hearted and hesitating manner, the Indian view of the punishment inflicted upon Mr. Tilak, subject to the limitations which the requirements of prestige impose upon it. Although nothing is more painful to the Indian authorities than the confession of a mistake, nothing is more honourable, and, in the present advanced stage of Indian public opinion, more truly in accordance with the prestige which it should be the duty of all Governments to uphold, than the frank and open admission, followed by the retraction, of mistakes committed. But here even the Government falters and hesitates and proceeds in such a halting fashion as to deprive an act of justice and of mercy of half its grace. A marvellous effect, making for conciliation, would have been produced on Indian public opinion, if accepting the Indian view the Government had altogether or substantially remitted the sentence on Mr. Tilak. The Government has missed a golden opportunity, though it is hoped that in the near future it will avail itself of it.

The journal can think of nothing more calculated to jeopardize the prospects of conciliation, upon which the Government has apparently set its heart, than the unhappy prosecutions and the heavy sentences which are inflicted upon the accused in the recent sedition cases. They constitute a menace to freedom of speech and writing which is regarded as a valued right. In a recent speech Sir Andrew Fraser invited Indians to co-operate with the Government and local officials. But the journal desires to tell him that speeches will not secure the contentment of the people or allay the present excitement. They have had enough of speeches; they want something more substantial.

1168. Adverting to the partition of Bengal, the *Bengalee* writes:—

The most "efficient" administration in the Indian Empire.

"The partition of Bengal was carried out with a view to secure efficiency in the administration of the new Province. It was thought that the two parts of the province constituted too great a charge for one ruler. Hence in the interests of efficient administration it became necessary to divide the province, reduplicate the higher appointments and provide a number of comfortable berths for the Civil Service. Three years ago about this time the partition was carried out; and now we are fairly in a position to judge of the measure by its fruits. Wide spread unrest, spreading from Bengal all over India, is the most tangible fruit of the partition of Bengal. In the new Province itself there has been an increase of the police force, a substantial addition to the corps of spies and detectives and ampler prison accommodation. What a splendid record—what a monument of efficient administration! Even Anglo-Indian writers can no longer shut their eyes to the bitter truth, and the authors of the partition are so thoroughly ashamed of their work that they deny its paternity."

BENGALIAN,
27th Sept. 1908.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1169. The *Bengalee* hopes that anti-partition demonstrations will be held

The 16th October celebration.

on the 16th of October all over the province with the usual enthusiasm and with befitting seriousness and dignity. Although with the Secretary of State the partition is a settled fact, the people refuse to regard it as such. With them, if anything is a settled fact, it is that they decline to accept the partition as a final and definite administrative arrangement. Where in history has a popular cause ever failed, if its advocates and supporters remain true to it. The repressive policy of the last twelve months is regarded as a necessary incident of the struggle. It will not divert the people by one hair's breadth from the path they have deliberately chosen in the interests of the country.

BENGALIAN,
26th Sept. 1908.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL.
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 3rd October 1908.

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

