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# REPORT

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 8th October 1904.

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## ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

AL PUNCH,  
Sept. 24th, 1904.

*Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 24th September says that the wonderful success of Japan has created a consternation in Europe. Those Powers that have their settlements in China fear that victorious Japan, after having expelled the Russians from Manchuria, may encroach upon their possessions. But Japan is too magnanimous to molest any other European Power. The possessions, however, held on condition that they will be given up when the Russians retire from Manchuria will have to be given up.

2. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 27th September observes :—  
The outbreak of war between Russia and Japan has proved a great opportunity for England. First, she has been able to despatch troops into

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,  
Sept. 27th, 1904.

England and the Russo-Japanese war. Tibet and dictate her own terms of peace. Secondly, there is the proposal to send a mission to Persia. At present Russian influence is predominant in Persia, and Russian merchants monopolise the Persian trade. English merchants are now bent on having a share of that trade. Russia is engaged in a harassing war, and now therefore is the suitable opportunity. The Russian elephant has now put its foot in the mire and cannot extricate itself. So, model Christians that they are, can the English let slip such an opportunity without taking advantage of it? In spite of all that may be professed to the contrary, the fact remains that the reign of Christ is disappearing and that of Satan coming in.

3. The following is the substance of a portion of an article which appeared in the *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Habiul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 26th September :—

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-  
DAS HABUL  
MATEEN,  
Sept. 26th, 1904.

The treaty with Tibet. The Russian papers condemn the treaty concluded between Tibet and England. The *Novae Vremya* says that England thinks Tibet to be an easily conquerable country. But the Russian army will move towards it by the next February and will make the English reap the fruit of their doings there. According to the German papers, England is going to convert Tibet into a dependency of her Indian Empire, and Russia has therefore reprimanded China for not interfering in the matter. From the tone of the English Press and the congratulatory message which the King-Emperor sent to Colonel Younghusband, it appears that England is quite satisfied with the terms of the treaty. But it does not appear that Russia, who has all along been protesting against the Tibet Mission, has acquiesced in its terms. It is only her war with Japan that has prevented her from interfering with this Mission affair. When the war will come to an end Russia will deal with the question of the terms of the treaty. Brisk correspondence is, however, going on between Ambassadors at London and Peking. It is not improbable that the whole affair may end in open hostility between the two Powers.

4. The same paper says that some statesmen are of opinion that Lord Curzon has some grave and important object in

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-  
DAS HABUL  
MATEEN.

Persian politics. view with respect to the Persian frontier and the Persian Gulf questions. It is said that one of the objects of His Lordship's trip to England was to explain his views to those who opposed him. Lord Curzon will proceed towards Persia through Seistan, the Persian Gulf and Baluchistan before the conclusion of the war in the Far East. When England was very busy with the Boer war, Russia, taking advantage of it, made herself predominant in Persia, and now England will avenge herself by availing of this golden opportunity which the Russo-Japanese war has presented to her. Persia ought to be on her guard. If she refuses any concession to either of these two rivals, no one can find fault with her. It is only by fraud and dishonesty that our enemies have encroached upon our dominions. The proposed Persian Mission has some political and higher object in view than the one it professes. It will try its best to make a direct commercial treaty with Persia, because the terms of the present treaty apply to the commercial bodies of England only. We ought not to be duped in any way.

5. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th September has the following :—

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 29th, 1904.

Indians in South Africa. The South African Government have deprived the Indians of even those rights and privileges which they enjoyed under the Boers. The selfishness of the Boers had no hypocrisy in it, whilst that of the English has a veneer of their much-vaunted

civilization. The latter is therefore more oppressive and acute than the former. The object of the language test, proposed by Lord Milner and approved by the Colonial Secretary, which is applicable to Indians desirous to go to South Africa, is to keep them out of the land. The very measures which the British Cabinet violently protested against a few years ago are now being enforced with greater vigour by the same Cabinet. What mean conduct! What shameless selfishness! It is true that subject races are everywhere oppressed, but when the conquerors are a civilised people such oppression becomes most regrettable. It is said that the King-Emperor has given his assent to the Bill for restricting Indian emigration to South Africa. What will the Indians now do? Whom will they now look up to for help?

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

### (a)—Police.

JASOHAR,  
Sept. 21st, 1904.

6. A correspondent of the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 21st September draws attention to the state of utter lawlessness which is alleged to prevail in the village of Bidyanandakati in the district of Jessore. The particular forms of crime most prevalent are thefts of cattle, domestic fowls and fruits, wanton destruction of fruit trees, and incendiarism. The villagers are quite in a panic.

RANGPUR  
VARTAVAHA,  
Sept. 30th, 1904

7. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 30th September says that a petition addressed to the Divisional Commissioner praying for enquiry into the mysterious death of Batal chaukidar of Mahiganj in Rangpur town was forwarded to the District Magistrate for disposal, who in his turn forwarded it to the District Superintendent of Police. And there the matter ended, for no notice was apparently taken of it afterwards. The fact is that the man did not commit suicide, but was murdered for the sake of his beautiful young wife. Will Government not enquire into the case? It is to be hoped that a detective officer will be appointed for the purpose.

KRISHNANAGAR,  
Sept. 30th, 1904.

8. A correspondent of the *Krishnanagar* [Krishnanagar] of the 30th September calls attention to the following hard case of police indifference:—

In March last, a young Musalman named Ainaddi enticed away Bhiru Bibi, the wife of Reajuddi Shekh, during the latter's absence, married her in *nika* form, and since then has been living with her as his wife. Complaint was made in due course, followed by the issue of a summons against the defendant. As no one responded, the summons was followed by a warrant, and later by a proclamation setting forth a description of the offender. None of these, however, were of avail, and all these six or seven months the police have not been able to trace the culprit. But all the while the man has been living in the house of Sarjan Shekh of Bhairabnagar in the thana of Meherpur, and openly moving about the villages of Patharghata and Govindapur in the thana of Jaitta and also in the villages under thana Dayurhuda. The indifference of the local police in this case can only be due to the poverty of the complainant. It is to be hoped that the District Superintendent will stir up his subordinates to a proper sense of their duties.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Oct. 1st, 1904

9. In inviting the attention of the Government to a story related by the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of a crocodile having been shot by a European gentleman, in whose belly a pair of anklets of a lower-class female was found, but was not by anybody claimed for fear of the police, although it is said that a girl of the village had gone to the river to fetch water about ten days before, and had been missing since then, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 1st October says that about this very police a Commission was appointed by Government, which now feels so reluctant to publish its report.

10. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 2nd October draws the attention of the Police Commissioner to the case, noticed in the *Englishman*, of a helpless woman who was found lying with a dead child in her arms for seven mortal hours close to the Circular Road thana, but the officer in charge did not take any notice of her and remove the dead body for cremation.

HITAVARTA,  
Oct. 2nd, 1904.

11. A correspondent of the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 4th October complains that the collecting panchayet of the Contai Union No. 1 is collecting the chaukidari-tax for the first and second *kists* from some of the inhabitants at increased rates, although the tax for those *kists* had been collected long ago. His explanation is that the tax of some persons has been reduced and consequently the higher rates are being charged to make a refund of the excess paid by them. But this is illegal. The assessment of the chaukidari tax is very unfair, and it is the poor who always suffer in silence. It is to be hoped that the authorities will enquire into the matter and remove the causes of complaint.

NIHAR,  
Oct. 4th, 1904.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

12. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 27th September accuses Babu Sarat Chandra Pal, Munsif of Pingna, of illegally harassing Babu Pramathanath Majumdar, a vakil of his Court. It appears that they are both members of the governing body of the local Entrance school. There was some difficulty about the award of a prize to the Munsif's son, a student of the school, and when the question came up before the Managing Committee the Munsif and the vakil took opposite sides. In revenge the Munsif drew up a proceeding accusing Pramatha Babu of "increasing his practice with the assistance of half-a-dozen touts who procure business for him, whom he calls his muharrirs." On the ground that vakils much his senior in standing are satisfied with the services of only one muharrir, the Munsif directed Pramatha Babu "to dismiss all his muharrirs except one." Under the rules of the High Court the Munsif has no legal right to restrict the number of muharrirs a vakil might engage. And a perusal of his order-sheet shows the strong current of personal feeling which pervades the whole of it.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Sept. 27th, 1904.

13. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 27th September says that since Mr. Platel, the District Judge of Burdwan, fell ill three weeks ago, the district has practically been without a Sessions Judge. We are at a loss to make out what has led Sir Andrew Fraser's Government to keep Burdwan in this state of things for such a long time. The suspension of the business of hearing criminal appeals is causing great hardship to people. It is also not desirable that the District Magistrate should do the work of the District Judge.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 27th, 1904.

14. A correspondent of the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 28th September complains that strong local dissatisfaction exists against the first Munsif of Magura in Jessore. Everybody who has come in contact with him, be he a pleader, mukhtar, suitor, *amla* or peon, complains of ill-treatment received at his hands. Recently matters came to a head, and the District Judge made an inquiry on the spot. Soon after, his transfer to another station was announced in the *Gazette*, but he has not gone yet. And as the instinct of revenge is strong in the human breast, he is harassing those people who complained against him before the District Judge in the course of the recent inquiry.

JASOHAR,  
Sept. 28th, 1904.

15. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 29th September calls attention to the difficulties experienced by suitors in obtaining records from the Khulna Collectorate for transmission to other places. The records of Civil Courts are transmitted by post, and all that the party calling for the records has to do is simply to deposit the postal charges. In the case of Collectorate records, however, the procedure is entirely different. The record is made over to the personal custody of a clerk, and the party calling for the record has to pay the clerk's salary from day to day, as also his travelling and halting allowances according to the Civil Service Regulations. The paper wants to know under what circular this unjust expense is cast on the shoulders of the already harassed suitor.

KHULNA,  
Sept. 29th, 1904.

KHULNA.

16. The same paper complains that Babu Sarat Chandra Mukerjee, the Settlement Officer of Dantia pargana in the district of Khulna, does not, when deciding cases, frame issues proper to each individual suit. He has got certain issues ready framed, and these are made to do duty in every case.

RANGPUR  
VARTAVAHA.  
Sept. 30th, 1904.

17. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 30th September complains that although the present District Magistrate of Rangpur has ordered that all petitions should be filed in Court between 11 and 12, yet he seldom attends Court, and the Deputy Magistrate in charge receives the petitions. It is reported that the Deputy Magistrate sometimes comes to Court before 11 o'clock, when the parties and their mukhtars are usually absent, and strikes off their complaints. The parties are thereby put to endless trouble and expense.

In the complaint of one Kasimulla against Jarip Nasya and others under section 498 of the Indian Penal Code, the complainant's mukhtar cited three witnesses to prove his case. But the Magistrate passed the following order:—

This petition is not worth acting on. The prosecution is too slipshod to be safely left to a mukhtar. There is nothing to show that the evidence of these witnesses will be relevant.

R. C. HAMILTON.

The 6th August 1904.

Subsequently, however, he saw his own mistake and issued summonses to two of the witnesses, free of charge, and recorded their depositions. Such an instance of displeasure towards a particular class of legal practitioners is very unfair in a Magistrate.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Oct. 1st, 1904.

18. Referring to the fine inflicted by the Sessions Judge of Krishnagar on one Pundit Debi Prasanna Smritiratna for his non-attendance as a juror and its remission by the High Court, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 1st October comments that the condition of the juries in this country is very miserable, and particularly the treatment offered to them by the officials is so bad as to make people shrink from accepting the appointment. The Sessions Judge preferred believing his own peon to such a simple and innocent Pundit and his three students. One can easily understand what respect the jurors may expect at the hands of such an official.

BHARAT MITRA.

19. The same paper gives details of a horrible occurrence. One Mr. Gordon is the Manager and partner of an indigo factory named Singhia in the district of Muzaffarpur, and one Jhuri Singh was a jamadar and leaseholder of a plot of land under him. He was dismissed from the service of the factory as he incurred the displeasure of the Manager, who had him brought over one day to the factory and beaten. The Subdivisional Officer of Hajipur happened to be there when Jhuri Singh was beaten and brought in an unconscious state to the factory, which ultimately resulted in his death. Criminal proceedings have been instituted against the Manager and his men, but heaps of recommendations are pouring in from high-class Europeans for the release of the Manager. Some thought zamindars are also helping the Manager.

Dacca Prakas,  
Oct. 2nd, 1904.

20. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 2nd October points out the inconvenience which would be caused to the inhabitants of the Palang, Gosainhat and Bhedarganj thanas, in the Madaripur subdivision of the district of Faridpur, by the adoption of the proposal, now said to be under consideration, to abolish the two existing Munsifs from Chikandi and establish a new Munsifi each at Madaripur and Gopalpur.

If the proposal is adopted and the Chikandi Munsifi is abolished, the villages of Gosainhat and Bhedarganj in Madaripur will become the new centre for Civil Courts. But travelling to Madaripur is inconvenient, expensive and dangerous.

(1) As regards inconvenience, there is first the absence of roads. This difficulty might be surmounted by walking over the fields and ridges. But the crossing of the Arial Khan is an absolute impossibility. It is true that there is a service of steamers, but none except the inhabitants of a few villages

of the thana of Palang can avail themselves of it. For the rest of the Palang thana and the whole of the Gosainhat and Bhedarganj thanas its existence is not of much account.

(2) As regards expense, travelling to Chikandi does not cost a pice; and suitors can return home from day to day until their cases are concluded. Madaripur will offer none of these advantages. Travelling there will be expensive, and there will be the added expense of hiring temporary lodgings at that town.

(3) As regards the dangers and inconveniences of the way, there are the assaults of thieves and of rival litigants and the incivility of the steamer employés.

As an alternative to the above proposal, it is suggested that Palang should be made the seat of a new Munsifi. This will meet the convenience of all parties. Palang is already superior to many subdivisional towns, for it possesses a Criminal Bench, a Sub-Registry office, etc., and in education and trade it is the foremost place in Madaripur.

21. Referring to the petition submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal by a prisoner, Sukhnanden, of village Marananta, Patna, against the decision of Justices Pratt and Handley in the appeal which he, having been convicted and sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment by the District and Sessions Judge of Patna, preferred to the Calcutta High Court, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd October observes that those two Judges of the High Court, even on being reminded of the mistake which they had made in taking weeks for months, declined to reopen the case. It remains to be seen what His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor does in the matter.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Oct. 3rd, 1904.

A miscarriage of justice in the Calcutta High Court.

#### (1)—Education.

22. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 21st September says that the local Victoria College has been made over to a body of Trustees. The permanence of the institution is thereby now guaranteed. The Maharaja has offered the free grant of a piece of land for the college buildings. Opportunity should be taken of this offer to choose a site, which should be in the heart of the town and yet possess the advantage of free ventilation and fresh air. The open plot of ground on the south of the Dharmasagar and east of the Mission House seems to satisfy the conditions. It is in close proximity to the public library and play-ground. The formation of a Managing Committee is also suggested. Such a Committee is required as a preliminary condition of affiliation by the new Universities Act. A single Manager in the person of the Maharaja or the District Magistrate or Babu Ananda Chandra Ray will not find time to attend to all the minute details. Special care should be exercised in the selection of the members of this Committee. The District Magistrate might be Chairman, Babu Ananda Chandra, Secretary, with five or seven other unofficial gentlemen as members, one of whom might be the Dewan of the Chakla Rosnabad estate.

PRATINIDHI,  
Sept. 21st, 1904.

23. Referring to the proposal to establish a model college at Ranchi, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 27th September writes:—

CHARU MIHIR,  
Sept. 27th, 1904.

Many people were afraid when this proposal was first made that the establishment of a new college at Ranchi would mean the simultaneous abolition of the Calcutta Presidency College. And His Honour's pronouncement on this subject has not been sufficient to remove their alarm. For all that he has said is that the time to abolish the Presidency College is not yet. This has been enough to create suspicions as to what its fate in the distant future will be. Moreover, the question of its ultimate abolition apart, so long as the two institutions exist side by side, the new college is bound to absorb a certain share of the Government grant on education. And every penny which goes to the aid of the Ranchi College means so much taken away from the Presidency College. So, there can be no doubt that in the race for progress the older institution will be seriously handicapped.

There is still another point. It is doubtful if the new college will attract a sufficiently large number of students to keep it going. Most

guardians would be deterred from sending their sons to it by considerations of expense and its inaccessible situation. The college will be for the benefit of the rich and of the well-to-do middle classes of the community; the ordinary general public will have no concern with it. The institution is proposed to be equipped on a scale which means an immense expenditure of money. The expense of studying in such a college will also be necessarily high; and this means the exclusion of all but the sons of wealthy people.

In fact, we are not at all convinced of the need for having a new institution somewhere out of Calcutta. The health of Calcutta is not injurious to the students. And as to its moral surroundings, though they may be admitted to be bad, yet it is evident that His Honour's ideas on the subject are exaggerated. And it is a point for consideration if the richer classes of the country, for whose benefit the proposal is made, do really desire the establishment of such an institution. It is clear that without the support of the middle class community generally the proposed college can never prosper. As to the zamindars, many of them are already embarrassed from a too free expenditure of their money. The recent contributions to the Victoria Memorial have proved the proverbial last straw to many of them so they will hesitate before again opening their purse-strings. We see no hope therefore that the amount considered necessary by His Honour will be easily raised.

Some years ago there was a proposal made to start a Raj Kumar College for Bengal, but it fell through owing to the opposition of educated and leading zamindars like Raja Peary Mohan Mukerjee. The discredited idea of a Raj College has been revived in connection with the present proposal. For only the sons of zamindars favoured by fortune will be able to avail themselves of the benefits of the new college. The middle classes form the backbone of our social fabric. It is from them that men like Ram Mohan Ray, Kesab Chandra Sen, Haris Chandra Mukerjee, Kristodas Pal, Vidyasagar, Michael, Bankim Chandra and other men of genius sprang. Want of contact with the sons of the middle classes will weaken the mental calibre of the sons of the zamindars. The present system was gradually obliterating the difference of feeling between the zamindars and the middle classes. The new college will serve to revive these differences. For all these reasons, we view the proposal with grave alarm.

BURDWAN  
SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 27th, 1904.

24. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 27th September writes as follows:—

The proposed Ranchi College. Many people fear that some hidden political motive, underlies Sir Andrew Fraser's proposal to establish a high-class college at Ranchi. It is the principle of division and separation. Government, they say, is desirous of effecting a separation between the scions of the zamindars and the common people of Bengal. Of course, we do not like to endorse this view on mere conjecture. But why is His Honour so anxious to establish a college at Ranchi when there is no lack of good colleges in the country? What has he to say to prove that he is not actuated by the principle alluded to?

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 30th, 1904.

25. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th September says that if the proposed Ranchi College fulfills the expectation of the Lieutenant-Governor, none can object to its establishment. But it is doubted whether respectable men in the mufassal will be ready to send their sons to such a distant place as Ranchi. As for the fear of temptations at Calcutta, who can say that Ranchi, too, will not be equally full of them when it will rise in importance, wealth and population? However that may be, when the Lieutenant-Governor has desired and the zamindars consented, money will soon be pouring in for carrying out the scheme.

BASUMATI,  
Oct. 1st, 1904.

26. Referring to the proposed Ranchi College, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 1st October writes as follows:—

The proposed Ranchi College. What the effect will be of the moral teaching to be imparted in the college is a matter for further consideration. Under the proposed arrangements only rich men will be able to send their sons to the college, which will, therefore, never have even 500 students on its register. In Bengal, which has a population of eight crores, this number is insignificant. We need not therefore trouble ourselves with the question as to where it should be located.

BANGAVASI,  
Oct. 1st, 1904.

27. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st October writes as follows:—

The proposed Ranchi College. Some people believe that the real object of the Lieutenant-Governor in proposing the establishment of a high-class college at Ranchi is to provide for the education of the sons of rich men only, because none but they will be able to bear its cost. Others, on the contrary, say that the number of students belonging to the lower classes who may join the college may be comparatively few, but that does not affect the essential merits of the proposal. Whichever of these two views may be correct, no necessity has been made out for the establishment of a model college at Ranchi. If the first view is correct there will not be many students in it, and Government will have to subsidise it liberally; but the benefit of this subsidy will be reaped by rich men only. If the latter view is correct and the college is resorted to by all classes of students, there are too many colleges in the country to require the establishment of a new one at Ranchi at an enormous cost. If necessary, Government can improve the *personnel* of the staffs of these colleges, and that can be done at a smaller cost.

If it is said that Government's object is only to supply the want of a residential college in Bengal, it should be considered whether residential colleges are suitable in this country and how much benefit it can reap from them. The Raj Kumar Colleges, which are the only residential colleges now existing in India, serve only to 'anglicise' the scions of Native Princes and make them forget their national habits and customs. The Principals of these colleges are generally Europeans, who cannot be expected to regulate the boarding-houses according to the habits and customs of their native students. In the proposed Ranchi College a Hindu and a Musalman Professor will superintend the Hindu and the Musalman boarding-houses. But the Principal of the College, who will most probably be a European, will be their real master. Of course, the evil will be mitigated by the appointment of Hindu and Musalman Superintendents. But considering the numberless castes of which Hindu society is composed, it will be no easy task to maintain in a single Hindu boarding-house the religious and social distinctions which belong to them. The effect of this will be that students will neglect these distinctions and shake off the restrictions of Hindu society. To provide against the possibility of the occurrence of this state of things, the Lieutenant-Governor desires to give religious teachings to the students. As for the Hindu students, they cannot be much benefited by religious lectures, unless they are accompanied by a strict observance of Hindu customs in their boarding-house. Besides this, the Hindu *Shastras* being very difficult to grasp thoroughly, the Professors who will deliver Hindu religious lectures may distort their true meanings according to their own simple knowledge. From a consideration of all these points we conclude that there is no necessity for establishing a model college at Ranchi. If Government desires to provide for some salutary control over those students who have no guardians with them, it may establish boarding-houses in connection with its existing colleges.

28. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th September, in criticising Babu

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 30th, 1904.

The approved Senior Teacher's Manual in Bengali.

Dwijendra Nath Neogi's Senior Teacher's Manual in Bengali, says that the book is as full of grammatical mistakes and obscure passages as the author's Junior Teacher's Manual. On reading the author's instructions in the chapter on letter-drafting, etc., one can hardly contain one's laughter.

In treating of butterflies, the author has credited these insects with the possession of horns!

The author's advice to teachers in the portion of the book devoted to cats is quite unintelligible, owing to the obscurity of its language and its bad grammar.

The book while containing, on the one hand, lessons on chemistry, botany, zoology, hygiene, grammar and literature, does not fail, on the other, to give instruction as to how shoe-strings should be tied and mats woven. Alas, that Vidyasagar, Akshay Datta, Bhudeb and Madan Mohan do not live to see the change that has come over the system of selecting text-books for vernacular schools!

BRABAT MITRA,  
Oct. 1st, 1904.

29. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 1st October remarks:—

Sir Andrew Fraser's educational policy.

Sir Andrew Fraser would be the foremost in carrying out Lord Curzon's scheme. His Excellency had only desired to abolish the competitive examinations, but Sir Andrew Fraser has made it an accomplished fact. His Honour is opening a model college at Ranchi, on the ground that the students would have ample room for sports and where they would enjoy fresh air. Their moral character would also be much better there. In spite of the fact that His Honour wishes to spend lakhs of rupees from the public revenues, the people fear that His Honour is only giving effect to the educational policy of Lord Curzon, inasmuch as in a few years the Presidency College would be abolished; as for the climate of Ranchi, which is considered to be so healthy just now, it would not be so when the town would become crowded with the opening of the railway. But why should His Honour listen to this; he will give effect to his ideas.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Oct. 4th, 1904.

30. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th October,

The village school Pandit and the Kindergarten system.

himself a village school Pandit, says that in spite of Government's solicitude for the spread of primary education in the country, the result seems to be that it is going to be extinguished. The introduction of the Kindergarten system has alienated the hearts of the villagers from education. The middle class people find that primary education, as at present given, renders no help to higher education. They are therefore unwilling to send their sons to primary schools, and prefer to send them to Entrance schools when they can afford to do so. Hence the condition of the primary schools is daily becoming worse, and with them the position of the primary teachers is also becoming miserable.

The abolition of the vernacular examinations has damped the ardour of students and their guardians alike. The emoluments of the teacher are small, very small, and the Government grants-in-aid do not exceed two or three rupees a month. The people do not appreciate the Kindergarten system. The teacher is held responsible when the boys make no progress in the sense in which it is usually understood and is threatened with dismissal. The poor teacher is thus compelled to teach his pupils according to the old system. But then another difficulty arises: inspecting officers, when they find that instruction has not been given according to the prescribed system, stop the Government grant. Here, then, is an extremely perplexing situation for the teacher, who cannot afford to lose his appointment and at the same time finds it hard to please two masters.

Government is strengthening the inspecting staff and is thereby throwing away money which might have been utilized to far better purpose by increasing the Government grants. How can inspecting officers increase the number of primary schools without the cordial co-operation of the teachers when the people are averse to the Kindergarten system?

Under the new rules the Deputy Inspector of Schools or the Sub-Inspector of Schools selects one student from each school for examination for scholarships. This is most objectionable. There are more deserving boys than one in a school, and it can never be fair to allow only one boy to appear at the examination specially as that one may, by reason of sudden illness, be unable to appear at all, and in the latter case, the school loses the chance of competing for a scholarship. It is impossible to understand how the respective merits of the candidates can be ascertained without examining them all together. It would have been a far better arrangement to lay down that more than one candidate from any school would be allowed to compete for a scholarship, but only one would be awarded a scholarship.

PALLIVASI,  
Oct. 5th, 1904.

31. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 5th October writes as follows:—

The vernacular education scheme.

Mr. Pedler's vernacular education scheme will have the effect of increasing, instead of diminishing as desired by Government, the mere exercise of memory by little boys. Can the Director deny this? The language of the readers which have been prepared and selected for the study of science is so queer and difficult that even teachers find it difficult to understand. The *Vijnan Path* of Messrs. Macmillan & Co. and the *Science Reader* of Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co. stand unmistakeably as monuments of Mr. Pedler's wisdom and greatness. Did Mr. Pedler ever examine the language of these books? If not, how did he

make them text-books for little boys? Are there no other subjects for their study? What is the harm in teaching them lessons on morality and hygiene written in simple Bengali? When all sorts of knowledge are more or less connected with science, many a simple lesson of science can be imparted to little boys while teaching them language, but there is no necessity for teaching them science for the sake of science only. It is enough to give them as much scientific lesson as is compatible with the knowledge natural to their tender age. If it is the intention of the Government to make artisans and cultivators of all Indians, it can do that as well by teaching them language and morals from 5 to 13 years of age, and then giving them the necessary knowledge of the rudiments of science. A boy of 14 can learn as much of the latter in one year as it will take a boy of 5 years of age so long a time as 8 years to learn. What is then the necessity of oppressing the brains of little boys with scientific subjects?

Again, it is difficult to make out the meaning of the list of text-books which has been recently published by the Education Department, and it is much more difficult to teach boys according to it. Bengali boys will learn their mother-language from books compiled and published by English publishers in England. What a preposterous method!

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

32. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th September writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 29th, 1904.

The question of water-supply. Once upon a time a man went to his father-in-law's house. The father-in-law was a miser and was unwilling to spend anything for his entertainment. But still, for the sake of etiquette, he asked his son-in-law, "Would you like to have cakes?" and, before the latter could give any answer, said, "but cakes are very bad for the stomach." Government's offer of Rs. 50,000 for water-supply is similar to the father-in-law's offer of cakes in the above story. People will in most cases be unable to make any use of the Government's offer, because they are too poor to be able to subscribe an equal amount themselves. We therefore fear that Government will have no occasion to spend its money. And it will afterwards be able to say that when the people did not come forward with money for water-supply, there is no real scarcity of water in the country.

33. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 29th September publishes the following in English:—

KHULNA,  
Sept. 29th, 1904.

The Khulna District Board. We have been credibly informed that the Finance Committee of the District Board have, at the District Magistrate's desire, put a sum of nearly Rs. 20,000 for the construction and repair of new dâk and inspection bungalows. Already existing bungalows will be remodelled and furnished with the latest fashionable furniture, and new ones are to be constructed at Phultala, Fakirhat and other places. We do not see the wisdom of expending this huge amount of money for a thing which would benefit the District Magistrate, the District Superintendent of Police, the Subdivisional Officer, and the District Engineer and possibly no one else. We are the more alarmed that it is in contemplation to allot a similar amount of money in future for this purpose. Those that have the slightest experience of the mufassal know too well; the deplorable state of our village roads tells them the utter inadvisability of this step. When we picture before our mind's eyes the difficulty of locomotion in the interior we cannot but characterise this expenditure as a heartless one—certainly the poor rate-payer's money should not be expended in this way. We hope the members of the District Board would veto such a proposal, and it is gratifying to note that at least one member of the Finance Committee has written a strong note of dissent on the subject, and some others are expected to follow. This is the time to make a combined effort against the proposal, and we hope that our members of the Board will show a bold front to the District Magistrate. We have great faith in our Divisional Commissioner and hope that he at any rate will discountenance any such proposal if ever one such is brought before him.

34. The *Krishnanagar* [Krishnagar] of the 30th September takes strong exception to the action of Mr. Radice, the Collector of Nadia, in getting the local District Board to undertake a survey for a projected line of railway from Krishnagar to Meherpur. A sum of

KRISHNANAGAR,  
Sept. 30th, 1904.

A projected light railway from  
Krishnagar to Meherpur in  
Nadia.

Rs. 2,000 was sanctioned in July for this purpose, and sanction to a fresh expenditure of Rs. 9,500 was accorded at the Board's meeting held on the 23rd September last. At this meeting the motion to vote the money was made by Mr. Radice and opposed by Babu Mohini Mohan Gupta, the Vice-Chairman of the Board. Mohini Babu's arguments were—

- (1) that the projected railway would benefit only a portion of the district;
- (2) that there were more urgent works of improvement which should be taken in hand first; and finally
- (3) that the Ranaghat-Krishnagar Railway has proved a financial failure and there was no reason to expect that a Meherpur-Krishnagar line would be more profitable.

It is to be deeply regretted that Mr. Radice's motion was carried in the face of sound arguments like these. As there is a rule whereby the Board cannot within a period of six months reconsider a decision once arrived at, the only hope of the minority lies in the interference of the Divisional Commissioner. It was indeed an evil moment for Nadia when Mr. Radice first set foot on its soil. It is a great pity that a whole district should be harassed by the chance caprices of an official like him.

ARYAVARTA,  
Oct. 1st, 1904.

35. The *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 1st October says that the public health of the Ranchi town is very bad. Mortality is daily increasing. Fever of a virulent type has broken out. The local Municipality ought to direct its attention to the public health of the town.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Oct. 1st, 1904.

36. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 1st October finds the people of Patna pleased with the election of Badshah Nawab as their new Vice-Chairman, although they are much perplexed to see his doings at the very outset. He has ordered by beat of drum the removal of all stone pieces and wooden boards placed over the drains in front of shops. This will cause much inconvenience to the shop-keepers. The municipal authorities would therefore do well to reconsider the matter and cancel the above order.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

PRATIKAR,  
Sept. 30th, 1904.

37. The *Pratihar* [Berhampur] of the 30th September calls attention to the distress caused to the khas mahal raiyats of Murshidabad owing to the enhancement of their rents by the Government. Government in its management of khas mahals is in the position of a model landlord to be imitated by private zamindars. As a matter of fact, however, if its actions regarding enhancement of rent and settlement of titles were to be imitated by private landlords all lands would soon come to be abandoned by the cultivators. The authorities are absolutely deaf to all cries for relief from the distressed tenants. The latter have in many cases spent money for the improvement of their houses and fields. If therefore they are to find themselves evicted now, whether as a result of enhancement of rent or any other action on the part of Government, their case would be hard indeed. The present prosperous condition of their homes and their fields is in many cases the result of years of small savings, and they cannot now afford the money to make a fresh start elsewhere. Their case calls for urgent redress at the hands of the authorities.

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

JYOTI,  
Sept. 29th, 1904.

38. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 29th September complains that proper care is not always taken by the Assam-Bengal Railway to give sufficient publicity to its rules and arrangements about the "concession tickets" which it, along with other railways, grants to its passengers during the Puja and Christmas holidays. It is to be hoped that during the ensuing holidays this point will be properly attended to. Arrangements should also be made to run through intermediate-class carriages from Chittagong to Chandpur, and the number of third-class carriages also requires to be increased.

The opening of the Assam-Bengal Railway has led to many Munsifs being transferred from the interior to sadar stations. For the convenience of parties who use these Courts, a system of monthly tickets, on the lines obtaining on the East Indian and Eastern Bengal State Railways, is a desideratum.

Another subject of complaint is the terrible overcrowding at the booking-offices in many stations at the time of issuing tickets. Passengers often find it impossible in their hurry to count the change which they receive back from the booking-clerk as excess over the proper fare. The explanation of this overcrowding is that the booking-offices are opened only a short time before the train is timed to start. At Chittagong and Chandpur this overcrowding is an every-day occurrence. At these stations the issue of tickets should begin an hour in advance. And Chittagong should have a separate booking-clerk for the sale of first, second and intermediate class tickets.

39. Babu Ashutosh Basu writes in the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th September that two men named Syam Chandra

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 29th, 1904.

The Machpara railway accident.

Saha and Bajarang Sing were killed in the recent railway accident at Machpara. They were employes of the firm of Kali Charan and Giris Chandra Ray Chaudhuri, zamindars and *mahajans* in the Mahera village within the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district. The editor advises the heirs of the deceased persons to sue the Railway Company for damages, and promises to help them in the matter if necessary.

40. Referring to the Machpara railway collision, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th September observes that

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Sept. 30th, 1904.

The Machpara railway collision.

according to the statement of the Railway authorities themselves, only five people were killed on that occasion, and five or six others wounded. But the impression of the public is that the total of killed and wounded mounts up to quite a large figure. On this subject a letter was published in this paper a few days ago from Babu Naba Kumar Dutt of No. 1, Beniatola Lane, Calcutta [see Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 24th September 1904, paragraph 43]. The correspondent has recently sent a second letter for publication, painting the accident in darker colours. His account is simply heart-rending. Nobody, whether connected with the Eastern Bengal State Railway or not, has yet contradicted Naba Kumar Babu's first letter. This naturally makes many people suspect the accuracy of the Railway Company's account of only five people having been killed. Again, no information is yet available as to what the Railway Company is doing to compensate those passengers who have suffered by the accident. There is no doubt that those who have been wounded, or the relatives of those who have been killed, would get adequate compensation according to law if they sued the Company for damages.

41. The Rampur Hât correspondent of the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 1st

BASUMATI,  
Oct. 1st, 1904.

A railway complaint.

October says that the Bengali ticket-checker of the Rampur Hât station on the East Indian Railway is in the habit of intentionally putting a pressure on the hand of female passengers while collecting tickets and treating them to various and significant movements of his eyes. Some of the local people petitioned the District Traffic Superintendent of Sahebganj in the matter, but to no effect.

#### (h)—General.

42. According to the *Bihar Herald*, says *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 24th

AL PUNCH,  
Sept. 24th, 1904.

A complaint against the Superintendent of the Temple Medical School, Bankipur.

September, the Superintendent of the Temple Medical School, Bankipur, did not allow the military students of Nagpur to perform Ganesh puja ceremony, the annual festival of the Hindus. It is a wonder that the students did not protest against the order. No human power, much less the Superintendent, can interfere with any one's religious ceremony.

43. Referring to the abolition of competitive examinations, the *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 27th September observes:—

TRIPURA  
HITAISHI,  
Sept. 27th, 1904.

The abolition of competitive examinations.

Can we expect to be governed in the same way that England is governed? In England, the laws are being reformed, and the general tendency of the public mind is towards improvement. And there is nothing which can resist this tendency.

As subjects of England, we have every right to expect that the same systems of administration, education, procedure, etc., which are adopted by England for herself shall also be adopted for India. But unfortunately the British Government is not prepared to govern India on the same lines as England, to introduce into India the rules that obtain in England.

The establishment of a Parliament and the introduction of a system of self-government in India have now come to be mere dreams of fancy. The people of this country are to remain tame and obedient to their rulers, like so many tenants of a zamindari, and the officials are to issue orders at their own convenience and exercise despotic sway. Can such be the policy of the British Government?

What are the underlying motives of this order abolishing competitive examinations? Are they not a love of power, a desire to tighten the hold on the subject people, and a love of flattery, on the part of the ruling race?

Both in England and in Japan, the competitive system prevails in almost all branches of the public service. When it is his own country the Englishman profits by the competitive system; but when India is in question, it is nomination rather than competition that is to be the rule. This is because the existence of the competitive system gives rise to some difficulties from the rulers' point of view. For it teaches self-reliance to the Indian youth, and is that desirable from the official standpoint? The abolition of examinations and the transference of patronage to high officials mean that henceforth young men will direct more of their energies to flattery than to the independent display of such talents as they possess.

And this campaign of flattery has already begun. Many unworthy graduates, who under the old system could never dream of aspiring to a Deputyship, are now paying court to the proper authorities with a reasonable chance of success.

There are many zamindars and high native officials whose wives' brothers think that their chance has come at last. And who can be sure that in this keen struggle for favour among rival aspirants, corruption and bribery will not be among the means used, in some cases, to gain the good-will of the "head-Babus" of the high officials?

The people of Bengal have all along been notorious for their proneness to flatter their superiors. Under the competitive system this evil trait in the national character was dying out. But the substitution of the nomination system will revive and give it a new lease of life.

The abolition of the competitive system is a misfortune to the country in general, to the educated community in particular, and to the Government also. This change of Lord Curzon's will make people gradually lose their self-respect. Does not, then, Lord Curzon desire that proper recognition should be given to merit in India, and that the people should learn how to improve themselves by their own unaided efforts? May His Excellency be well-advised enough to abandon this pernicious measure.

PABNA HITAISHI,  
Sept. 28th, 1904.

44. A correspondent of the *Pabna Hitaishi* [Pabna] of the 28th September

A complaint against a Branch  
Post-Master.

complains that the Branch Post-Master of Beltail in Pabna neglects his duties. Mails are not sorted at the proper time, nor are letters regularly delivered to the addressees. The Post-Master is in the habit of leaving the office to attend to private business, leaving anybody and everybody in charge. The effect is that letters are often received by wrong persons. Letters addressed to females rarely reach their destination; and if they do, are found to have been tampered with. And complaints against the post office are not duly forwarded.

ARYAVARTA,  
Oct. 1st, 1904.

45. The *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 1st October thanks the new Post-

The new Post-Master of Ranchi.

Master of the Ranchi town for removing the inconveniences which the public had to suffer during the incumbency of his predecessor on account of the neglect of his subordinates in the discharge of their duties.

JYOTI,  
Sept. 29th, 1904.

46. A correspondent of the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 29th September

Appointment of Sub-Registrars.

points out that of the 64 Sub-Registrars in the districts of Chittagong, Noakhali and Comilla, none is a B. A. or an F. A., and only a few have passed even the Entrance Examination. As an explanation of this paucity of men possessing educational

qualifications, the writer refers to the rule whereby the total number of Sub-Registrars in each district is fixed according to the respective numerical strengths of the local Hindu and Musalman population. The effect of this rule is that when the time comes to make a permanent appointment the choice of the best qualified among the apprentices is fettered by considerations of race and religion. It is said that the reorganisation of the Registration Department is under consideration by Government, and hope is expressed that this defect will be remedied under the new rules.

47. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th September writes as follows:—

The question of agricultural improvement.

Most hearty thanks are due to the Government for its endeavours to educate the natives in agricultural science as a means to improve Indian agriculture. But it would take a very long time to improve agriculture in this way. What is necessary at present is that help and advice should be given to cultivators themselves, enabling them actually to better the condition of agriculture in the country. They are accustomed to do every kind of work with their hands. They should now be supplied with instruments in order to enable them to relieve themselves of at least a portion of their manual labour. Machinery should be erected in fields for irrigation purposes, and the cost should at first be borne by the Provincial Government or the District Boards or the landowners. The cultivators may afterwards be required to pay small fees for this benefit.

Much can be done in this way if the Government, the District Boards and the zamindars care to exert themselves in the matter.

48. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th September observes that

Village sanitation in Bengal.

Government has of late directed its attention to the need of improving the sanitation of the Bengal village. This may be a matter for congratulation, but considering the small amount of money which Government is spending for the purpose, there is little hope of any appreciable good being done. It has been repeatedly pointed out in the columns of this paper that no improvement in village sanitation is to be looked for until adequate provision is made for a supply of pure drinking water. The mufassal Municipalities and District Boards cannot supply this want for lack of sufficient funds; and Government is not prepared to incur the expense on its own account. How then can we look for any improvement of the health of the villagers? It was only the other day that His Honour summoned a conference of some of the Chairmen of the Suburban Municipalities to learn their views on the water-supply question. What practical result has this conference led to? Most of the Municipalities pleaded want of funds as a justification for their inaction in the matter. Government offered no help from its own funds. If you cannot afford the expense of a supply of pure water, go on drinking impure water and sowing the seeds of life-long disease. That is the inevitable logic of facts. If you can afford the money, Government is ready to get money's worth for you. If, on the other hand, you are not prepared to spend money, there is nothing for you but to curse your own lot and go on suffering the consequences.

Government is prepared to spend an enormous amount of money for the improvement of the capital city. Nobody can object to the improvement of Calcutta, but the authorities should simultaneously pay attention to the improvement of the villages near it. Let Government liberally spend out of its fund, and put pressure on the Local Boards and Municipalities to divert their expenditure from other heads to sanitation. By these combined means, what now appears to be incapable of realisation will soon become perfectly feasible. Otherwise increased expenditure incurred merely in the reorganisation of the Sanitary Department would be nothing of the real work. It is unnecessary to say that for a Government to neglect to spend money, where the object is to save the lives of its subjects, and when it possesses a handsome surplus, is to be remiss in its duties.

49. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 30th September examines

New district head-quarters for Mymensingh.

the rival claims of the different places suggested as suitable head-quarters for the new district which

SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 29th, 1904.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Sept. 30th, 1904.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Sept. 30th, 1904.

it is proposed to create out of the Tangail, Jamalpur and part of the sadar subdivisions of the existing district of Mymensingh :—

(1) *Tangail*.—The choice of this place would be the cheapest, as many of the existing subdivisional offices could be utilised as district offices with small improvements; but it is distant and inaccessible from Jamalpur.

(2) *Gopalpur*.—The extent of high land is not sufficient to contain all the proposed district offices, and the river named Bairag on which it is situated is always dry except during the rains, and even then it is not navigable by steamers.

(3) *Navanagar*.—This also has not a sufficient extent of high land to accommodate the offices, though the river Jhinai on which it is situated is larger than the Bairag.

(4) *Jhopsa Mosudli*.—Its surface area is comparatively large, but its situation is unfavourable as being at a distance from the Jamuna.

(5) *Bhengulla*.—The claims of this place are preferable to those of all the places above named—

(a) The area of high land at Bhengulla and the adjoining villages is about two miles.

(b) The land is fertile and high enough to be above water even during the rains.

(c) The place is surrounded on three sides by the Jhinai and the Bairag.

(d) This ensures a plentiful supply of good drinking water.

(e) Small improvements in the Kabaria Barir *khal* would ensure communication with the Jamuna all the year round.

(f) There are fairs and markets, and provisions of all sorts are always available.

(g) It is the healthiest place in the whole of Pukhuria pargana.

(h) The construction of a line five or six miles long would connect it with the Sarisabari or Bansi station of the Mymensingh-Singhajani Jagannathganj State Railway and thereby bring it into communication with the rest of the district.

50. The *Hilavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th September says that before

Mismanagement in the Rangoon Government Press.

Mr. Sanderson became the Superintendent of the Rangoon Government Press there was an accumulation in that Press of nearly five or six tons of pie, the effect mainly of the compositors' strike which had taken place in 1902; but within ten or eleven months of Mr. Sanderson's arrival the quantity was doubled. This led to a scarcity of type available for use in the Press. Complaints beginning to come in from all directions, Mr. Sanderson began to fine the poor section-holders, foremen and compositors. The fines in some cases rose even to Rs. 200. This state of things still continues in the Press. A number of Madrasi striplings were engaged to reassort the pie, but they served only to make matters worse, because none but experienced distributors and compositors can do the work properly. Nevertheless, the boys continued to work and were paid from fines realised from the compositors, section-holders and distributors. Afterwards Mr. Sanderson entrusted a young Madrasi section-holder named Madure with the work of appointing and guiding the distributors. Madure dismissed half the boys engaged in the work and doubled the pay of the other half. Great confusion ensued. The compositors consented to do the distribution work in addition to their own duties. But they received nothing extra for this additional work, because the young distributors continued to receive their pay.

As for the appointment of distributors, it was said, in a memorial submitted to the Government by nearly 100 men, that in spite of an order passed by the Government of India in 1900 directing the appointment of distributors in the Press, the Press authorities had not even then appointed such men. Mr. Sanderson reported to the Government that distributors had been appointed, but as a matter of fact they were not appointed before one month had elapsed after the submission of this report. The distributors who were at last appointed were very few in number. Where the value of the composition work turned out every month ranges from eight to ten thousand rupees, the cost of

HITAVADI,  
Sept 30th 1904

distribution does not exceed Rs. 24. Can good distribution be expected from this?

51. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 1st October writes to say that while the question of the annexation of Kashmir on the return of Lord Curzon is still hanging fire, the *Amrita Eazar Patrika* sounds another note of alarm, viz., that the Government of the Punjab is trying to snatch away from the State of Patiala the pargana of Chel which is valued at about two crores of rupees, and hopes that the Government of the Punjab would not commit this act of oppression during the minority of its ruler. The same paper notices that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal also desires to take by force a piece of land belonging to the Maharaja of Darbhanga, who is unwilling to part with the same, and with that view has had recourse to acquisition proceedings.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Oct. 1st, 1904.

52. The *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipur] of the 1st October, learning that Lord Kitchener intends withdrawing his Army Circular issued with a view to prevent the ill-treatment of the Indians by the white soldiers, observes that if this be a fact, one would be compelled to say that Lord Kitchener has been unduly hasty in this matter.

BIHAR BANDHU,  
Oct. 1st 1904.

53. The same paper writes to say that soon after the conclusion of the Tibetan Treaty, the Government has begun to encourage military officers to learn the Tibetan language. On being examined, prizes will also be given. It was said that the English would not settle in Tibet. What reason is there then for patronizing military officers for learning the Tibetan language?

BIHAR BANDHU.

54. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 2nd October says that while Lord Curzon is anxious to reduce the Native Chiefs to mere figureheads, Lord Kitchener on the other hand wishes to make these Chiefs worthy of their names by organizing their troops. The latter has thus given ample proof of his statesmanship by proposing to provide these troops with arms of precision and thereby increasing the fighting power of India. Lord Kitchener is convinced that it is never good policy to view these native rulers, so simple and devoted to the English throne, with an eye of suspicion, but it is to be regretted that Lord Curzon, though he believes it, would not understand this principle.

HITAVARTA,  
Oct. 2nd, 1904.

55. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd October writes as follows:—  
Has the Bengal Government given a permanent lease of the office of Sadar Deputy Magistrate of Dumka in the Sonthal Parganas to Mr. Martin? Otherwise why should he be permitted to exercise sway at Dumka untrammelled for the last thirteen years? During all these long years many Deputy Magistrates have come and gone, but Mr. Martin remains firm in his seat. Even the Deputy Commissioners in charge of the district have been changed a number of times, but Mr. Martin continues at Dumka through all vicissitudes. Will Sir Andrew Fraser make a little effort to prove the mystery in this case?

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Oct. 2nd, 1904.

Too long continuance at any one place on the part of a high Government officer is apt to impair his sense of justice and impartiality. This is a fact well known to Government, and that is why the system of transfers was introduced. In the present case we cannot imagine the special circumstances for which Mr. Martin has been allowed to continue without a break for thirteen years at one station. Mr. Martin has built a house and acquired other property in Dumka, and thereby placed himself on terms of friendship and enmity with many of the local residents. Whether he bears any good-will to the poor black-skinned raiyat or not, he is certainly not found wanting in affection for the Sonthali young women. He has sold himself to a young Sonthali woman, and is preparing to bring into existence a new mixed race. Under such circumstances he may naturally dislike the idea of leaving Dumka. But who will explain why Government is showing this regard for Mr. Martin's feelings in this matter? The fact of Mr. Martin having formed so many strong ties of self-interest with Dumka has undoubtedly detracted from his impartiality as a judicial officer. We understand that the confidence of the local people

in the justice of Mr. Martin's judicial awards has diminished. We cannot say if decisions in particular suits are altered at the instigation of his sweetheart. But this we know from rumour that particular suitors sometimes are at great pains to gain the good-will of this ignorant young Sonthali woman. A former Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal (Sir Alexander Mackenzie) declared the formation of such relations between European officials and Indian women to be both illegal and harmful to prospects of official advancement. It can never be that the present Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Andrew Fraser) thinks differently on the subject. We hope His Honour's attention will be drawn to this case.

NIHAR,  
Oct. 4th, 1904.

Assessment of grazing tax and fishery tax in the Midnapore district.

56. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 4th October says that the reassessment of grazing tax on lands lying on both sides of the Kalinagar, Rasulpur, Ramnagar, and Junpat roads and of the fishery tax on cuttings situate on both sides of the above roads, has inflicted great misery on the villagers, who are already paying rent and road cess for those lands. It is to be hoped that the authorities will reconsider the matter and abolish the taxes, as was done a few years ago.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HITAVARTA,  
Oct. 2nd, 1904.

57. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 2nd October learns that the Victoria Orphanage and the Girls' school at Bharatpur, a Hindu Native State, are managed by persons who profess the Arya Samaj religion. The education imparted in the latter is on lines obnoxious to the Hindu religion. The reason assigned is the preponderance in the State of officials professing the Arya Samaj religion. The attention of the Maharaja is drawn to the present state of things.

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

BURDWAN  
SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 27th, 1904.

Floods in the Damodar and the neighbouring villages.

58. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 27th September is glad that the Lieutenant-Governor has asked Mr. O'Brien, the District Collector of Burdwan, to enquire into and submit a report about the condition to which the villages on the south bank of the Damodar are reduced by floods in that river. Mr. O'Brien is a just and kind ruler, and it is hoped that the report which he will submit will go a great way in removing the distress of the villagers. His Honour is, however, requested to see the miserable condition of the villages with his own eyes. An embankment similar to that which protects the local railway line should be erected on the south bank of the river if the villages thereon are to be saved from floods.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Oct. 3rd, 1904.

Weather and crop report.

59. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd October has the following weather and crop report from Muzaffarpur:—  
Weather is seasonable. Yield of *Bhadoi* crops, compared with that of the last year, is very unsatisfactory. The paddy crop is doing well, but more rain is needed. Cholera is reported to have broken out at Gadri village.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Sept. 27th, 1904.

Lady Curzon's illness.

60. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 27th September prays for the speedy recovery of Lady Curzon.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Sept. 27th, 1904.

The illness of Lady Curzon.

61. Referring to the illness of Lady Curzon, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 27th September expresses its sorrow at the news, and prays that God may grant her a speedy recovery.

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
Sept. 28th, 1904.

The illness of Lady Curzon.

62. Referring to the illness of Lady Curzon, the *Sri Sri Vishnu-Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 28th September prays for Her Ladyship's speedy recovery.

JYOTI,  
Sept. 29th, 1904.

The illness of Lady Curzon.

63. Referring to the illness of Lady Curzon, the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 29th September prays to God for Her Ladyship's recovery.

64. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th September writes:—

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Sept. 30th, 1904.

The illness of Lady Curzon. We are glad to hear that Lady Curzon is slightly better. For the last five or six days every one has been sorely anxious about Her Ladyship's illness. Yesterday's news is that the first faint signs of permanent improvement have appeared. We wish with all our hearts that she may soon recover completely.

65. Referring to the illness of Lady Curzon, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 30th September prays for Her Ladyship's speedy recovery, so that Lord Curzon

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Sept. 30th, 1904.

may return to continue his good work in India

66. Referring to the illness of Lady Curzon, the *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 30th September sincerely prays for Her Ladyship's recovery.

SOLTAN,  
Sept. 30th, 1904.

67. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th September prays for the speedy recovery of Lady Curzon, and says that whatever difference the Indians may have with Lord Curzon

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 30th, 1904.

The illness of Lady Curzon. in matters political, they have full sympathy with His Lordship in his present domestic trouble.

68. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st October says that all India prays for the speedy recovery of Lady Curzon.

BANGAVASI,  
Oct. 1st, 1904.

69. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Baz r Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 28th September writes:—

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA  
Sept. 28th, 1904.

Sedition and Indian newspapers.

Indian newspapers which disgrace their columns by using unrestrained language and publishing seditious matter have, in our opinion, no claim to be called real friends of the country. No sensible Indian desires the subversion of British rule in India. At the present moment even if England were voluntarily to retire from India, everybody knows that the natives will not be able, unaided, to protect their country from the fell grasp of foreign powers. If we must have a foreign master therefore, we naturally prefer the English in that position, as a people with whose peculiarities and policy we have become familiar through years of intercourse, to a new power, whose ways would be perfectly strange to us. But making this admission does not imply that we are to cease criticising English administrative policy and discussing politics. How can we help bringing our wants and grievances to the notice of the authorities? If our feeble cry of distress fails to attract their attention, we must change it into a loud wail. Government might disappoint us once or twice, but none the less we must persevere in our agitation. Like beggars seeking alms at the king's door, we shall at times indulge in loud cries, at others give vent to our complaints in a softer voice.

We might vary our efforts at persuasion by the use of arguments and reasoning in our favour. Like spoilt children dealing with their parents, we shall pester Government with granting us rights and conveniences. We must at any rate continue agitating. But here our rights cease. To go any further is to go beyond both our rights and the limits of our sense and intelligence. We suffer from many wants and grievances. When we ask Government to redress them we ask for no favour. It would be enough for our purpose if we receive bare justice. At times Government refuses to listen even to our just demands, and then it is that we are compelled to indulge in unfavourable criticism. We believe we have a moral justification for such criticism. But at the same time we sincerely desire the permanence of British rule in this country. If any newspaper publishes any wild nonsense in the course of its criticism, every sensible man in the country condemns such action.

Take the recent case of the *Ahluwalia* newspaper in the Punjab. The paper is an utterly insignificant one, and the *Civil and Military Gazette* of Lahore took credit to itself for drawing the attention of Government to some wild statements that vernacular journal had made in one of its issues.

Why a mighty Government should take such serious notice of such insignificant things is what amazes us. Can the whiff of a small bird shake the stability of the Himalayas? Here is an utterly unknown paper talking some irresponsible nonsense, and at once the mighty Government engine is set in motion to grind the offending editor of the insignificant paper under its loudly revolving wheels. This spectacle of Government being so much moved by the irresponsible talk of an insignificant newspaper is as incongruous as that of the

Himalayas being moved by the hurling against them of a blade of grass, or that of a lion jumping up at the sight of an insect in its way, and throwing the earth into convulsions.

HITAVADI,  
Sept. 30th, 1904.

70. Referring to the strictures which have been passed by the *Times of India* on the *Kál* newspaper for having published what the former considers a seditious article, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th September writes as follows:—

The matter has agitated our minds, because nowadays the authorities have begun to view the actions of the Indians with a suspicious eye, and this suspicion often leads to the infliction of heavy punishment on the latter. The other day the editor of an insignificant Punjab paper was put to jail on the charge of sedition. How many of the 30 crores of the inhabitants of India knew the name of this paper? Prosecutions like this are possible only in India. Quite recently a Boer editor published a highly seditious article in which the Boers were incited to rebel against the oppressive English. For this the editor received only a warning from the Colonial Government. The Boers have only been newly subjugated and they are still smarting under their fetters. To incite such a people to rebellion is a grave offence, but the person who committed it received only a warning. On the other hand, in India, where peace and good government cannot exist without the existence of English rule, men are sent to jail for using unguarded and inadvertent words. The *Times of India* has given the translation of only a part of the alleged seditious article. We are therefore not in a position to offer any opinion on the article as a whole. That Lord Curzon is both liked and disliked by the people, that both the rulers and ruled in India are becoming more and more hypocritical in their dealings with each other, that the desire to extract money from India is stronger in the minds of many Englishmen than the desire to rule her beneficently, and that all this may lead to a popular rising in the future, are statements which, though not sweet and palatable, are true. What ought to be seen in the article under notice is the spirit in which it is written. It is hoped that the authorities will be wise enough not to prosecute the *Kál* for this article. Since the English Government is necessary for the rise and development of educated India, everyone desires its permanence. It is not by the employment of the language of flattery alone that complaints should be made, evils of the administration pointed out, and reforms urged. It is the duty of the Sovereign calmly to listen to the complaints and censures made by the people and grant their prayers, if reasonable.

HITAVARTA,  
Oct. 2nd, 1904.

71. Under a long article headed "Indications of sedition," the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 2nd October has the following:—

Sedition in a Mahratta paper. When a man's character is spotless and his actions pure he never fears being found fault with.

It is only a month ago that Government prosecuted a Punjab paper named *Ahluwalia* and sent its editor to jail. Government may well think that it has scored a point. Yes, it has scored a point. It has made the paper well known, which, but for the prosecution, few would have any knowledge of.

Now the *Times of India*—that official detective of the Bombay Government—has published a translation of portions taken at random from the writings of a Mahratta paper called the *Kál*, and has also written a leader on the same, showing that they indicate sedition and call for the attention of the Government.

So long as the original articles are not read in their entirety, it is not possible to say whether the mutilated portions suggest sedition or not, but from what we have read of the other writings of the *Kál* we cannot believe that it is trying to create disaffection among the people against the Government, but we do not deny that bad feeling against the Government is not caused by the high-handed and oppressive doings of Government officials. What we want is redress of the wrongs, and this we seek sometimes by using harsh language and sometimes by praying in a supplicating tone.

By reading the translation as it appeared in the *Kál*, one has to admit that it indicates sedition, but then the questions that naturally arise are—

- (1) if the translation has been literal;
- (2) if the portions selected are in harmony with the writing as a whole;

- (3) if the portions that have been omitted being put in their proper places, the portions selected bear a different interpretation; and  
 (4) if these writings produced the feeling of disaffection or disloyalty.

We are deeply concerned with the terrible news about a prosecution, because many officials view the doings of the people with suspicion and at times do not hesitate in awarding very severe punishments. We shall be pained to see the *Kāl* prosecuted, but do not portions of the writings of which the translation is before us contain facts? Lord Curzon has created friends as well as enemies in this country. A stream of affected loyalty on one hand and affected desire for the well-being of the subject people on the other is flowing nowadays. There is a greater regard for pumping the people of its wealth than for its good. The country is growing poorer. All these may certainly make the drum of rebellion beat one day or other. This may not be sweet to hear, but is none the less true.

When the educated Indians have no other means of improving their condition there is no doubt they would always be for the permanency of British rule; but so long as the people would not place the misdoings and injustice of Government officials before them, and these would not listen to them and mend their ways, all hope of a long and permanent English rule would be in vain.

The *Bharat Mitra* has the following in this connection:—

In publishing the translation of selected portions of the paper, the *Times* of Bombay has only betrayed the old habit of the English Press to publish only such portions as may serve their own purpose.

As the editors and other persons employed on the staff of Anglo-Indian papers are Europeans, they consider themselves as the rulers of this country, being their kith and kin. All their sympathy is with the Government and Government officials. Nothing of it is therefore left for the people of this country. It is for this reason that vernacular papers which sympathize with the people are an eyesore to them.

They can threaten even a Governor-General with the charge of sedition and for which they cannot be considered disloyal.

Really the native papers are in a bad way. They are the organs of a helpless people, and as Government has provided no means by which the grievances and the real condition of the people may reach it, the people ventilate their complaints through these papers, but the sword of sedition is always hanging over their head. No help.

72. In commenting upon the partiality of Mr. D. N. Mallik, a Professor

of the Patna College and Secretary to the Bihar Football Club, for his College in a Final Shield match played between the students of the B. N. Collegiate School and T. K. Ghosh's Academy under the umpireship of Mr. Mallik himself and Mr. Shilberton(?), Referee, in which the B. N. College came out victorious, but which out of party-feeling, Mr. Mallik ordered to be played out again, the *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipur] of the 1st October says that the Bengalis in Bihar would be doing the right thing, if they keep themselves aloof from such meanness and narrowness of heart in accordance with the following admonition:—  
 "To live in water and make enemy of a crocodile is never safe."

73. In referring to the Bill which has been introduced in the British

Parliament by Mr. Reid, which forbids smoking by boys under 16 years of age, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 1st October remarks:—

What fate awaits India, where boys of only eight years badly take to smoking?

74. In mourning the death of Mr. Digby, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the

2nd October observes that India has lost a tower of strength in him just when he was most needed. He removed the long-cherished impression of the English people that India was growing under English rule. He clearly showed them that India has never been so unhappy as under British rule.

BIHAR BANDHU,  
Oct. 1st, 1904.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Oct. 1st, 1904.

HITAVARTA,  
Oct. 2nd, 1904.

HITAVARTA,  
Oct. 2nd, 1904.

75. In a poem headed "The three seasons in India," published in the same paper, the following lines occur:—

The English policy.  
As the floods of the rivers in the rainy season uproot and carry away big trees, etc., standing on their banks, so the English policy and the English army having emasculated us by cheating, force and tact has made us quite helpless. They have swept away our honour and our courage, etc., only in two days.

As rains make all the roads impassable, so the English policy has stopped all the ways to our improvement. They have taken away our fighting power by depriving us of the use of arms; all trades by English goods and all education by the Universities Act.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Oct. 3rd, 1904.

76. Referring to the proposed visit of His Royal Highness the Prince with the Princess of Wales to India during the winter season of the next year, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd October says that of course

the news of the visit of their Royal Highnesses is a very pleasing one, as the people will be able to discharge the sacred duty of seeing their ruler. But we are much concerned to know what their Royal Highnesses' impression would be when they see our condition.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Sept. 24th, 1904.

77. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 24th September states that there was no rain in the last week and that the weather was warm. The Puri correspondent of the same

paper makes a similar statement.

UTKALDIPIKA.

The health of Cuttack town.

78. The same paper states that the health of the Cuttack town is good.

UTKALDIPIKA.

79. The Puri correspondent of the same paper thanks the Manager of the Puri temple for desisting from the levy of a *pindika* rate from pilgrims on the representations of the servants of the Puri temple.

The suspension of the *pindika* rate.

UTKALDIPIKA.

80. The same correspondent states that the Manager has considerably improved the holy food by ordering the Mahantas of the Puri *mat's* to substitute fine rice for coarse rice and by supplying country *ghee* (clarified butter)

in the place of tinned *ghee* from the temple stores. This will no doubt conduce to the general health of the pilgrims, who will feel much pleased and gratified.

UTKALDIPIKA.

81. Referring to the incident of stone-throwing caused by the puerile freaks of a monkey at Simla, that created momentary apprehensions in the minds of His Excellency,

The monkey incident in Simla.

the officiating Viceroy, and his suite, the same paper observes that His Excellency will on enquiry find that monkeys have become very troublesome and meddlesome in many towns in India and their suburbs, and that something on a definite plan should be done to protect the people from their incessant depredations.

UTKALDIPIKA.

82. Referring to the action of Government with regard to the Santipur Municipality in Nadia, the same paper hopes that

The Santipur Municipality.

Sir Andrew Fraser will see his way to restore to the Municipality its former powers and privileges.

UTKALDIPIKA.

83. Referring to the proposed nomination of two Deputy Collectors and Magistrates by the Inspector-General of Police and the Director of Public Instruction every year under the new rules for recruitment for the Provincial and Subordinate Civil Services in Bengal, the same

paper points out that it may lead to the suggestion that the Indians have no chance of obtaining higher appointments in the Police and Education Departments.

UTKALDIPIKA.

84. The same paper discusses the Resolution of the Government of India, Home Department (Establishments) No. 419—135,

Appointment of natives to the public service.

dated Simla, the 24th May 1904, at length, and observes that the principle of making over the highest ranks of civil employment in India to Englishmen is as wrong as the

principle of appointing only Englishmen to those departments where scientific or technical knowledge is required or where there is a call for the exercise of particular responsibility or for the possession of a high standard of physical endurance, for the simple reason that they militate against the principles inculcated in the Government of India Act passed in 1833 and in the Queen's Proclamation issued in 1858. The latter principles were accepted in full by the Civil Service Commission and by the past Viceroys, as will be evidenced by their observations and speeches delivered on solemn occasions. Granting that the Indians are competent by their education and character to hold a particular appointment, they must have it irrespective of any considerations of race or religion. Whether Indians are competent to hold any particular appointment is a matter of test or experiment. The writer observes that it would have been far better had Lord Curzon remained silent on the subject, as His Excellency's predecessors had done. To accentuate race distinction by an ill-considered public resolution in the face of the Queen's pledges and in the face of the rising intelligence of the Indians, is an unfortunate affair. This will simply dishearten the educated Indians and breed discontent in their midst.

85. The Balubazar correspondent of the same paper states that the bridge near Amnakud on the road between Foolnakhra and Gope in the Puri district has given way and that flood-water makes inland traffic impossible. The correspondent draws the attention of the local authorities to the same, and hopes that the bridge will be repaired before long.

UTKALDIPKA.

The rainfall in the Balasore district.

86. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 22nd September states that there was slight rain in the Balasore district in the last week.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.  
Sept. 22nd, 1904.

The proposed military school at Quetta.

87. The same paper approves of the proposal to found a military school at Quetta with the object of supplying officers to the Indian Army on the shortest notice, and hopes that the authorities will find it convenient to admit Indians into the school, as the number of Indian soldiers in India is not inconsiderable.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

The proposed military school at Quetta.

88. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 14th September holds a similar opinion.

URIYA AND NAVA-SAMVAD,  
Sept. 14th, 1904.  
SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Sept. 22nd, 1904.

Rinderpest in the Balasore district.

89. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 22nd September is sorry to note that rinderpest is raging among cattle in Chandipur in the Balasore district.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

The cost of the Tibet expedition.

90. The same paper is glad to note that the Tibet war has been brought to a close by the Lhasa treaty, and hopes that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland will bear a portion of the cost of the expedition, as the objects of the Tibet Mission were mostly imperial.

The cost of the Tibet expedition.

91. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 14th September holds a similar opinion.

URIYA AND NAVA-SAMVAD,  
Sept. 14th, 1904.  
URIYA AND NAVA-SAMVAD.

92. Referring to the capital punishment inflicted on eight men for murdering one man in Allahabad, the same paper points out that the sentence was not just, and that the Indian criminal law needs amendment in this particular.

Capital sentence on eight men for one murder.

93. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 24th September welcomes the *Utkalbasi*, a new weekly Uriya paper, printed at Ichapur in Ganjam under the patronage of the

GARJATBASINI,  
Sept. 24th, 1904.

Raja of Surangi, and wishes it a prosperous career.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 8th October, 1904.

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# REPORT (PART II)

## ON

### NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 8th October 1904.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

8060. *New India* writes that the proclamation of the Tibetans is couched

*NEW INDIA,*  
14th September 1904.

The Tibetan Proclamation.

in dignified language and explains that the reason why they have offered such a half-hearted resistance is that being Buddhists, they shrink from the guilt of shedding human blood. But the proclamation, concludes the journal, accuses the English of having acted aggressively in invading Tibet, and says that their action has caused intense indignation throughout the Province.

8061. The *Bengalee* is strongly of opinion that the treaty which has just

*BENGALÉE,*  
23rd September 1904.

The Tibetan Treaty.

been concluded at Lhassa will give rise to serious complications at no distant time, and will not, as is popularly thought, mark a final settlement of the Tibetan question.

There can be no doubt, continues the journal, as to the effect of this treaty upon Russia and on the entire Buddhist world; and if the former's Eastern campaign does not leave her utterly helpless, it may be safely predicted that she will avenge this practical annexation of Tibet. Then, again, the fighting powers of the Mongolian Buddhists are rendered more formidable by their fanaticism, and if backed by Russian intrigue and Russian gold, they are likely to constitute a serious menace to the safety of the empire. But what, in the opinion of the *Bengalee*, darkens the political outlook still more, is the deposition of the Dalai Lama by the puppet Emperor of China, and the shock which has thus been given to the feelings of a large section of the human race will surely have its reaction. Truly, what a vista of complications has been opened up by this inauspicious treaty! In conclusion, the *Bengalee* sees in the partial and temporary occupation of to-day the future annexation of Tibet, and avows that this constitutional change will be accompanied by a lamentable loss of human life.

8062. As regards the results of the Tibetan expedition, the *Indian Nation*

*INDIAN NATION,*  
26th September 1904.

*Ibid.*

is disposed to agree with the *Daily News* that the treaty is equivalent to annexation. The Government's assurances to the contrary, continues the journal, have been universally flouted, and the *Morning Post's* Shanghai correspondent states that China objects to the treaty on the ground that it infringes China's sovereignty. Not to speak of the complications which may arise hereafter with China or Russia, concludes the *Nation*, the demand for an indemnity, prodigious for a country like Tibet, and the securing of it by the military occupation of the Chumbi Valley, are a menace of annexation if not annexation itself!

8063. It is expected, writes the *Bengalee*, that Lord Curzon will take

*BENGALÉE,*  
28th September 1904.

British influence in Persia.

the fullest advantage of Russia's present difficulties to make another demonstration in Southern Persia, and it is precisely with this object that His Excellency has accepted a new term of office. Lord Curzon, says the journal, has made no secret of the fact that the complete establishment of British influence in Southern Persia has been "the dream of his life," and he is not the man to let a single chance of securing what he has set his heart on escape him. The *Bengalee* considers that any attempt on the part of Lord Curzon to realise his dream would be dangerous, as the Russians are sure to have German support, and the struggle that must inevitably follow will spell ruin to India's finances.

8064. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the Tibetan who assisted the

*AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA,*  
29th September 1904.

The Tibetan expedition.

famous Bengali explorer, Babu Sarat Chander Das, during his visit to Lhassa, was released only the other day by Colonel Younghusband, after having suffered imprisonment for twenty years. If, concludes the journal, it had been argued the present expedition was undertaken with a view to releasing this helpful Tibetan, then much of the opposition would have disappeared.

8065. The *Bengalee* writes that while Reuter's telegram announcing the

*BENGALÉE,*  
30th September 1904.

Chinese intervention in Tibetan affairs.

appointment of a Chinese official as Administrator of Tibetan affairs does not clearly define the position he will occupy, it shows a determination on the part of China not to suffer her suzerainty to be regarded any longer as fictitious. In the opinion of the journal, the appointment looks very much like the administering of a snub to the Chinese Amban who has played such a prominent part in recent Tibetan politics.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
23th September 1904.

8066. The conclusion the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* draws from Sir James La Touche's suggestion that Police Sub-Inspectors should be protected from the "disrespect" shown to them by "low-class pleaders," is that the former are "high-class" men. This, says the journal, is certainly not the opinion entertained by the Police Commission of Sub-Inspectors generally and particularly those in the United Provinces! But what is this tendency to idolise the police? In Madras the Magistracy was wantonly humiliated to atone for an imaginary insult offered to the police, and now it is sought to protect Sub-Inspectors from the adverse criticisms of pleaders! When District Magistrates are armed with these instructions, what pleader, asks the *Patrika*, will dare to expose the acts of the police, even though it be in the interests of his client? With great truth did Sir G. Campbell call them the "pet dogs" of the Government for the people are the sheep, and the one object of their rulers is to harass them through the medium of an unscrupulous police!

The journal advises the pleaders of the United Provinces to request the Lieutenant-Governor to enlighten them as to whom he considers "low-class pleaders," and how pleaders are to act when they are required to expose the mal-practices of the police.

BENGALIEE,  
30th September 1904.

8067. The *Bengalee* is very pleased to learn that the Commissioner of Police has prohibited the lottery in connection with a certain hair oil advertised for sale, as it was nothing short of gambling, the oil being merely a blind. If the sale of certain books advertised along with the lottery has not already been suppressed, the journal insists that no time should be lost in suppressing it now and urges that a Magistrate's order should be obtained authorising the confiscation and destruction of the books.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

BENGALIEE,  
22nd September 1904.

8068. The *Bengalee* writes that a Khulna contemporary publishes the facts of a case which materially strengthen the reasons for the separation of Judicial and Executive functions.

It appears that three men were charged with petty offences under the Forest Laws, and as the alleged offences were committed in the Satkhira subdivision, it was expected that the trial would have taken place there. For certain reasons, however, Sir Henry Farrington, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, wrote to the District Magistrate of Khulna requesting him to order the transfer of the case to the sadar, which the Magistrate not only unhesitatingly did, but passed the following objectionable orders:—"To Babu P. K. Kerforma, Deputy Magistrate, who will dispose of the case against the accused persons. Deterrent punishment should be inflicted!" The Deputy Magistrate, says the *Bengalee*, only too faithfully carried out the injunctions of his superior officer, for he not only convicted the accused, but "sentenced them to terms of imprisonment unprecedented in the annals of criminal administration"! The journal does not know which to admire most, the impudence of the Deputy Conservator in making the request he did, the utter subserviency of the Magistrate, or the Deputy Magistrate's strict obedience!

The accused persons, concludes the *Bengalee*, successfully appealed to the Sessions Judge, who not only ordered the case to be tried at Satkhira, but passed discreditable remarks on the unjudicial conduct of the District Magistrate. How long will the Government remain unmoved at this wholesale massacre of justice?

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
27th September 1904.

8069. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the practice of refusing bail to an accused person who is on his trial, or who, being convicted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment, has successfully appealed against the conviction, can never be thoroughly justified. Mr. Elliot, continues the journal, who was sentenced to a year's imprisonment in the Darjeeling bogus telegram case, appealed to the High Court and his appeal was admitted, but bail was refused. It was represented that the prisoner

had a wife and six children and was therefore not likely to abscond, but to no purpose. Suppose now that the learned Judges are convinced of the innocence of the man, who is to compensate him for the imprisonment he is at present undergoing? Truly in India the people are treated very harshly and often very unjustly. Why should a man be punished so long as there is the least doubt in his case?

8070. Reading Mr. Tilak's memorial to the Secretary of State for compensation on account of the recent State prosecution he was made the victim of, the *Bengalee*

BENGALÉE,  
27th September 1904.

Mr. Tilak's case.

is struck with the fact that the Bombay Government should have adopted the extraordinary procedure of appointing a special Magistrate to try Mr. Tilak, more especially as the case was a private one, with which they had no particular concern. In the course of the trial, continues the journal, the accused had to go up to the High Court no less than three times with a view to having interlocutory orders set aside. Now suppose the trying Magistrate had displayed such bias as to lead the High Court to transfer the case to some other Magistrate, would not the Bombay Government have been stultified indeed? As it is, however, the order of acquittal is sufficient condemnation of their unwise and indiscrete action in converting a private case into a State prosecution!

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,

30th September 1904.

8071. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that Pandit Debi Prasanna Smritiratna preferred an appeal to the High Court against the order of the District and Session Judge of Nadia, Mr. F. McBlaine, imposing a fine of

Mr. MacBlaine, District and Sessions Judge, Nadia.

Rs. 100 upon him for non-attendance as a juror. It was urged by the petitioner at the time, that he did not receive any summons and he produced three of his pupils as witnesses; but nevertheless, says the journal, the Judge disbelieved him and his witnesses and accepted the uncorroborated evidence of the peon. The Hon'ble Judges of the High Court, however, held that there was no satisfactory evidence that the summons was served upon the petitioner and made the rule absolute, ordering the refund of the fine if already paid. This, concludes the *Patrika*, is the way that some Judges try to make the jury system unpopular! But where is the authority who is to fine Mr. McBlaine for his irregular attendance at Court?

(d)—Education.

8072. While the *Bengalee* is thoroughly appreciative of Sir Andrew

BENGALÉE,  
23rd September 1904.

The proposed college at Ranchi.

Fraser's genuine and disinterested efforts to establish a college for the promotion of higher education, it cannot overlook the great difficulties which threaten the success of the scheme. In the first place, there is no railway to Ranchi, and by the time a line is actually opened, the enthusiasm of the supporters of the project will have considerably cooled. Then, under the most favourable circumstances, the number of students on the rolls of the college will be comparatively small owing to the high standard of fees. But the most formidable objection to the scheme is that it is likely to impair the efficiency of the Presidency College, and in course of time to lead to its abolition. This contingency, concludes the *Bengalee*, may be remote, but so long as it exists, the Indian community will not countenance the scheme, as the Presidency College is, in their minds, inseparably associated with the intellectual progress of the province.

8073. The same journal reminds Sir Andrew Fraser that not a few of those who welcomed, in conversation with His

BENGALÉE,  
24th September 1904.

*Ibid.*

Honour, the scheme for the foundation of a college at Ranchi, did so purely out of a desire to be complimentary, and not after duly considering the question. Such conventional approval, has very little value and should not be taken too seriously, as the people to whom the Lieutenant-Governor had spoken on the subject had no other alternative but to assure His Honour that his cherished scheme precisely met the requirements of the country

The *Bengalee* then reverts to the herculean task of collecting seven lakhs of rupees from the Bengal zamindars who are heartily disgusted—and some of them almost ruined—owing to the heavy and frequent calls made on their limited purses; but of course, if His Honour, regardless of risk or cost, insists

on carrying out his scheme, then many zamindars and title-hunters will be obliged to come forward with big donations.

The journal does not deny that a residential college at Ranchi would be a great boon, but then it would benefit only an infinitesimal section of a vast community. There is, however, another and more serious consideration, viz., that if the proposed college thrives, the Presidency College *must* decline in consequence, and it is this that prevents educated Bengalis from supporting the scheme.

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

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
27th September 1904.

8074. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Arrah correspondent complains that although the Municipality wrings heavy taxes from the rate-payers, it does nothing to promote their convenience. The conservancy of the town is neglected, and the roads are in disrepair and badly lighted. As a notable instance of this, the correspondent cites the road passing through Munshi Panday Bag, which is in a deplorable condition. It is favoured with a single lantern only, and the sufferings of the public, especially during the rains, can better be imagined than described. The writer hopes that the Vice-Chairman of the Municipality will do his duty, and remove these grievances as speedily as possible.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
27th September 1904.

8075. A correspondent writing to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* cites the facts of the following case to show that the apprehension caused by the passing of the Land Acquisition Act of 1894, and the abolition of the appointment of assessors, was well founded. It appears that the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 6th July last contained a notification acquiring a piece of land from the compound of a certain resident in Barnagore together with other land, and the ostensible object of this acquisition was the widening of Rai Mathura Nath Choudhuri's Street, which, moreover, is quite broad enough to freely admit of wheeled traffic. It now transpires that only a portion of the road is to be widened, and no-one but the resident referred to above, at whose instance the acquisition is being made, will be benefited! This, says the writer, is not such a public purpose as is contemplated by the Act, and the authorities should annul the acquisition, as it is likely to cause great hardship to the other persons who are being deprived of their property for the benefit of a single individual.

BENGALIEE,  
2nd October 1904.

8076. The *Bengalee's* Burdwan correspondent complains that the road-repairing work is being done in the most perfunctory and careless manner possible. There is absolutely no attempt at consolidation, and the materials supplied are quite insufficient. The writer hears that the matter was reported to the Chairman by some of the Municipal Commissioners, but no action has yet been taken.

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

BENGALIEE,  
2nd October 1904.

8077. The *Bengalee* is pained and surprised to learn that the present Station-master of Howrah is causelessly ill-treating the Indian ticket-collectors under him, and says that within a week he has suspended one man, recommended two others for summary dismissal, suggested heavy punishment for three more, and fined his last victim a week's pay—all for offences which are in reality no offences at all. His high-handed proceedings have caused quite a panic among the Indian ticket-collectors whom he apparently wishes to get rid of altogether, and the *Bengalee* thinks it is high time that he received a smart tap from the higher authorities.

(h)—General.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
25th September 1904.

8078. A correspondent writing to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* complains of the Chief Commissioner's action in bestowing all available appointments on Muhammadans to the exclusion of the Hindus, and protests against the principle that "Sind should be governed by the Muhammadans, as they form the bulk of the population." The Hindus in

consequence, are thoroughly perturbed, and the journal hopes that Mr. Mackenzie will abandon this mischievous policy, which is diametrically opposed to the wholesome principles upon which India is and ought to be governed.

8079. The *Bengalee* understands that owing to the dismissal of the present Manager and Trustee of the Bhawal Estate by the

The Bhawal Estate.

BENGALUR,  
28th September 1904.

Rani, an attempt is being made to place the estate under the Court of Wards. All accounts represent the Rani to be a careful and far-sighted woman, and the journal hopes that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and Mr. Savage will not tolerate any canvassing, but hear the Rani's explanation of her action before final orders are passed.

8080. A correspondent writing to the *Bengalee* asserts that the Rani had very good reasons for dispensing with Mr. Meyer's

BENGALUR,  
29th September 1904.

*Ibid.*

services, and understands that an attempt is being made to place the estate under the Court of Wards in order that his services might still be retained. As regards placing the estate under the Court of Wards, the writer points out that the Advocate-General and the Legal Remembrancer were consulted, and that they were both of opinion that the Rani could not be disqualified as a trustee and the control of the estate withdrawn from her. The Board of Revenue has accordingly declined to take charge of the estate, and Mr. Meyer has gone to Darjeeling with the eldest Kumar to see whether this objection cannot be overruled. In conclusion, the correspondent writes that the matter is exciting considerable public interest, and hopes that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor will not allow the estate to be brought under the Court of Wards, as such a procedure would clearly be illegal.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

8081. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Simla correspondent writes that it is the intention of the Punjab Government to annex

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA

29th September 1904.

Annexation of Chail pargana  
in Patiala State.

Chail pargana, the well-known summer residence of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, and states that it was with this object that the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab visited the place. The journal seriously asks if the British Government are justified in requesting the Council of Regency—a body appointed by them to look after the welfare of the State—to make over a territory which has for the last thirteen years been the summer residence of the Maharaja and which is worth two crores of rupees owing to the vast improvements that have been effected, and if the Council would not be betraying its trust by complying with such a request? For its own part, however, the *Patrika* cannot believe that the Punjab Government could be party to a transaction which cannot be justified on any other grounds save that of 'might is right,' and points out that any attempt at annexation would be all the more objectionable, as the State belongs to a minor, who is under the guardianship of the British Government.

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

8082. The *Bengalee* writes that from a petition signed by thousands

BENGALUR,  
29th September 1904.

The floods in the Uluberia sub-  
division.

of people in the Uluberia subdivision, it appears that the Hooghly floods have very seriously damaged a large tract of country, and that remedial measures are urgently needed for the protection and succour of the sufferers. The damage done by these floods, continues the journal, is estimated at Rs. 2,55,000, and to complete the woes of the penniless, homeless and starving thousands, a fearful amount of sickness is prevalent in the affected villages. The *Bengalee* appeals to the Government to come to the rescue of the people, as their condition is critical.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

8083. The *Behar Herald* writes that happily the leaders of the Indian

BEHAR HERALD,  
24th September 1904.

The industrial regeneration of  
India

people have at last awakened to the grave necessity of regenerating their country industrially, and it reminds them that every movement set on foot which has this object in view, foreshadows the future prosperity of India. For this reason the journal exhorts the Beharis to help in the work of the

Association for the Advancement of Scientific and Industrial Education, and urges the formation of District Committees to co-operate with the Central Association in Calcutta.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
24th September 1904.

8084. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* deplores the way in which the higher aims of journalism in this country are being obscured by certain of its contemporaries who appear to have set themselves the unworthy task of scrutinising unknown vernacular papers, exposing any sedition they may contain and inciting the Government to a prosecution of the offenders.

Following in the wake of the *Civil and Military Gazette*, Punjab, the *Times of India*, continues the *Patrika*, has published in *extenso* the effusions of a *Mahratta* paper called *Kal* and made an earnest appeal to the Government of Bombay to take action against the proprietor. Is this the occupation of an honourable journal? What has the *Times of India* got to do with the loyalty or disloyalty of its contemporaries when the Government pay their translators handsomely to acquaint them with the tone of the Press? The *Patrika* trusts that the Government of Bombay will treat the appeal of the *Times of India* with the indifference it deserves, more particularly as that journal is not, a safe guide in these matters, as was amply shown during the administration of Lord Sandhurst. Besides, is the Government likely to be affected by the writings of obscure journals? All that is necessary is a severe warning, which, in the opinion of the *Patrika*, should also be administered to the *Times of India*, for having unnecessarily given marked publicity to sentiments of which the masses were totally ignorant.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
24th September 1904.

8085. The *Indian Mirror* writes that no news has more completely shocked the people of this country more than the news of Lady Curzon's serious illness. Indians, says the journal, were not much in favour of Lord Curzon's return to these shores as Viceroy, but they will be deeply grieved indeed if that event is postponed or prevented by the illness of his esteemed wife taking an unfavourably turn. Whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the merits of Lord Curzon's administration, says the *Mirror*, there can be but one opinion regarding Lady Curzon, whose courtesy and kindness have endeared her to every class. She has willingly given her help wherever and whenever it has been sought, and the most earnest wish of every true-born son of India is that she may speedily recover.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
26th September 1904.

8086. The *Hindoo Patriot* earnestly prays for the recovery of Lady Curzon, so that her distinguished husband might return to India and make it a point, after the sore trial he has undergone, to employ his mighty genius and unrivalled powers for the substantial benefit of the Indian people.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
25th September 1904.

8087. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that even the worst of Lord Curzon's enemies—and he has created a good many by his undoubted ability and masterfulness—will deeply sympathise with him in his terrible distress. A more pathetic situation, says the journal, cannot be conceived. Loaded with honours, His Excellency is about to start for India "to give finishing touches to his great policy," when his wife is suddenly prostrated with a hopeless illness. Such a cruel fate cannot fail to fill every heart with kindly feelings for Lord Curzon and it is the wish of the entire country that Heaven may spare Lady Curzon and make her distinguished husband a real benefactor of the millions entrusted to his care.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL  
OF POLICE, L. P.,  
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,  
The 8th October 1904.

F. C. DALY,  
Asst. to the Insp.-Genl. of Police, L. P.