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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 6th December 1902.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

Referring to the Police Commission, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 26th November says that every one of the witnesses examined by the Commission has laid the blame of corruption on the lower police. Many of them have even charged Superintendents of Police with the crime. But the Commission's enquiry on this point has begun and ended in the single question as to whether police officers are adequately paid or not. If the Commission thinks that increase of pay alone will remove the evil, it is mistaken. More questions should be put to the witnesses on the point in order to ascertain the best ways of ensuring the purity of the police service. Want of purity is the only cause of police oppression.

2. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 27th November says that, under the existing Chaukidari Act, the chaukidars and dafadars have become a part and parcel of the regular police, a body of punitive police, as it were, perpetually stationed in each village, the cost of which has to be paid by the villagers in the shape of the chaukidari tax. But, though Government has gradually converted the chaukidars from village servants into regular policemen, it has not exempted villagers from the tax, although it exempted the people from all police taxes by one of its own statutes. Government might have reimposed a police tax in an open manner, but the trickery it employs in maintaining the chaukidari tax is not worthy of it.

Government should, indeed, do something in the matter, as the whole country considers the chaukidar a useless and worthless institution.

3. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th November draws the attention of the Police Commissioner, Calcutta, and of the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality to the following:—

- (1) Both the footpaths along the Harrison Road from the Hewrah Bridge to Chitpore Road are blocked by *pardahs* and benches belonging to the shops situate on both sides of the road and by petty hawkers who sit and expose their goods for sale on the footpaths. These hawkers are regularly made to pay blackmail to the beat constables.
- (2) The footpaths on the north of Manohar Das's Chak are similarly blocked by the stools and even the almirahs of the shop-keepers.
- (3) About a hundred cows roam at their will or lie down on the footpaths in this portion of the Harrison Road the whole day and even till midnight, causing serious inconvenience to pedestrians.
- (4) Notwithstanding the agitation of last year, Cabulis are just now occupying the footpaths on both sides of the Harrison Road from Pageyapati to Chitpore Road.

Considering the way in which anybody and everybody blocks this road at his pleasure, it is impossible to believe that there is either police or a municipality in Calcutta.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

4. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 26th November says that on the 18th November last Mr. Dentith, the Subdivisional Officer of Giridih. Mr. Dentith, the Subdivisional Officer of Giridih in the Sonthal Parganas, was hearing a cow-killing case which had created a good deal of agitation among the local Hindus and Muhammadans. A large crowd gathered in the *verandah* in front of the Court-room to hear the proceedings of the case. There was an order that no native witness should appear in the Court with his shoes on. According to this order, a witness had left his dirty and tattered *nagra* shoes on the *verandah* before he appeared in the witness-box. While the examination of this witness was going on, Mr. Dentith looked up and saw the large crowd that had assembled. The sight so enraged him that he rose, jumped into the *verandah* and pursued

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 26th, 1902.

JYOTI,
Nov. 27th, 1902.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 28th, 1902.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 26th, 1902.

the men, who fled from him, as sheep fly from a wolf. In his rage the *Sahab* took up one of the pair of *nagra* shoes left by the witness and threw it towards them.

It is now time for the Government to think whether Mr. Dentith is fit to sit on the judicial bench, or whether a lunatic asylum would not be a fit habitation for him.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 28th, 1902.

5. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th November says that the way in which the Court is generally conducting itself in the Tilak case and its attitude towards the defence in particular have caused a good deal of surprise. The prayer of the accused's counsel for a postponement on the ground (1) that Mr. Branson, who had been engaged for the defence, could not possibly attend the Court before a certain date; and (2) that it was not possible to make certain necessary papers available in the course of the day for the purpose of defence was refused, and the utmost favour that the Court, which had been found so ready to oblige the chief witness for the prosecution, was willing to show to the defence was a postponement for 45 minutes only. Nor was this all. During the cross-examination of the first witness the Court did not allow the defence to put many necessary questions and file some important documents. All this has led many people to question the Magistrate's impartiality. In connection with this case, it is clearly the duty of the authorities so to arrange for its trial that the public may not find an opportunity of indulging in suspicions of any kind.

(d)—Education.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 27th, 1902.

6. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 27th November says that Mr. Pedler is making education in Bengal a field for the earning of money by Europeans. Europeans have been appointed examiners in all subjects, except Bengali, Hindi and Urdu in the ensuing examination of B and C classes. Books published by Macmillan & Co. and Longmans, Green & Co. occupy a large space in the list of text-books for vernacular schools.

SANJIVANI.

7. The same paper complains of the extremely insanitary condition of the *busti* surrounding the Eden Hindu Hostel, Calcutta. Connected with this *busti* and on the east of the Hostel is situate Madhav Babu's bazar which emits, day and night, a most insufferable stench and pollutes the surrounding atmosphere, in spite of the utmost efforts of the Municipality to keep the bazar in a healthy condition. The *busti* between the Senate House and the Hostel is occupied by *muchis* (shoe-makers) who keep their houses and the road (Pyari Charan Sarkar's Street) in front of them in a most unhealthy condition. The refuse thrown on the street by these *muchis* and by the low class people living on its northern side turns it into a veritable hell. Such is the hygienic condition of the Hostel in which live some hundreds of the students of the Presidency College and the Hare and Hindu Schools. The authorities concerned are requested to remove these unhealthy conditions and thereby save the lives of the boarders of the Hostel.

JYOTI,
Nov. 27th, 1902.

8. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 27th November writes as follows :—
From time to time the authorities issue circulars requiring the employment of Musalmans in the public service in the proportion which the Musalman population of the province bears to its Hindu population. Only in May last, Mr. Macpherson, Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, issued a circular to all District Boards requiring them to keep in mind this principle in appointing inspecting pandits for schools. Orders have accordingly been issued for the District Boards of Chittagong and Noakhali to give three out of the four Inspecting Panditships under each of them to Musalmans, and for the Tippera Board to give five out of the nine under it to Musalmans. The same principle will have to be followed everywhere in Bengal. Now what is the object of issuing these circulars? Many suspect that the object is to loosen the bond of fellow-feeling between Hindus and Musalmans by showing a false preference for the latter. That this partiality for Musalmans is not

genuine is shown by the fact that while, on the one hand, the above circular has been issued, Government has, on the other, stopped all scholarships which enabled poor Musalman students to prosecute their studies in Normal schools, and thereby qualify themselves for inspecting panditships. It would have been more reasonable for Government first to afford facilities to Musalman students to read in Normal schools and then to issue the circular referred to. Again, if Government is really anxious to distribute appointments equally among the different communities, why has not Mr. Macpherson issued a circular to give certain appointments to Buddhists? If Government's affection for the Musalmans was a genuine feeling, it would have thrown open to them appointments in the Preventive and Railway services. But, instead of doing that, it only makes a show of partiality for them only in connection with fields of employment in which education is a necessary qualification, and to enter which will necessitate a collision and competition with Hindus, in which the Musalmans are sure to be beaten by their rivals.

9. The *Mishtabhashi* [Calcutta] of the 29th November says:—

The doom of the Bengali language.

Under Mr. Pedler books written by such eminent authors as Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Akshay Kumar Datta, Jadu Gopal Chatterji, Navin Chandra Sen and Mahendra Chakravarti have been displaced in the field of vernacular education by those published by European firms or written by such men as Sasi Bhusan Chatterji, Isan Chandra Ghosh, Prasanna Chandra Vidyaratna and Gangadhar Banerji. The Upper and Lower Primary and Middle Vernacular Examinations will be abolished from 1904. Only scholarship examinations will be held as private examinations. All these will soon have the desired effect of ruining the Bengali language, and with the decline of the Bengali language the cursed vernacular press, which so acrimoniously criticises the Government, will be doomed. Another of Mr. Pedler's actions is so ridiculous that it makes us laugh. In 1871 Sir George Campbell separated Bengali literature from the study of the Bengali language. Mr. Pedler has gone a step further. He has abolished the study of Bengali grammar. One can easily think what a knowledge of the Bengali language would be without a knowledge of its grammar.

MISHTABHASHI,
Nov. 29th, 1902.

10. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 30th November says that

Examiners for the B and C classes of High schools.

Mr. Pedler, Director of Public Instruction, has shown his partiality for Europeans, not only in the selection of text-books for the vernacular examinations, but also in the selection of examiners for the examinations of the B and C classes of High schools. Except the examiners in Bengali, Hindi and Urdu, the rest of the examiners are all Europeans. Are there not in India any Europeans well versed in Bengali, Hindi and Urdu, who might have been appointed examiners in these subjects? Praised be the Education Department! The arrangement is quite worthy of the times.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Nov. 30th, 1902.

11. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 1st December says:—

The list of text-books for vernacular examinations.

One need not feel astonished when one sees that English publishers stand victorious in the recently published list of text-books for vernacular examinations, and that Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and Akshay Kumar Datta have been driven out of the field. When the Universities Commission is trying its best to suppress higher education, why should not Mr. Pedler do the same to suppress lower education? Europeans must always be supported, whether or not it is education which students are to receive. There is nothing to wonder at in this.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Dec. 1st, 1902.

12. Referring to the list of text-books for the vernacular examinations of 1904, recently published by the Director of Public Instruction, the *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla]

The list of text-books for the vernacular examinations of 1904.

of the 2nd December says that most of the books selected are works published either by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. or Messrs. Longmans & Co. of England. But is there such a dearth of authors in Bengal that the Director had no alternative but to select books published by English firms? Indians must despair of improving their condition, if Europeans evince such partiality for their own countrymen.

TRIPURA
HITAISHI,
Dec. 2nd, 1902.

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

KHULNA.
Nov. 20th, 1902.

13. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 20th November says that in none of the dispensaries in Khulna town is there to be found a passed compounder, although the proprietor of every one of these dispensaries was, some time ago, ordered to keep at least one passed compounder.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 28th, 1902.

14. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th November draws the attention of the Municipal authorities of Calcutta to the insanitary condition of the two students' hostels situated at 64, College Street. The drains in the eastern portion of the buildings in which the hostels are located are in a very bad condition, and emit stench which affects the health of the inmates.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Nov. 30th, 1902.

15. A Mymensingh correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 30th November says that a vaccinator of that town, named Bipin Chandra De, one day called at the house of a respectable resident and wanted to vaccinate his children. On the gentleman saying that his children were all ill and could not, therefore, be vaccinated at the time, the vaccinator treated him most rudely and threatened to prosecute him criminally. A young man who interposed was foully abused by the vaccinator and narrowly escaped being beaten with a shoe by him. The matter was brought to the notice of the local authorities, but no notice appears to have been taken of the complaint. Is it right to keep such a rude man, ignorant of good manners, in the responsible post of a vaccinator?

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

HITAVADI.
Nov. 20th, 1902.

16. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th November says that the existing practice of selling a whole *taluk* for default in the payment of its Government revenue by one of its co-sharers causes loss and hardship to other co-sharers who are in no way responsible for such default. If Government sells only the share of the defaulter, no loss will be caused to it, whilst the defaulter will get his meed, and no injury will be done to innocent co-sharers. Government should lose no time in making this change in its revenue-sale practice, in order to save innocent people from unjust harassment.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Dec. 1st, 1902.

17. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 1st December says that the attention of the authorities has more than once been drawn in the columns of this newspaper to the oppressions which are committed by Messrs. Watson & Co. of Midnapore on their tenants. Mr. Luson, the District Magistrate, whose courage, kindness and impartiality have endeared him to his people, has now taken up the cause of the poor raiyats against their oppressive zamindars. It is rumoured that he has invited the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division in order to show him the iniquities of the Company. Fortunately the Commissioner also is a man of justice and impartiality. It is hoped that there will soon be an end to the quarrels between the zamindars and their tenants.

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

JYOTI,
Nov. 27th, 1902.

18. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 27th November draws attention to the hardship which the proposed levying of tolls on the Chaktai Nullah by the Chittagong Port authorities will cause to the people of the district, and requests the higher authorities to reconsider the question.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 28th, 1902.

19. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th November complains that though every Indian railway makes a third class passenger an allowance of fifteen seers free luggage, railway servants often deprive passengers of this concession. Lately, the luggage of a passenger at the Howrah Station was found to weigh 19 seers, and he was charged four annas, although, making an allowance of 15 seers, he ought to have been charged not more than four pice for the excess luggage of four seers at the sanctioned rate of 8 annas per maund.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 28th, 1902.

20. A correspondent of the same paper writing from Ajhapur in the Burdwan district, says that a proposal has been long on foot for the abolition of the irrigation works in the Hooghly and Burdwan districts.

The irrigation canals in the Hooghly and Burdwan districts.

Government, it is said, is sustaining loss from those works, and do not therefore wish to maintain them any longer. But the proposal has caused the raiyats to raise a cry of alarm, because they foresee that the abolition of the canals will mean utter ruin to them. A comparison of the condition of the raiyats in the days when there were no canals in the above two districts with their present condition will be enough to convince anybody of the prosperity that canals have brought to their door and the circumstances to which they will be reduced by the abolition of such useful public works.

Government is just now enquiring into the good and evil of canal irrigation and has invited the opinions of zamindars on the subject. But no good will come of such opinions unless they are based on the views of raiyats.

Some people are of opinion that canals do no good and that wells and tanks are more useful for irrigation purposes than canals. All this hears very good; but how many people are able to meet the cost of excavating tanks and wells for irrigating their fields and to pay for the labour that is required in lifting the water?

The Burdwan, Hooghly and Nadia districts depend almost entirely on rain water for irrigating their fields. But they seldom get sufficient rain in the months of Asarh and Sravan, which are the months most important in all agricultural operations. Tanks and wells, too, cannot supply water if there has been no rainfall. It is true, the Damodar river flows through the Burdwan and Hooghly districts, but its sudden floods do more harm than good. Canals, on the other hand, keep up a constant supply without doing any damage.

One bigah of land requires two labourers for a day to water it thoroughly from a tank or well, and the wages of two labourers, including diet allowance, for a day are, at 9 annas per head, Re. 1-2. To water a field of 100 bigahs would therefore require 10 labourers for 20 days, that is to say, would entail a cost of Rs. 100. But every raiyat is not a rich man who can afford this expense, nor is so much labour available in the market, even taking into account the Sonthal labour which is largely availed of in these parts.

The correspondent has heard it said that canals introduce malaria into the places where they are constructed. But was there no malaria in the country before the introduction of canals? How were the villages Daulia, Masagram, Kanchannagar and several others depopulated? Supposing all canals to be filled up, would not the *beels*, *dobas* and tanks that would remain cause as much disease from malarial poison as is caused at present?

The raiyats of the Hooghly and Burdwan districts earnestly pray to Government not to abolish irrigation canals in their districts, but rather to extend them. Extension of canals in the Burdwan district would not only grant it perfect immunity from famine, but would make it an important granary like Backergunge. As no water remains in the Damodar river in the month of Kartik, great difficulty for water is experienced in cultivating *rabi* crops. A dam or anicut in that river would increase the outturn of the *rabi* crops a thousandfold, and the raiyats would be willing to pay even a higher water-rate than five annas per bigah, which they now pay, if they could get water in the month of Kartik.

21. A correspondent of the *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 29th November makes the following complaints against the Howrah-Amta Light Railway:—

NAVA YUG,
Nov. 29th, 1902.

(1) There is no waiting room for passengers at the Howrah terminus, who are, therefore, seriously inconvenienced when waiting for trains.

(2) The trains are very irregular. On the 29th October last the train which was to leave Howrah at 6 P.M. did not arrive at the station till after 8-30 P.M.

(3) Though each car is intended to carry only eighteen passengers, they are often made to accommodate as many as twenty-five or twenty-six. Any passenger who objects to such overcrowding is threatened with rough handling by the ticket collectors.

PRATIVASI,
Dec. 1st, 1902.

(4) Notwithstanding repeated complaints against the management of this line, nothing is done to remove the grievances of passengers.

22. A correspondent of the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st December says that Babu Braja Gopal Niyogi was a clerk in the Audit Branch of the coaching section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway office. He had served in the office with credit for the last ten years. Some time ago he was obliged to take sick leave, first for one month and then for another month, and was under allopathic treatment. Finding that allopathy did him no good, he had recourse to kaviraji treatment by the well-known Kaviraj Bijay Ratna Sen of Calcutta. He then applied for 15 days' more leave. On this he was dismissed from his service without any notice. He could have been granted leave for 15 days without pay. At least, he should have been informed that if he did not join office at once, he would be dismissed. But the poor clerk, who had spent the best part of his life in serving the Government, was dismissed without any intimation.

A highly-paid man of the same office has been enjoying three months' leave on half-pay, and has received, without any hitch, sanction of another month's leave on the same rate of pay.

It is incomprehensible why such partiality should exist in the Railway service. It is hoped that the Examiner of Accounts of the Railway will be good enough to reinstate the poor clerk in his post.

(h)—General.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Dec. 1st, 1902.

23. Referring to the plague inoculation mishaps in the Punjab, the *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 1st December asks who is responsible for these horrible massacres. The writer is anxious to know whether Government has made a searching enquiry into the matter, and what help it proposes to give to the families of the deceased men.

ROZNAME-I-MUKADDAS
DAR HABLUL
MATEEN,
Dec. 1st, 1902.

24. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 1st December says that two memorials of a very important nature will be submitted to the Viceroy on the occasion of the Imperial Darbar at Delhi, one by the Hindus against cowslaughter in India, and the other by the Musalmans of Delhi for the restoration of the confiscated *wakf* properties of the *Jama Masjid*. Lord Curzon may take the prayer of the Musalmans of Delhi into his consideration, but no one can say how His Excellency will treat the representation of the Hindus.

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

NIHAR,

25. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 2nd December prays the Collector of Midnapore and the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division to enquire, during their ensuing cold weather tour, about the condition of the raiyats in the Contai subdivision. Failure of crops in Argoal, Daudpur and other villages for a number of years, caused by bad drainage, has reduced the raiyats to the last extremity, and many of them are not getting even one meal a day. Remissions of rent ought to be granted to the raiyats of these parts.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Nov. 25th, 1902.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

26. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 25th November says:—
The late Sir John Woodburn. We shall never forget the kind treatment which we used to receive at the hands of the late large-hearted Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The ruler who, on the outbreak of plague in Calcutta, relaxed the severity of the plague rules out of deference to the public feeling, and thereby saved the *ijjat* of the residents of Calcutta, will, though dead, ever live in our memory and continue to receive our heart-felt gratitude and homage. We are poor and helpless. We have nothing but our gratitude and our tears to offer to Sir John Woodburn's sorrowing family, who, we hope, will find some consolation in them. May the Almighty God give them peace and strength to bear their loss.

27. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 25th November says that in the opinion of the majority of Anglo-Indians the Indians are a disaffected people, always calumniating and finding fault with their rulers. Let these Anglo-Indians mark the gratitude with which every Bengali remembers the name of the late Sir John Woodburn, although the late Lieutenant-Governor was conspicuous for no great boon which he had conferred on the people of Bengal. It is the sight of partiality that governs the relations between the conqueror and the conquered in the Legislative Councils and in reference to the actions of almost every Englishman living in India which pains the natives and sometimes leads them to use strong language against their rulers. But in the heart of their hearts they are a most loyal people, full of generous feelings and broad sympathies. The little discontent which prevails in India is due to the suspicion with which Indians are regarded by Englishmen.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 25th, 1902.

28. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 26th November thus writes about the late Sir John Woodburn:—
His heart was full of affability, courtesy and kindness. He believed in God, and God has taken care of his soul. May He console his mourning widow and daughters in their sad bereavement. His name will always be remembered by us with gratitude.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 26th, 1902.

29. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 26th November writes as follows about the late Sir John Woodburn:—
The inhabitants of Murshidabad saw Sir John in their midst only four months ago, and they have not yet forgotten his smiling face, kind words and kind treatment of all. His subordinates could learn much from him. Whenever he visited the mufassal he mixed freely with the people, and was affable and courteous to all, and gathered all the information he could obtain. The news of his death came as a sudden shock to the people of Murshidabad, who are now praying to God to give his relatives strength to bear his loss.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Nov. 26th, 1902.

30. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 26th November has the following:—
Immense preparations are being made in Delhi. King Edward VII of England will be proclaimed the Emperor of India. Distinguished people from different countries are coming to attend the Delhi Darbar in response to official invitation, while bejewelled Native Princes, commanded as they have been by the Viceroy, are hastening to the spot to show their loyalty to the sovereign. While some among them will hold an umbrella over the Viceroy's head, the others will carry the skirts of His Excellency's State robes and take their stand by his side on the *daris*. Many officials and not a few native notabilities have been invited to the Darbar, and their presence will doubtless enhance its greatness and glory. There is great activity and bustle, and the utmost endeavour is being made to make the brilliant function a success. But while by an expenditure of crores of rupees raised from a poor and famished people Lord Curzon is thus going to proclaim to the world England's absolute sovereignty over India and his own glory, and while his distinguished guests will return from the Darbar highly pleased with the courteous hospitality they will have enjoyed, will there be nobody to enquire whether those who have paid for the celebration have in any way benefited by it?

BARISAL HITAISHI,
Nov. 26th, 1902.

Every city and town in the country has been ordered by the Viceroy to feed the poor and feast school-boys on the occasion of the Durbar. But at whose cost is this to be done? Of course, the Magistrates, supported by the Native Rajas and Rai Bahadurs, will start public subscriptions, and people will be asked to pay one rupee each in aid of the proposed entertainment. But in the language of the Indians such conduct is styled conduct worthy of a merchant. If I must feed my boys at my own cost, if the beggars who flock to my door must be fed even on this day of feasting and rejoicing out of my own small store of provisions, then, O Emperor, what good would your Coronation do; of what use would this celebration prove? It is, of course, true that I feel a pleasure in thinking of your Coronation, but

you are not going to allow us to enjoy that pleasure. If instead of publicly placing subscription books in the hands of the police and the Magistracy, you had to-day caused the distribution of even small handfuls of rice from your khas treasury and followed it up by calling on your hungry Indian subjects to join in this Coronation festival, then would your greatness and glory, O Emperor of India, have remained engraven on their hearts in letters more distinct and durable than those in which lies recorded thereon the memory of Yudhisthir's *rajshuya*. Have you, by the mouth of your Viceroy, ordered us to illuminate our houses and courtyards on that day? Is it you who have directed that arrangements should be made for entertaining the public with *Yâtrâ* performances, dances and fireworks? We are ready to obey with all submission your orders and directions. Come and see, we, in this small and insignificant town, situate in a remote corner of your vast, world-wide empire, are about to duly celebrate your Coronation at a cost of six thousand rupees, a sixth part of which amount will be paid for the performances of an operatic troupe hailing from the metropolis. But, O Emperor of India, be pleased to listen to one word of this poor man. I shall indeed illuminate my house and courtyard, but now that famine and pestilence have depopulated my house, tell me for whom and with whose assistance shall I decorate my house, whose face is it that I shall with gladness see lighted up by the rows of lamps used in the illumination, &c. You are inviting me to the Darbar, but there is my spleen which it is always necessary for me to carefully save and protect from your fellow countrymen. How could I mix with them at the Darbar? The fear lest they should strike my emaciated body with burning bullets, mistaking me for a beast, always keeps me paralysed. How could I attend the Darbar in their company? How shall I appear before your police and Magistracy whom your laws and regulations have made an object of terror to me? How shall I appear before them, failure to humour whom would lead to consequences from which even your laws and the highest court in the land would be powerless to save me? The thought of the ensuing Darbar puts me in mind of Yudhisthir's *rajshuya*, but I shall not now think of that event. The thought also awakens the memory of the Imperial Assemblage which was held at Delhi not many years ago, and of the words of hope and comfort to which the assembled guests were treated on that occasion by the late Empress Victoria. I am unable to speak out my mind and the Viceroy has told us that you do not like to listen to complaints on a day of rejoicing. We shall therefore content ourselves with saying only one word. On that day do but once read that Proclamation of your late mother, but let no minister read it over to you, and do also read with your own eyes the papers describing how the administration of this country is being carried on by your officials. When you have done that, be pleased to send for us. We shall then place the dust of your feet on our heads and consider ourselves supremely blest. Else why do you, so long as that remains undone, make the world reverberate with this empty noise?

HARISAL HITAISHI,
Nov. 26th, 1902.

31. The same paper says that Sir John Woodburn endeared himself to the people of Bengal by his generosity, courtesy and love of justice. His plague policy has made his name a household word in Bengal. The faults which marked his administration were not due to any bad intention on his part, but to the inherent faults of the present policy of British rule in India. The inhabitants of the Backergunge district will always remember his name with gratitude for the promptness with which he set himself to remove their grievances in connection with the landlords' fee. To Lady Woodburn and other members of the family of the deceased are due the sympathy of the people of Bengal for their sad bereavement.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 27th, 1902.

32. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 27th November says that it is true that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce telegraphed to the Government of India its desire to see Mr. Bourdillon appointed to the Officiating Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal. But was it in accordance with the desire of the Chamber that Mr. Bourdillon was appointed to the officiating post?

33. A correspondent of the same paper says that great oppression is

Collection of subscriptions for the celebration of the Emperor's Coronation in Bogra.

being committed in connection with the collection of subscriptions for the celebration of the Emperor's Coronation in the Bogra district. The estimated cost of the celebration is Rs. 32,000, but it is feared that eight or ten thousand more will be required. Bogra is a very poor district, and with the exception of two zamindars, who have each an income of about a lakh of rupees, all its zamindars are petty landholders whose incomes range between ten and twenty thousand rupees only. One of the above two big zamindars has subscribed Rs. 2,000 to the celebration fund, and the other is expected to subscribe almost an equal amount, a few rupees more or less. Deducting these four or five thousand rupees from the sum required, a sum of nearly thirty-six thousand rupees is left to be raised from the poor inhabitants of the district.

Systematic methods have been adopted to realise this money. Every panchayet in the district has been served with a notice asking him to collect a sum from Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 within his jurisdiction, and send the money within the month of November. The Income-tax Collector is realising from those who pay Rs. 20 or more as income-tax subscriptions proportionate to their assessments. The District Magistrate himself keeps a subscription-book in which no one is allowed to subscribe less than Rs. 10. Fear of displeasing the *sarkar* compels everyone to pay. It has been decided at a meeting held on the 7th November last, that the Emperor's Coronation will be celebrated in Bogra by holding *nautches*, *jatras*, theatres, fireworks and other amusements, and by the construction of a public hall and a rest-house, in addition to the feasting of school-boys and the poor, and other entertainments. Are prostitutes, dances, *jatras*, theatres, &c., indispensable for the occasion? There is the Thompson Hall in Bogra town at the disposal of the public. Where is then the need of a separate public hall and a rest-house?

34. The same paper says:—

The late Sir John Woodburn. "Of the Lieutenant-Governors who held the reins of the administration of Bengal, none was so gentle, courteous, kind and generous as the late Sir John Woodburn. He proved himself to be all kindness when the plague scare prevailed in Calcutta and shook its very foundations. When he heard that Calcutta was submerged in rain water, he came down from his pleasant seat in Darjeeling, consoled the sufferers, and assured them that the stringent laws of the Calcutta Municipality would not be enforced against them in rebuilding the houses which they had lost in the water. Sir John was above vanity and conceit. He used to visit plague-stricken houses of poor people and sympathise with their woes. Who does not know that once he shed tears when he heard that a post-master had lost a son in plague? Who does not know that once, when he was driving in Kalighat, he met a son of an old subordinate of his, and treated him with great fondness? Sir John was kindness embodied.

Sir John tried his best to purify both society and the individual. His proclamation against the barmaids of Calcutta is well-known. Once he consented to visit a theatre in Calcutta. But when he heard that prostitutes played in it, he resolutely refused to go.

He was a great friend of students. Wherever he went he pleased them with medals, prizes, and sweetmeats.

His love of female education was sincere and earnest. Wherever he went he visited girls' schools.

Bengal now laments the death of one who possessed so many and more noble qualities.

35. The *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 28th November contains a Sanskrit poem lamenting the death of Sir John Woodburn.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Nov. 28th, 1902.

36. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th November writes as follows:—
This is not the time to write about the merits and demerits of the late Sir John Woodburn. But it must be admitted that no one bore any ill-will to that affable, large-hearted, and noble-minded Lieutenant-Governor. When the plague first broke out

HITAVADI,
Nov. 28th, 1902.

in Calcutta and its residents were awaiting, with fear and anxiety, Government's orders dealing with the disease, Sir John Woodburn kept his head cool, and not only allayed the panic but strenuously exerted himself to improve the sanitation of the town. It is true he subsequently incurred popular displeasure by passing the Calcutta Municipal Act, but he never incurred anybody's ill-will.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 28th, 1902.

37. The *Mihir-a-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 28th November says that the fact that the route along which Sir John Woodburn's dead body was carried to the Lower Circular Road cemetery was thronged by about two hundred thousand people shows the regard in which the late Lieutenant-Governor was held by the people of Bengal. The writer cannot remember any other occasion on which there was a similar demonstration of public grief. The people who say that there is no truth in the Bengali saying, 'He cannot be reckoned dead, whose name lives after him,' will realise its truth in the case of Sir John Woodburn. The people of Bengal will ever cherish Sir John's pious memory with a grateful heart.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 29th, 1902.

38. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 29th November concludes an obituary notice of Sir John Woodburn in the following manner :—

His Honour was an extremely affable man, and had a strong sense of delicacy. Large numbers of supplicants used every now and then to come to him, and he held out hopes to many of them. But he could not often fulfil their hopes. This was the reason why some people were not pleased with him.

With affability Sir John combined no small degree of independence. Anything on which he set his heart, he tried to accomplish at any cost. The chief stigma on his career as an administrator is said to be the havoc made by famine in the Central Provinces; and he is also blamed for having passed the Calcutta Municipal Act, which curtailed the independence of the Commissioners. But this is not the time to judge of the truth of these two accusations or to set forth the demerits of the departed man; it is the time for mourning his loss and for praising his virtues. Sir John Woodburn was, indeed, so affable, courteous and popular a man that everybody in Bengal has been sorry at his death.

RANGALAYA,
Nov. 29th, 1902.

39. In continuation from its last issue [Report on Native Papers for 29th November, paragraph 30], the *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 29th November publishes the following in English :—

To
LORD CURZON.
IV.

MY LORD,

It is true that the *Governor-General in Council* would not abolish the second-grade Colleges and the law classes of the Arts Colleges by a stroke of the pen, as recommended by the Commission; but it is also true that the standard of efficiency insisted on in Mr. Risley's letter, together with the rules for their affiliation or disaffiliation, will inevitably lead to that result. Briefly speaking, the attainment of the required standard and the conformity with those rules would mean an increase of expenditure which, I fear, it would be very difficult, if not altogether impossible, to meet; and the difficulty would be all the greater in view of the almost absolute certainty of the fixing of a minimum fee, which, as explained in my previous letter, would shut out the poorer students and thus diminish the income of the institutions.

Thus, my Lord, the conclusion is irresistible that you mean to put great restrictions on the spread of higher education in the country, although for reasons, best known to you, you mean to do so under a cover. You prescribe text-books for the various examinations,—you appoint your own examiners to conduct those examinations,—you have your own Inspectors, with Assistants and Deputies to visit the educational institutions from time to time. Under the circumstances, why not judge of efficiency of teaching by results of the examinations and of Inspectorial visits? Why go beyond your legitimate sphere and dictate your own terms and the salaries of professors and fee of students?

As to discipline, why not frame a set of rules, however stringent, as to deal with each case of violation on its own merits? These considerations have often led me to suspect that you have some *purpose* of your own in the matter of the educational policy of the Government, and that you think that to attain your purpose you must first knock on the head the existing facilities for the high *general* and *legal* education.

The Universities Commission wanted to do this in a bold and straightforward way; but this having excited widespread opposition, you, as a consummate politician, have chosen to have recourse to tact and policy.

But what can that *purpose* be? My Lord, in Mr. Risley's letter there are some lines that are very significant, and I shall quote those lines here, inasmuch as they have not attracted that attention of my countrymen that they supremely deserve.

"A consensus of opinion has pronounced that the system adopted experimentally in India nearly half a century ago, while it has been responsible for great strides in higher education, has also developed anomalies and even abuses arising in the main from too close an adherence to lines of working which are not altogether suited to the conditions of the present day, and from which the best educational thought of the time has shown an increasing tendency to separate itself."

"The Government of India confidently anticipate that the majority of the changes recommended by the Commission will have the effect of improving the quality and enlarging the scope of all forms of higher education in India; that they will open to the youth of the country lines of activity and prospects of employment for which their present training fails to equip them; that they will directly promote the intellectual advancement of the *upper classes*, and will both directly and indirectly lead to the development of the resources and industries of India."

My Lord, if this be your *real purpose*, I can assure you that you have the unqualified support and the unstinted sympathy of my countrymen; for your educational reform would then mean employment to the unemployed—food to the starving.

But, My Lord, these lines are not clear or explicit. What is meant by "the upper classes"? Remembering that Mr. Risley has had the drafting of the letter, I presume the phrase means what a Hindu or a Mahomedan understands by "the higher castes."

If so, your purpose would be hailed by them with acclamation; for "the higher castes" are being literally swept off the face of the earth by the indiscriminate rush of all for high education and its emoluments. Then, my Lord, what are those lines of activity and prospects of employment, that you mean to open to the youth of the country, for which their present training fails to equip them? For aught, I know, there must be *new* lines of activity altogether; for they have shown their absolute competency in all the lines which are *already* open to them. And, last of all, I have ransacked the Report of the Universities Commission, but have failed to see how their recommendations will "both directly and indirectly lead to the development of the resources and industries of the country,"—a consummation so much to be desired.

My Lord, I conjure you to explain yourself in reply to the above queries, and I can assure you of the heartiest co-operation of my countrymen in your noble and statesmanlike undertaking.

40. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st December says that the Delhi Darbar should be made the occasion of abolishing a tax, and the salt-tax should receive the first consideration. In the words of Lord George Hamilton "no other tax presses so heavily on the Indian people." In 1888 the then State Secretary for India wrote in a despatch of the 12th April, "I am strongly of opinion that it (salt-tax) should be looked upon as temporary and that no effort should be spared to reduce the general duty as speedily as possible to the former rate." It now rests with the present Government to consider the matter and abolish the taxation on one of the most necessary things of life.

BANKURA
DARPAN,
Dec. 1st, 1902.

Abolition of the Salt-tax proposed.

URIYA PAPERS.

- UTKALDIPIKA, Nov. 22nd, 1902. Fever in Cuttack town and the Jajpur Subdivision.
- UTKALDIPIKA. 41. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 22nd November states that fever prevails in the Cuttack town and in the Jajpur Subdivision of the Cuttack district.
- UTKALDIPIKA. 42. The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper states that the poor people in the Sargara pargana of the Cuttack district have already realised the first approach of distress, and are therefore very uneasy.
- UTKALDIPIKA. 43. The same paper mourns the demise of Sir John Woodburn, and offers sincere condolence to his family and children.
- UTKALDIPIKA. 44. The same paper is glad to notice that the Jajpur Subdivision of the Cuttack district has, under the leadership of its Subdivisional Officer, taken practical steps to celebrate the Coronation on the proper date.
- UTKALDIPIKA. 45. The same paper animadverts upon the strange circular of Mr. Stark, Inspector of Schools, Orissa Division, whereby he directs teachers of all schools in his Division to make their pupils write with both hands. He directs that one line of copy-writing should be done with the right hand, the next line with the left hand, and so on alternately, till the exercise is finished. The writer observes that the circular is calculated to annoy the teachers and guardians, whose pupils and wards will never profit by the arrangement, but simply waste time in vain.
- UTKALDIPIKA. 46. The same paper has every sympathy for the Cuttack Coronation Committee that has resolved to raise Rs. 10,000 to meet the charges of the local Darbar and other Coronation festivities. Considering that the Committee of 1877 could spend only Rs. 3,551, the writer doubts whether the present Committee will be able to raise the desired amount. Supposing that the Committee succeeds in raising Rs. 10,000, it is not at all advisable that the whole amount should be spent on fire-works and other temporary gaieties. The Committee ought to resolve upon the creation of a striking and permanent memento of their proceedings. The co-operation of the Cuttack Exhibition Committee, as evidenced by their willingness to include the exhibition within the Coronation programme, is highly applauded.
- UTKALDIPIKA. 47. The same paper gives an account of the proceedings of the Balasore Coronation Committee, held under the presidency of the Balasore Collector, whose desire to establish a boarding institution for the benefit of the Balasore pupils is commended to the notice of other similar public bodies.
- UTKALDIPIKA. 48. Referring to the evidence given before the Irrigation Commission at Cuttack, the same paper points out that it is an acknowledged fact that the Orissa canals are not paying, and that they cannot be made paying in any way. Thus the probability of excavating any more canals in the Balasore and Puri districts is remote. It is on evidence that the railway and the weekly steamers can bring in adequate food-supply from foreign countries during seasons of distress. But of what use will this supply be if the people have no money to buy their food? Thus the economical problem, based on the poverty of the country, is very difficult to solve; and it requires no small degree of statesmanship to solve it in a satisfactory manner.
- UTKALDIPIKA. 49. The same paper regrets to learn that the supply and management of fire-works in connection with the Delhi Darbar, as also the supply of flags in connection therewith, have been entrusted to British companies much to the chagrin of disappointed firms in India. The writer observes that the patriotism of the Darbar authorities should have prompted them to act otherwise.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 6th December, 1902.

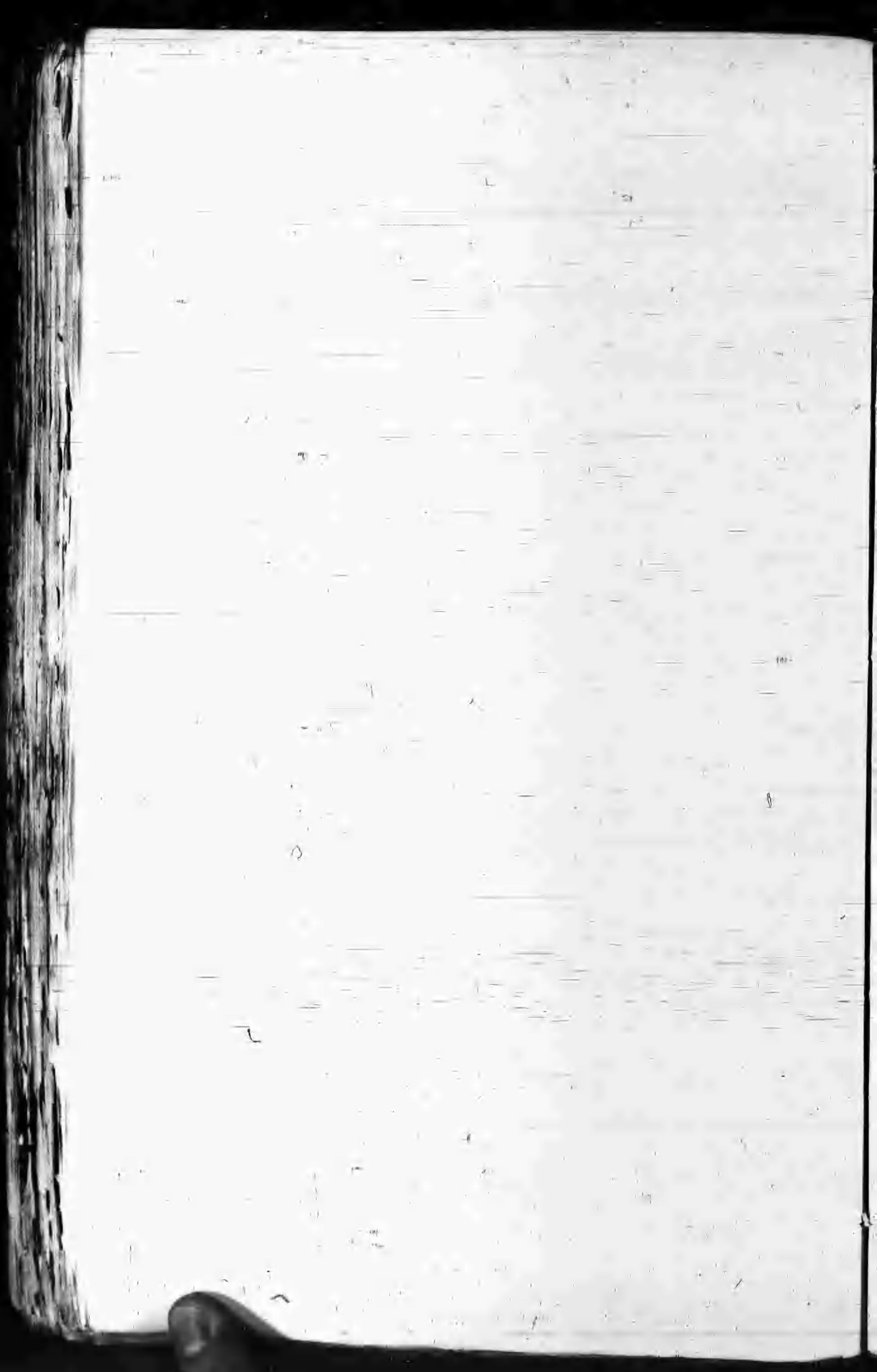
CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

B. S. Press—5360C—78—10-12-1902—C. B. & C. A. P.

REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 6th December 1902.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1622. The *Bengalee*, referring to the report in the *Daily Mail* that Russia is moving 10,000 troops towards the Afghan frontier, says it is of a grave character, and the internal condition of Afghanistan itself affords the Government of India grounds for much uneasiness. It hopes that no untoward development will take place to mar the joyful celebration of the Coronation at Delhi.

BENGALÉE,
30th Nov. 1902.

1623. The *Indian Mirror* refers again to the Russo-Afghan question in connection with its bearing upon the Delhi Darbar, and hopes that in spite of its misgivings, that ceremony will neither have an ominous prelude or a pathetic end. But with Russia's determination to sooner or later have a commercial agent at Kabul, coupled with Lord Kitchener's projects of standing military agencies in the Afghan chief cities, the *Mirror* says its pessimism is not altogether unjustified.

INDIAN MIRROR,
6th Dec. 1902.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1624. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is deeply grateful to the Police Commission for their minute cross-examination of Mr. Dutt; for no one was more fitted to enlighten them on the subject of the influence exercised by District Magistrates over their subordinates in the trial of police cases than an *ex-official* like him who had served as a District Magistrate with great distinction for nearly a quarter of a century, and was thus quite familiar with the advantages and disadvantages of the existing system of administering criminal justice. He is decidedly of opinion that District Magistrates *do interfere* with the judicial independence of their subordinates for the purpose of securing conviction, and his testimony should settle the question for good. The *Patrika* doubts not the Hon'ble President of the Commission is by this time convinced of the fact that the plague-spot in police rule is to be found in the union of the Police and the Magistracy, and that real police reform consists in separating the two and making each independent of the other.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
28th Nov. 1902.

1625. The *Bengalee* has been struck by the unanimity of opinion expressed by "our public men" who have given evidence before the Police Commission that the combination of police and judicial duties in the Magistracy should be dissolved, and eagerly looks forward to the day when the system will be terminated.

BENGALÉE,
29th Nov. 1902.

1626. The same journal fails to see why there should be the restriction imposed by Rule 2 (d) in Chapter XV of the Bengal Police Code in the matter of District Magistrates only exercising the power of instituting prosecutions against police officers under section 29 of Act V of 1861. Equally, as regards Rule 10 (b) and (c) in Chapter II of the same Code, the journal holds that in its practical operation the rule completely frustrates the ends of justice, and instead of promoting them does much harm both to individuals and the public.

BENGALÉE,
30th Nov. 1902.

1627. The *Bengalee* condemns the rule in the Police Act which requires the District Superintendent, when a police officer is accused of a serious offence, such as torture, extortion, grievous hurt or causing death, to personally investigate the charge with the idea that such departmental investigation will aid the judicial enquiry. In practice the observation of this rule tends to spoil the case and is fraught with harm and mischief.

BENGALÉE,
3rd Dec. 1902.

1628. As the Police Commission are, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, desirous of learning instances in which District Magistrates have interfered with the judicial independence of their subordinate Magistrates, it supplies the facts of the case of Babu Parbati Charan Roy, late Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, contributed by that gentleman to *India* in November 1898. It is alleged that this officer incurred the displeasure of Mr. E. N. Baker, then Magistrate of the district,

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th Dec. 1902.

for his failure to inflict adequate sentences, and that Mr. Baker never lost an opportunity to make unfavourable remarks against the officer's decisions. The remarks of Mr. Baker in three cases have been cited.

BENGALIEE,
5th Dec. 1902.

1629. The *Bengalee* is afraid that Mr. Fraser's want of judicial training is likely to materially detract from the value of the inquiry which is now being conducted by the Police Commission. He appears to be simply unrivalled in the art of framing leading questions such as would shock the legal conscience of even a third grade Mukhtear, and he has a way of deprecating and even occasionally resenting such questions as may now and then be put by any of his colleagues, which almost makes one think that the President alone constitutes the Commission, and that his colleagues may as well have absented themselves from its sittings so far as the President is concerned. The journal is forced, from the President's adroitly framed questions regarding the chauthidari tax, to draw the conclusion that one of the recommendations of the Commission is likely to take the shape of an appreciable enhancement of that tax. It hopes and prays, however, that its apprehensions may turn out to be unfounded, but when it looks at the class of witnesses (men like Ishri Parsad of Bankipore), who are being called upon to undergo a *vidâ voce* examination, it confesses its heart is filled with disappointment.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BEHAR HERALD,
29th Nov. 1902.

1630. The *Behar Herald* characterises the appointment of Mr. Geidt to the High Court, in supersession of the claims of Mr. Gupta, as a monstrous abuse of the right of patronage. If, it says, such appointments are decided by considerations as to the color of the skin, it does not know to what point the abuse may not be carried. It does not think after all Lord Curzon is such a zealous protector of Indian interests as some would believe, judging from his speeches and resolutions.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
2nd Dec. 1902.

1631. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* asks the Chief Commissioner of Assam to call for the records in the case of assault brought by one Nabi Bakhsh against Mr. H. Garth, an employé of the Public Works Department, Shillong, and which was dismissed by the Deputy Commissioner, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, on the ground that there were important irreconcilable discrepancies in the evidence of the complainant and his witnesses. The journal publishes the evidence and is surprised that the Deputy Commissioner never even points out the discrepancies that he has found. It expresses the opinion that the question whether the assault was committed remains absolutely undecided.

It next points out that the Government Pleader was retained for the defence of Mr. Garth, which should not have been allowed, and that Nabi Bakhsh, who has appealed, has being in *hasat* since the 25th September, as neither surety nor bail was accepted by the authorities.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Nov. 1902.

1632. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* points to the case of Chanda, the Parsi of Jubbulpur, who was sentenced to be hanged by the Sessions Judge, but acquitted on appeal by the Judicial Commissioner, as affording one of the strongest grounds for the separation of the Police from the Magistracy. This case would in any other country have undoubtedly been thrown out by the lower court, or been tried with the assistance of a jury, but in this instance the opinion of the Indian assessors who found the accused was not guilty was not even accepted. Is there, asks the journal, any reason to wonder at the seething discontent that prevails in India, or that the worst passions of the people are aroused over such failures and perversions of justice?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th Dec. 1902.

1633. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* draws the attention of the Chief Justice to the manner in which the present Criminal Bench is doing its work. Ninety per cent. of the motions, revisions and appeals which come before it are being rejected. This is due, the journal says, to the inexperience of the Judges constituting the Bench, and to the impression under which they labour that the sooner they dispose of cases the better for all parties. It suggests

that one Indian Judge should be appointed to the Criminal Bench and then its constitution would inspire confidence in and give satisfaction to all parties.

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

1634. The *Bengalee* asks why the Government of India does not publish the scheme for the improvement of Calcutta which has been referred back to the Government for further consideration. Is it because it is of a character which will not bear the light of day?

BENGALÉE,
28th Nov. 1902.

1635. The *Bengalee* complains of the bad lighting of streets and thoroughfares in the Northern Division of the town, due to the use of incandescent lamps, and urges the Police to note how many lamps are not lit or how many are badly lit. The Commissioner of Police should be supplied with a copy of the contract of the Gas Company with the Corporation, which will enable his officers to know and check the standard of light laid down for street illumination.

BENGALÉE,
4th Dec. 1902.

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

1636. The *Kayastha Messenger* complains that the Postmaster of Gaya has taken to constantly transferring the postal peons of Gaya from one ward to another.

KAYASTHA MES-
SENGER,
1st Dec. 1902.

The unfortunate men find it difficult, owing the strangeness of their new mahallas, to deliver letters, and it is alleged that in order to show a clean bag, they throw away letters which they cannot deliver. The attention of the Deputy Postmaster-General, Bihar, is drawn to the matter, and he is requested to intervene.

1637. With reference to the circular of the Government of India, Public Works Department, to the Manager of the North-Western Railway, asking him to nominate an Indian apprentice for training in England as Signal Inspector, three Punjabi youths tendered themselves for selection, but they were rejected on the ground that by Indian was meant *European* or *Eurasian*. This interpretation, says the *Bengalee*, is ingenious indeed! It then adds:—

BENGALÉE,
3rd Dec. 1902.

“Profession and practice differ widely as poles asunder, and, for our part, we have grown sceptics of the honeyed language of our rulers, glibly uttered on the platform and in Government Resolutions, signifying nothing, and having a different meaning to the Athenian ears. It is much to be regretted that our rulers do not realise the ridiculousness of the situation, and never for a moment think that in their futile attempt at gullifying the people, they bring themselves to contempt. We are believers in sincerity, and if it is true that present-day statesmanship recommends hollow professions, we cannot too strongly condemn the practice, and the civilisation which countenances such a policy is a dangerous institution.”

(h)—General.

1638. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* offers the following comments on the information which has reached it on this subject:—
“Fancy the nature of the mistake—seventeen persons killed by inoculation! Luckily the mistake was committed in India. If such a thing had happened in any other part of the world, we dare say the whole country would have been convulsed and some people hanged. But such mishaps are not possible in other countries, for no civilized Government would have ventured to experiment with the lives of its subjects in this reckless manner. In the meantime all inoculation has been put a stop to. If after such a tragedy of horrors, the Government had yet persisted in continuing the experiment, then the foolish rumours set afloat by the masses that the Government was, by its so-called plague measures, trying to poison the people would have been partially justified.”

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
28th Nov. 1902.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
29th Nov. 1902.

1639. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reverting to this subject observes:—

The inoculation mishap in the Punjab. "A sifting enquiry into the matter ought to be made at once and a true account published as widely as possible. Compensation ought to be given to the relations of the men thus killed. We do not know who it is that is bound to pay this compensation. Justice requires that either those who made the fatal mistake or Lord George Hamilton ought to do it. It would be altogether wrong to make the Indian public suffer pecuniarily for the mistakes of Lord Hamilton's men.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Dec 1902.

1640. The same journal sees in the published Resolution of the Government of the Punjab on the subject of the mishap as Malkowal, an attempt to shift the blame of the tragedy to the shoulders of the unfortunate victims.

As for the Government's liberal offer to compensate the families of those who died, the journal says:—"This however means that for the apathy of the Government and the carelessness of its officers, it is the people who will have to pay. The cost should be borne by the blundering officers of Government and not the tax-payers of India.

BENGALER,
28th Nov. 1902

1641. Referring to *Capital's* paragraph on the omission of the Inspector-General of Registration from the list of the Lieutenant-Governor's guests at the forthcoming Darbar, the *Bengalee* writes:—

"We fail to see why this invidious and irritating distinction has been made in the case of the Hon'ble Mr. T. K. Ghose. He is as much a responsible officer of Government as any other Inspector-General of any other Department under the Government of Bengal, and his exclusion from the list of the honoured guests of the Lieutenant-Governor is accounted for perhaps by no other fact than that he is a native of India and, therefore, like Cain, must bear the brand, even though his position in the official hierarchy might be very high. We trust the Hon'ble Mr. Bourdillon will rectify this mistake and do away with a distinction which is, as we have said, invidious and irritating."

INDIAN MIRROR,
29th Nov. 1902.

1642. The *Indian Mirror* appreciatively publishes extracts from Dr. Wallace's paper on the union in politics between the Indian people and the Domiciled Community, remarking:—

"We want more fearless workers like Dr. Wallace. It is a pleasure to see that he has fully realised the value of political union between all classes of the community. The question is whether he will receive loyal aid and support from the Imperialists of his own community."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
29th Nov. 1902.

1643. Public opinion, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, is not unanimous on the subject of Bengalis marking their appreciation of the rule of the late Sir John Woodburn. He was doubtless loved for his private virtues, but he did nothing to check the vagaries of Magistrates, and he was mainly responsible for the withdrawal of the privilege of Self-Government from the people of Calcutta.

It trusts Lord Curzon will see his way to appointing Sir Henry Cotton to be permanent Lieutenant-Governor. The present temporary state of things should be changed. "Many of the Deputy Magistrates have now become absolute masters of the province, as there is no one to restrain them and take them to task for their vagaries."

EAST,
29th Nov. 1902.

1644. The *East* publishes a letter from Puri describing that during the Car festival, licensed rest-houses, whose usual charge is one-anna per head, raise it to Rs. 15.

In consequence, the pilgrims fare very badly both for want of proper shelter and food, and the mortality among them increases.

BENGALER,
2nd Dec. 1902.

1645. The *Bengalee* is of opinion that the time has come when the Indian tax-payer should be relieved of the heavy burden of taxation which has been imposed upon him for so many years past, but it is afraid that this will not be done in view of the proposals to saddle India with the expenditure on account of a reformed British Army in India and of a possible addition to that army.

Military expenditure and reduction of taxation.

It however urges that, as such expenditure is not in the least necessary, and should be borne by the Imperial Exchequer, a joint and united protest against these proposals should be made.

1646. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* advises the Congress not to agitate for the remission of the Salt Tax. Government may take them at their word, and in order to recoup

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th Dec. 1902.

The Congress itself revive the License tax of Sir John Strachey, and let loose thousands of tax gatherers upon poor dealers, artisans, and traders. Similarly, it recommends them not to have anything to do with the suggestion of the Famine Union for a village to village enquiry to ascertain the extent of the poverty prevailing. Hooghly might be selected for this enquiry and the fact proved that India is almost as prosperous as England itself. There is no need for establishing a truth which has been accepted by all. Rather should the Congress suggest how this poverty can be removed.

1647. The *Bengalee* offers the following suggestions for the consideration of the Commission now sitting to enquire into the affairs of the Customs House :—

BENGALER,
5th Dec. 1902.

The Calcutta Customs House Commission.

That the Second Assistant Collector, whose main duty is to attend to the public, should be relieved of the office work which he now discharges and which interferes with his legitimate duties, and that a separate Import Supervisor should be appointed to do the office work.

That all Examining Officers be empowered to appraise the goods and sign the *challans* in their respective sheds.

That the Commission should enquire why the Government order regarding the appointment of Indians as Appraisers has been kept in abeyance.

1648. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* comments on the absence of proper measures for developing the agricultural resources of the country and on the absurdity of appointing Mr. A. C. Sen, one of the first Assistant Directors

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA
5th Dec. 1902.

The agricultural condition of Bengal.

of Agriculture in Bengal, who did such useful work in that capacity, to a District Judgeship. Similarly, Babu Nrietya Gopal Mukerji, Superintendent of the Sibpore Farm, whose authority on agriculture and its kindred subjects was unusually acknowledged, has been "kidnapped" and sent to some place in Bengal for the purpose of "stamping out crime" in the capacity of a Deputy Magistrate. The journal mentions the names of Hem Chunder Mitra, S. P. Chatterji, Mahendra Nath Biswas, and Probodh Chunder Dey, who are experts in agricultural and horticultural matters, and suggests that the Government should avail itself of their services and appoint them to enquire independently into the agricultural prospects of the country.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

1649. Although it deprecated the idea of the recent Viceregal tour through Rajputana, the *Indian Mirror* now avows with all frankness that that tour has not been made in

INDIAN MIRROR,
2nd Dec. 1902.

The Viceroy at Jeypore.

vain. On the contrary, it says it has brought the Feudatory States of India and the British overlord into happier and more intimate personal relations than has been the case for many years past. The credit of this achievement belongs to Lord Curzon entirely. He has invited and received confidence. Respect begets respect.

It expresses its unqualified admiration of His Highness the Maharaja's speech advocating faithful adherence to one's religion, and remarks that if every Indian Prince thought and acted accordingly, the renaissance of the Hindu people would be at hand, and this would be of nearer realization if every Viceroy, every leading British official, were as receptive of, and responsive to, such an ideal as Lord Curzon has undoubtedly proved himself to be.

1650. Though, says the *Bengalee*, Lord Curzon's speech in reply to the toast proposed by the Maharaja of Jeypur would seem to indicate that a change has come over the

BENGALER,
4th Dec. 1902.

Lord Curzon's Jeypur speech.

spirit of the British Indian Government in respect of its appreciation of the character of ancient Indian civilization, those opinions are really Lord Curzon's personal opinions, and although they might be echoed dutifully by the officials who have to obey him as their chief, they form no part of the opinions of Anglo-Indian bureaucracy. The education which Government has hitherto given to

the young Feudatory Chiefs has tended mostly to transform them into English gentlemen and to breed a distaste for the ancient manners and modes of living of their race. It is well, therefore, that His Excellency has thought it high time to discard this old system of education and to enunciate a new system which may make better rulers of the Feudatory Princes of India.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th Dec. 1902.

1651. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that the decision of the Government of India in the succession dispute of Tippera will save the Tippera State from ruin. It is, in the

The Tippera Succession. journal's opinion, only right and proper that the son and not the brother of the Maharaja should succeed to the throne. Knowing this, the reigning Prince will now do his utmost to improve the State, being assured of the succession of his son. The *Patrika* concludes by advising the Bara Thakur to throw himself on the mercy of his brother, the Maharaja, and to unite with the latter in working for the good of the State.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BEHAR HERALD,
22nd Nov. 1902.

1652. The *Behar Herald* concludes an appreciative article on the death of Sir John Woodburn in the following words:—

The late Lieutenant-Governor. "From one end of the province to another there is a wail of grief at the lamented death of so justly popular a Lieutenant-Governor, and amidst the many notes of condolence and sympathy that are surely coming from all quarters, we beg to join this our humble tribute to the memory of a really good and great British Statesman."

BENGALUR,
30th Nov. 1902.

1653. The *Bengalee* confesses its optimism is not robust enough to induce it to think the Woodburn Memorial movement is likely to command a large measure of support from the Indian community. It cannot refrain

Memorial to the late Sir John Woodburn. from remarking that the Chamber of Commerce has not been well advised in setting on foot this movement in such hot haste. Should it fail, the Chamber would have to thank itself for having courted a rebuff.

BENGALUR,
2nd Dec. 1902.

1654. The same journal writes that with the help of the Hon'ble Mr. Bourdillon and the Maharaja of Burdwan, the Chamber of Commerce are determined to rush through the proposal for a memorial to Sir John

Woodburn. But notwithstanding the efforts to invest it with an apparent spontaneity and universality, the tribute will not and cannot partake of a public character.

"No one knows better than the acting Lieutenant-Governor that the Viceroy will consult the Chamber of Commerce before he finally nominates a successor to Sir John Woodburn, and that his chance of the permanent appointment is altogether gone unless he can conciliate the mercantile community during the short time he is at Belvedere, and secure their goodwill. No one knows better than His Highness that it would be the height of folly to offend the Chamber, and to turn their power and influence against him in days when a feeling of fanatical antagonism to the zemindars animates every action and directs every step of the Government of India."

It strongly opposes the project to raise the memorial by "masquerading under false colours" and the "dragooning of rich zemindars," and advises the Chamber to show their gratitude in any way they please.

BENGALUR,
5th Dec. 1902.

1655. Reverting to the subject of the Woodburn Memorial, the *Bengalee* says that the people, who are gradually recovering themselves after the shock of his death, ask them-

Ibid. selves in bewilderment what blessings the Woodburn Administration conferred on them? He can never be forgotten for the part he played in connection with the Municipal Act, and if he and Sir Alexander Mackenzie in their spiritual life can enter into the inmost recesses of the hearts of the Indian subjects of His Majesty, in the metropolis, they will realize the grievous hardship they inflicted on them. With such a feeling entertained towards him, it is asked how a memorial statue can be voted to him with the assent or support of the Indians of Calcutta.

If a Woodburn statue is to be a reality in Calcutta, the *Bengalee* thinks it would be fitting to revive the Mackenzie Memorial. Let both the statues be placed side by side in the heart of the town, with their pet child, the

Calcutta Municipal Act, in their arms, so that in their hour of tribulation the rate-payers will remember, with a deep-drawn sigh, that these were the two Governors—representatives of a gracious Sovereign—who inflicted the scourge upon them.

1656. The *Hindoo Patriot* attacks the *Bengalee* for its insinuations with regard, first, to the advocacy of the Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Bourdillon's claims to the Lieutenant-Governorship and, secondly, to the latter's alliance with the Chamber of Commerce to secure a memorial to late Sir John Woodburn. Such insinuations and suggestions, says the *Patriot*, are unworthy, improper, and wholly unfounded. The Chamber of Commerce alone did not move in the matter of raising a memorial, nor was it the first to do so. The British Indian Association, under the leadership of the Maharaja of Darbhanga, forestalled the mercantile community in the matter.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
3rd Dec. 1902.

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

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 6th December 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

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

