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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 19th November 1904.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

COMMENTING on the decision to settle the North Sea outrage dispute by reference to an International Commission of enquiry, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th November observes:—

We have not been able to refrain from laughter at the attitude of the British Government in this dispute. If it was impossible for England to fight Russia, what was the use of exposing herself to ridicule by taking up an unnecessarily boastful attitude at the outset? The weak always bow before the strong. The British Government has done the same thing, and there is nothing surprising in that. It would have been better then to have done without all the brag and bounce to which we were treated at the beginning.

We cannot agree with those who think that the attitude of the British Government on this question is indicative of its fortitude, its forgiving disposition, or its love of peace, for fortitude and patience have a limit. We can claim, from our long contact with the race, to possess some idea at least of the depth of the sentiments of patience, mercy and forgiveness possessed by the English. If the scene of the North Sea outrage had been India, if it had been the lives of some Indian fishermen that had been lost through the criminality of Persian, Afghan or Tibetan soldiers, we are at no loss to imagine the treatment the English would have meted out to the Governments of those countries. Who does not know the terrible nature of the punishment which was inflicted on the King of Burma for failing to provide conveniences for Indian traders? And the fate which has overtaken Tibet for imprisoning only two citizens from Sikkim is yet present before our eyes. So it would be concealing the truth to say that the English are forgiving Russia's repeated causes of offence.

The truth is, that if the English Government were not afraid of the great risk of international complications in the event of declaring war against Russia, if they had not known that Russia had the full sympathy of Germany in private, it is extremely doubtful if they would have consented to submit to these repeated acts of oppression and insult at the hands of Russia. The decisions in the cases of the *Knight Commander*, the *Malacca* and other steamers were not favourable to English interests. And in this North Sea outrage case, the glimpses we have already obtained of the coming decision are enough to justify the conclusion that the whole affair will end in a farce. That in submitting to all these insults England is only actuated by a spirit of forgiveness is not a statement that will command general credence. Not that we are at all sorry that war has not broken out between England and Russia. On the contrary, we are rather glad than otherwise. But the interests of truth require also the admission that the attitude of Government has been throughout such as to provoke ridicule.

2. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th November writes:—

The Kabul Mission.

The object of the proposed political Mission to Kabul, as far as revealed at present, is said to be

to settle the differences which have arisen between our Government and the present Amir of Afghanistan. Russia is the only great rival of England in Asia. The English have spent vast sums of money and have undergone the greatest troubles in strengthening the defences of the north-west frontier of India for fear of Russia. Persia, Afghanistan and Tibet are the three countries at which Russia always looks with wistful eyes. The English cannot allow Russia to take possession of any one of them. What should be done to prevent the possibility of future mischief? To employ force would be very dangerous no doubt. That is why it is proposed to establish British supremacy in those countries by sending a "Mission" to each, instead of undertaking a military expedition.

We have seen how to punish Tibet for her secret intrigue with Russia and other delinquencies, a "peaceful" armed Mission was sent to that country. The "Commercial" Mission recently sent to Persia has for its object the fulfilment of those objects which Lord Curzon failed to attain when he undertook the Persian Gulf tour. Rightly or wrongly we have understood the reasons for which these two Missions were sent in our own way; but the authorities have not yet clearly explained to us why a Mission to Kabul has been found

HITAVADI,
Nov. 11th, 1904.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Nov. 11th, 1904.

necessary. But though they have chosen to keep the matter a secret, the London *Times* has given significant hints from which it appears that the Amir has incurred the displeasure of the British Government for a particular reason, namely, the importation of large quantities of war materials into Afghanistan from Europe. The fact is that the Government of India is somewhat alarmed at the attitude of the Amir, who is perhaps suspected of being resolved to cut off all connection with it by gradually making himself powerful. If it were not so, how is it then that the Government is now alarmed at the importation of arms by the Amir? For this reason Government is determined to bring him under some sort of control. Government proposes to take precautionary measures in time lest the Amir should grow too powerful by collecting arms and training his soldiers, thereby becoming as much a cause of apprehension as Russia already is. It is to be hoped that the matter will be settled without a hitch.

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

3. Commenting upon the *Army News* paper's statement that the Hindus

Army News on the Tibet ought to be thankful to Lord Curzon because some Mission. of their sacred places which were hitherto inaccessible to them have been thrown open to them on account of the Tibet Mission, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 12th November sarcastically observes that the address conveying the thanks ought to be to the effect that the object of sending the Mission to Tibet was no other than to make the sacred places of Hindus accessible to them. The object of the Boer war was also to punish the Boers for their ill-treatment of the Indians.

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 13th, 1904.

4. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 13th November notices the same and says that under one of the terms of the treaty the

The Tibetan treaty. British Government has secured mining rights, etc., in Tibet, and that, seeing this, the other Powers are pressing the Chinese Government for similar rights in Tibet, Tibet being also Chinese territory. The Government of China is in a fix. Might is right nowadays. Should all the Powers combine in the matter the Boxer incident would repeat itself. On the other hand, the British Government is not likely to admit the suzerainty of China over Tibet. The consequence may be that the Chinese Government may grant even greater concessions to Russia in Tibet and give rise to such a terrible fight between the Lion and the Bear as poor India would tremble to think of.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 14th, 1904.

5. Notwithstanding the protests of Germany, America, France, Italy and Japan, and in spite of the fact that the Dowager Empress of China is opposed to the British treaty with Tibet, says the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th November, the high officials in England remain altogether unmoved about the matter. It is said the Indian Government must "swallow up" the Chumbi Valley, in spite of any opposition from Foreign Powers. The paper fears international complications, and hopes the calamity might be averted.

HINDI BANGAVASI.

6. Referring to a telegram published in the *Standard* regarding the arrival of the Dalai Lama in Urga, a town in China, and the cordial reception accorded to him at the instance of the Chinese Government, the same paper remarks:—

What should the British Government be thinking of China at this conduct of hers?

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 13th, 1904.

7. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 13th November notices the above incident and remarks:—

The Dalai Lama in China. Should China assume her proper attitude on this occasion, the British Government would find itself in a serious difficulty.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 8th, 1904.

8. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 8th November says that since the institution of cases under *Budmashes* in the Mymensingh district. section 110 of the Indian Penal Code by Babu Ram Kamal Neogi, Sub-Inspector of the Kalihati thana, against the *budmashes*, including some persons in the Narandia and

Daulatpur villages, their outrages have considerably lessened. The gamblers in this part of the district have been punished by the exertions of Ram Kamal Babu. It is not an easy task to put down the *budmashes*, as they are believed to be under the protection of influential men. Nobody dares give evidence against them. Ram Kamal Babu and Sarat Babu, the Sub-Inspector of Ghatail, should be deputed to deal with the *budmashes*. The attention of the District Magistrate and of the Subdivisional Officer of Tangail is drawn to the matter.

9. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 12th November calls attention to the prevalence of a practice of levying tolls on the vendors of fruits and other similar petty shop-keepers on the streets of Calcutta indulged in by

NAVAYUG,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

The police and petty shop-keepers in Calcutta. The liquor-shops are understood to close their business at 9 P.M. But in reality the bottles are transferred to the refreshment shops which stand near by, and the liquor is sold through their agency. The connivance of the beat constable is purchased by a small *salami*. This is the practice with all the liquor-shops under the jurisdiction of the Jorasanko thana, in Cornwallis and Maniktala streets.

10. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 12th November says that on the occasion of the last Kali Puja, the periodical gamblers found no opportunity to satisfy their craving, but the old gambling dens carried on a roaring business, periodical gamblers visiting the same. The police seemed, as it were, to be guarding the gamblers against being harassed by unpleasant intruders.

11. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 13th November calls attention to the occurrence of numerous undetected cases of theft in village Matta, in the subdivision of Manikganj, Dacca. Some cases are known in which the same house has been subjected to repeated attacks at intervals. The indifference of the local police is held responsible for this state of things.

12. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th November has the following:—

Deaths caused by wild beasts in India. From the annual official report relating to the ravages of wild beasts, it appears that the number of deaths caused by such beasts in 1903 exceeded those in 1902. The fact is that wild beasts cannot be driven away by *lathis* or sticks. The Government officials quietly publish these reports, but it never strikes them that if the rigours of the Arms Act were removed, the lives of so many people would not be lost every year.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

13. The *Malda Samachar* [Malda] of the 9th November takes the occasion of the recent appointment of a temporary additional Munsif to Malda to press on the attention of the authorities the need of having a

MALDA SAMACHAR,
Nov. 9th, 1904.

separate Sub-Judge for this district. The rapid rate at which civil cases in the district are increasing will soon probably make it necessary to convert the present temporary additional Munsif into a permanent third Munsif. And if the judicial staff of the district must be strengthened, it should be by a Sub-Judge rather than by a third Munsif. The present inconvenient arrangement whereby suitors in more important cases have to travel to Rajshahi would thereby be avoided.

14. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th November writes that Mr. Lyall, Deputy Commissioner of Palamau, transferred a case from the file of the Senior Deputy Magistrate to his own without assigning any reason for so doing. The case had been filed in behalf of Maulvi Abdul Majid, a respectable zamindar of Palamau, against one Indranarayan Deo, whose men threatened a breach of the peace at a place called Jhajha. The Deputy Commissioner began by stating in his judgment that no reliance could be placed upon statements made by Maulvi Abdul Majid's men. Justice could not be expected.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Nov. 13th, 1904.

from a Magistrate who entertained such a bias against one of the parties. He did not believe the police report which was in favour of Maulvi Abdul Majid, but proceeded to consider the title to the disputed land, while his clear duty was simply to determine the possession of the land. Afterwards he instituted proceedings against the zamindar under sections 211, 193 and 471 of the Indian Penal Code and ordered the District Superintendent of Police to enquire and report, but did not make over the case to another Magistrate for trial. There was a motion in the High Court against this illegal proceeding and the High Court Judges condemned the action of the Deputy Commissioner. But nothing could bring Mr. Lyall to reason and he at once issued a warrant without bail against the zamindar and some other respectable zamindars, one of whom, Nawab Raput Hossein, was arrested on suspicion. This Nawab, who is a descendant of the celebrated author of *Seyir Mutakherin*, was released on bail after two days. Another man named Tulsi Singh was also arrested, but he was not allowed to know what his offence was. Application for copies of the proceedings was submitted, but the copies were not granted. It then transpired that copies could not be issued as no proceedings had been drawn up. It thus appears that nothing has been recorded against Maulvi Abdul and his men. Can anything more irregular and illegal be conceived than that so many things happened without a line being recorded on paper? It is to be hoped the facts of the case will attract the attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

HITAVARTA.
Nov. 13th, 1904.

15. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] on the 13th November notices the case of a Bengali Doctor and also of a native Inspector of Harsh treatment of certain Police in Madras who have recently been punished Government employés. with dismissal and forfeiture of their almost earned pension on some flimsy charges, and remarks that our Government is, like the Insurance Companies, always on the lookout for a victim to deprive him of his pension.

The Inspector has memorialized Lord Ampthill, and the paper recommends his case for favourable consideration if the statement of the petitioner be found correct.

(d)—*Education.*

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BASAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 9th, 1904.

16. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 9th November writes:—

The Ranchi College scheme.

The Ranchi College, it would seem, must be established at all costs. It does not matter whether the people of the country will benefit by it or no. The Presidency College is being kept in a state of comparative inefficiency. Government ignores this fact and sets about collecting subscriptions in aid of a new college. A meeting of the Ranchi College Executive Committee was held on the 10th October last. Of course a cause in which the Lieutenant-Governor shows a keen interest is sure to command both the attendance and the assistance of the leading native gentlemen. So at the meeting above referred to, almost every well-known native citizen of Calcutta was present. The establishment of a college at Ranchi will mean the natural death of the Presidency College at a very early date. The Presidency College is a Government institution. If Government seek to establish a new college, there is no expectation that it will increase its education grants so as to allow of both the colleges being kept in an efficient state. So the rise of the new institution means the inevitable decay of the old. But our ideas on these things count for little: Government will act according to its own lights.

17. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 10th November writes:—

The Ranchi College scheme.

Agitation has borne fruit. The question of the agency by which it was proposed to collect funds for the Ranchi College created alarm throughout the country and evoked a strong protest in the Press. We are glad to hear that His Honour has been well-advised enough to listen to this agitation, and that he has written to the Executive Committee suggesting the withdrawal of Divisional Commissioners and Magistrates from the Divisional Committees, leaving these bodies to be organised on strictly unofficial lines. In spite of this concession, however, Bengal zamindars can hardly be expected to forget that the collection of funds for this college is being made a matter of direct Government interest, and that

SANJIVANI.
Nov. 15th, 1904.

the Divisional Committees similarly owe their existence direct to Government initiative.

18. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th November expresses pleasure at the proposed Ranchi College. the decision recently announced by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to dissociate Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates from the Divisional Committees which will be formed to collect subscriptions in the mufassal for the proposed Ranchi College. This decision leaves the zamindars free to subscribe or not, without any risk of incurring the displeasure of the officials either way.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 11th, 1904.

19. As a result of the Press agitation upon the proposed Ranchi College, The proposed Ranchi College. scheme says the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 12th November, the Divisional Commissioners and the District Magistrates will not be entrusted with the work of collecting subscriptions; but the proposed college will nevertheless be started and the money for it collected from the people.

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

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

20. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 9th November writes:—

The Calcutta Municipality and the plague.

The number of plague cases in Calcutta has already begun to increase. Although the severity of the plague last year seemed a little mitigated, there is no reason to expect a similar recurrence of good fortune this year. But we are really disheartened to observe the ways of the Municipal Health Department. That Department cannot complain of being undermanned. Yet an examination of the northern quarters of the town is apt to give the idea that these parts of Calcutta are outside the municipal jurisdiction. The number of plague cases almost every year is largest in Ward No. 1. And yet the Health Department is utterly indifferent to those spots which are known to be the centres of contagion. We hope the attention of the authorities concerned will be drawn to this matter.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Nov. 9th, 1904.

21. Referring to the case of Babu Anath Nath Mallik, whose election as Chairman of the Maniktala Municipality was recently vetoed by Government on the ground that he did not possess the amount of experience in

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 10th, 1904.

municipal work necessary to discharge successfully the duties of that responsible office, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 10th November writes:—

By relying too much on the advice of one Divisional Commissioner, Mr. Marindin of Rajshahi, Sir Andrew Fraser was led to commit some acts of injustice. What these were we shall refer to, in detail, in a later issue. In this case, also, too much reliance on another Divisional Commissioner (Mr. Collin of the Presidency Division) has betrayed His Honour into another act of injustice.

The examples of King Edward VII and of Lord Clive, not to speak of many others, are enough to show that previous experience of any particular kind of work is not an indispensable condition of success in that line. If, after a trial, Babu Anath Nath had been found wanting, then would have been the time for Government to remove him.

This case does not stand by itself: it has a wider significance. The scheme of Local Self-Government was inaugurated by Lord Ripon with the object of giving the people a political training and also of relieving the officers of Government of a share of their growing burden of work. But in actual practice the system as granted was only a mockery of Self-Government. Of the two classes of self-governing bodies created, the District Boards cannot, with any regard to truth, be claimed to be self-governing. It was only to the Municipalities that some measure of independence was conceded. But Government is now pursuing a systematically reactionary policy in this matter. For instance, the Calcutta Municipality typifies only the shadow and not the substance of Local Self-Government. Perhaps a similar fate is in store for the mufassal Municipalities also in Sir A. Fraser's *régime*. For the Municipalities possess the right of electing their Chairmen by law, and if their choice is to be set aside on the recommendation of Divisional Commissioners, how can any system of self-government be said to be left intact? It would be more correct to call it a system of carrying out mandates.

The way in which Sir Andrew Fraser is proving himself a puppet in the hands of the Divisional Commissioners bodes ill for the future good government of the province generally and for the cause of local self government in particular.

Long subjection to foreign rule has deprived the Bengalis of all sense of self-respect. Here is Anath Babu deprived of his seat as Chairman, and yet a dozen other Bengalis will come forward and contest for the same seat. If it had been a Municipality composed of Englishmen that had been dealt with in this fashion, the members would have boycotted the Municipality and left Government to carry on the work as it best could. But in Bengal, the people have not yet come to look on an insult done to one of their body as one done to all of them. Rather they go on licking the feet that had kicked them, glad that the disgrace of one means an opportunity for the rest. It is because the Bengalis are so mean that they still continue to hold seats on the Municipalities and District Boards. The truth is that the Municipalities and District Boards do not deserve to be called self-governing bodies.

It is our impression that Sir Andrew Fraser agreed to Mr. Collin's recommendation without realising the gravity of the point at issue. We are still under the hope that he will realise his mistake in time.

HITAVADI
Nov. 11th, 1904.

22. - The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th November, referring to the vetoing of Babu Anathnath Mallik's election as The Maniktala municipal election. Chairman of the Maniktala Municipality by Government, writes:—

"Max" in *Capitol* observes that the Lieutenant-Governor supported the Commissioner's recommendation in this case simply to save the latter's reputation. That is not an unreasonable view. But we wish Sir Andrew Fraser to consider whether this act has really increased or decreased his own as well as his subordinate's reputation and influence. In truth, the bad name which His Honour has earned for his part in this election affair, as well as in the Bhawal estate affair, will not soon be forgotten.

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

23. Referring to the election of Babu Anathnath Mallik as Chairman of the Maniktala Municipality, recently vetoed by The Maniktala municipal election. Government, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 12th November observes that the Maniktala Municipality will lose its independence soon, because, according to the Indian proverb, "a discomfited master begins to beat his servant."

HITAVADI,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

24. In continuation of what appeared in a previous issue (see Report on Dr. Hazra of the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital at Bhawaniipore. Native Papers for the week ending the 12th November 1904, paragraph 26), against Dr. Hazra of the Sumbhunath Pandit Hospital at Bhawaniipore, Calcutta, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th November asks the following questions:—

(1) Are not the patients of Dr Hazra in his private practice sometimes given medicines and dressing materials from the hospital free of charge? Are not the dressing materials, table, etc., belonging to the hospital sometimes taken out by Dr. Hazra for use in the houses of his private patients? If so, is not all this unlawful?

(2) Why did Dr. Moir transfer Dr. Hazra from the Medical College in 1903? Is it not true that Dr. Hazra ill-treats the inmates of the hospital and sometimes even beats them?

(3) Is it not true that Dr. Hazra asked many of the inmates of the hospital, who had undergone surgical operations, to go home before they were completely cured and gave them the assurance that he would treat them at their own places at a small cost? Is it not true that Dr. Hazra advised many people who had come to be inmates of the hospital to return home and there have themselves treated by him?

(4) On the 28th July last, Dr. Adyanath Chatterji, the medical officer attached to the Lower Hooghly Mills at Metiaburuz, sent a cooly, who had got a compound fracture, to the hospital. Dr. Hazra was absent from the hospital at the time, and the poor man lay on the operation table for one hour suffering intensely. Seeing that the doctor did not turn up, the Hospital Assistant amputated one of his legs with the help of a supernumerary doctor. Dr. Hazra made his appearance after three hours and again operated on the poor man. Is not this true?

(5) Is it not true that some two or three months ago Dr. Hazra tried to defend his private practice on the ground that Dr. Brown too was in the habit of leaving his jurisdiction on private practice and that, as an instance of this, said that the latter gentleman had gone to the northern part of Calcutta on a professional visit to the house of the late Jogendranath Vidyabhushan?

(6) Is it not true that some time ago Dr. Hazra used to purchase medicines, etc., from the Bhawanipore Pharmacy for use in the hospital, and that now he purchases them regularly every month from Girindra Babu's dispensary? Has Girindra Babu a bigger customer than Dr. Hazra? Why was Girindra Babu dismissed from his service as an examiner of Insurance Companies?

(7) What were the charges which the present matron, Mrs. Walton, brought against Dr. Hazra, and what steps were taken in the matter? Is it not true that Mrs. Walton will soon resign her service in the hospital?

(8) Is it not true that Dr. Hazra has dismissed the Brahmin cook, named Rupchand Pande, attached to the hospital and appointed a *Kahar* in his place?

(9) Why has Dr. Hazra re-appointed the dismissed *mehter* Safari? Is there anything secret about this appointment?

(10) What compelled the two immediate predecessors of Mrs. Walton to resign their service in the hospital? Did they too submit any reports against Dr. Hazra?

(11) Were not Babu Basanta Kumar Sen and nurses Rosie and Priyatama sent to the dismissed nurse Priscilla Mandal to try to intimidate her into retracting the allegations made by her in a letter published in this paper (see Report on Natvie Papers for the week ending the 12th November, 1904, paragraph 26.)?

(12) Has not Dr. Brown expressed his thanks in writing to at least two of the newspapers which published defences of Dr. Hazra? If so, why?

The writer goes on to say:—

We have the following letter from Dr. Brown:—

D.-O. No. 40.

OFFICE OF THE CIVIL SURGEON, 24-PARGANAS.

SAMBHU NATH PANDIT HOSPITAL.

Dated Bhowanipore, the 4th November 1904.

SIR,

My attention has been drawn to an article in your paper, "Dr. Hazra in Hospital," which needs a good deal of explanation from you.

Apart from the unfounded accusation it contains (evidently contributed by an evil-minded and disappointed individual) relative to the treatment of the patients, the conduct of the Resident Surgeon, and the complaints brought by the nurses, all of which can be allowed to pass unnoticed, as they are false, and can easily be proved to be so, you have taken the strange and utterly uncalled-for course of applying to me an insulting and derogatory epithet the meaning of which I did not know until it was explained to me.

It is an easy thing for a man of your reputation to fling ink at those who cannot retaliate, but in attempting to insult me, you have made a serious mistake and one that you will have cause to regret. I, therefore, give you this opportunity of absolutely retracting what you have written, and making me an ample apology in your columns, or I shall take measures to prevent a recurrence of such scurrilous journalism on your part. I am a man of few words, but you will find that what I write I mean.

Yours faithfully,

E. HAROLD BROWN, MAJOR, I.M.S.,

Surgeon-Superintendent,
Shambhu Nath Pandit Hospital.

In reply to this we have written to Dr. Brown that we did not use insulting and derogatory epithets against him, and we are ready to prove, even in a law-court, every word of what we have written.

2. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 9th November publishes a defence of Dr. Hazra, and says that Dr. Hazra has done a service to the public by dismissing the illiterate and worthless nurses of the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital and appointing better nurses in their places.

— PRATIJNA,
Nov. 9th, 1904.

DACCA PRAKAS,
Nov. 13th, 1904.

26. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 13th November calls attention to the outbreak of an epidemic of Malaria in Tangail. malaria in a specially aggravated form this season in the subdivision of Tangail in Mymensingh.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 10th, 1904.

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

27. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 10th November notices with pleasure a circular issued by Mr. Dring, the General Traffic Manager of the East Indian Railway, impressing on railway employés the fact that they are the servants of the passengers, and that third-class passengers being generally ignorant and powerless to protect their own interests, stand in special need of help and courtesy at the hands of the railway subordinates. The paper trusts that this circular will be regularly enforced and that breaches of it will be taken severe notice of.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

28. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th November says that Mr. Dring, the General Traffic Manager of the East Indian Railway, has issued a circular in which he calls upon the railway staff to remember that they are the servants of the third-class passengers, whose comfort and convenience should be their special study. The sufferings of the third-class passengers and the serious inconvenience which they have to undergo are too well known to need any mention. The generous sympathy which Mr. Dring has shown inspires great hope, and it is expected that the principles taught in the circular will be followed in practice.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 14th, 1904

29. Referring to the recent circular issued by Mr. Dring, the General Traffic Manager of the East Indian Railway, warning his subordinates that they are nothing more than the servants of the railway passengers, and that it is therefore their duty to look after the comfort of the ignorant and helpless passengers of the third class, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th November hopes that this circular will not end only in words, but that Mr. Dring will see it carried out in practice.

DACCA PRAKAS,
Nov. 13th, 1904.

30. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 13th November complains that the booking-office at Narayanganj railway station is not opened sufficiently early for all the passengers to be able to get their tickets.

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 13th, 1904.

31. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 13th November notices the want of waiting accommodation at Kharagpur, one of the stations of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, specially as there is only one train each way which stops there in the course of 24 hours. Passengers failing to catch the train have to wait for another 24 hours, and are put to great discomfort for want of a suitable resting-place.

(h)—*General.*

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 8th, 1904.

32. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 8th November has the following:

Certain important administrative questions.

We do not know how it is, but the fact cannot be denied that the rulers are gradually becoming unsympathetic towards the people. The loyalty of the people is undoubted; they are peaceful and meek; there is no possibility of any war in the country. But still the authorities are adopting a reactionary policy and are showing their displeasure to the children of the soil in every particular. We witnessed the adoption of a liberal policy under Lord Ripon, but that policy has been completely subverted. Lord Curzon has inaugurated an illiberal policy and has ruined the future prospects of the native. Lord Ripon's Self-Government scheme has been reduced to a miserable skeleton. Higher education is crippled; the people are debarred from the higher offices under Government. Competitive examinations for appointment in the Provincial Civil Service have been discontinued, and the plight to which the Proclamation of Her late Majesty has been brought mortifies the heart. The Eurasians are now in the good graces of Government. The natives of the soil are being deprived of their just rights and the Eurasians are being appointed to Government appointments. The Railway and the Telegraph Departments are monopolised by the Eurasians.

May we enquire if such preferential treatment is sanctioned by the principles of higher statesmanship?

Another danger threatens the Bengalis. Sir Andrew Fraser has caused great consternation in the country by proposing to establish a new college at Ranchi. The Presidency College of Calcutta will be seriously jeopardised by the establishment of a college at Ranchi. There is no prospect of a large number of students at Ranchi, and the cause of higher education will be imperilled by the weakening of the Presidency College.

The spectre of the partition of Bengal has robbed the Bengalis of their peace of mind. The tremendous agitation has failed to produce any effect. Lord Curzon is not the man to lose sight of his object. Immediately on his return to India, he will take up the question and try to carry out the project. We do not know what serious matter is being discussed in the secret chambers at Darjeeling, and our anxiety is great. Most probably the officials are discussing the partition proposal in secret. The Bengalis will be divided and weakened if the proposed partition is effected. Are we to remain quiet in this hour of peril? Should we give way to dejection in the face of difficulty? It is only worthless people who allow themselves to be overwhelmed by danger. It is only the blow which serves to bring out the latent power of man. Our national life will receive a new stimulus by blows and counterblows. We should take a firm stand, and with an iron determination and unflinching courage, begin the constitutional struggle in order to oppose this unjust act of the Government.

But what good will result by employing arguments against the partition of Bengal when the great agitation all over the country has failed and when the rulers are determined not to hear or give any weight to them? We make bold to declare that if the rulers entertain any good wishes for the Bengalis, they can never propose to partition Bengal.

The interests of Englishmen and the Bengalis in this country are quite opposite. Englishmen have come here to make money, so the more that object is rendered easy the better it is for them. By the partition of Bengal many new civilians will be required for the new province. As the Bengalis have been almost debarred from Government service, all the new posts will go to Englishmen.

The rulers can without the least hesitation snap asunder the vital cord which sustains the national life of the Bengalis. But have not the Bengalis any duty in this danger? Will the Bengalis, who are proud of their education, remain silent and inactive? No official in India will dare oppose Lord Curzon. But we have hopes that an agitation in England will do good. A lakh of rupees is necessary to carry on this agitation, and Mymensingh, with its 40 lakhs of inhabitants, can contribute a large sum.

Those who think that it is East Bengal alone that is in danger, are grievously mistaken. The whole of Bengal will be weakened if East Bengal be torn away from it.

Who can say that an agitation in England will be productive of no good? What else have we to do? Why should we give up our last resource? It is to be hoped that the public will be up and doing and that our leaders will no longer remain inactive.

33. Referring to the arrangements recently notified by the Government of

The Press-room.

India for the creation of a Press-room at the official

head-quarters, where all matters suitable for newspaper publication will be made available to Editors or their representatives, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 9th November writes:—

The grant of cards of admission to Editors will be completely at the discretion of Government. Moreover, not every kind of official information will be available at this Press-room. Probably Government means to take credit for liberality by supplying only that kind of information the publication of which is not of much interest to the public. Such as it is, however, even this information will not be always available to all Editors. We cannot confess to much pleasure at this new arrangement.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Nov. 9th, 1904.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Nov. 9th, 1904.

34. The same paper writes:—

An allegation against Mr. Carey, District Magistrate of Hooghly. Mr. Carey has made quite a name for himself among the Magistrates of Bengal. The people of this country will long remember the reputation he earned at Berhampur. We expected that his transfer to a new place would somewhat cool his temper, but evidently our expectations were vain. Mr. Carey is now Magistrate of Hooghly. It is clear that a change of air may be a cure for bad health, but not for a bad temper.

These remarks are suggested by the following case, the facts of which were reported by a correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. A native gentleman belonging to a highly noble family near Hooghly recently called on Mr. Carey by previous appointment. Instead of entering the house in person with his card he adopted the course of sending his card thorough an *amla* who he waited outside in his carriage. Mr. Carey when he came down and found the *amla* waiting in his room, instead of his caller, was greatly put out. He hastily wrote on the back of the card that he was not at home to his visitor and retired upstairs in disgust and anger. The gentleman outside, when he was informed of the Magistrate's ire, attempted to see Mr. Carey to explain matters to him. But while he was remonstrating with the *chaprassi* who was trying to prevent his entrance into the house, Mr. Carey in person came down, whistled his hand, and stood by and saw the gentleman driven out with ignominy from the house by his Afghan *chaprassis*.

The only respect in which the gentleman above appears to have failed in his duties proper to the occasion was that he did not enter the house in person with his card, and there in an insignificant corner of the house stand still awaiting in all humility the auspicious appearance of Mr. Carey. It appears that Mr. Carey had first ordered some Bengali *chaprassis* to turn his visitor out. It was when they hesitated to do so that the Afghan *chaprassis* were called in. We understand that the *chaprassis* who permitted the *amla* to occupy a chair have been suspended. And we further learn that Mr. Carey has caused a notice to be hung up stating that a Bengali gentleman who called on him behaved disrespectfully, and for this reason all callers must henceforth wait in a room appointed for the purpose, and make no effort to see him until they are sent for.

We do not at all regret that such a notice has been put up. Mr. Carey's temper is not unknown to the people of this country. It is a wonder why, in spite of the reputation he bears, respectable people go to call upon him. And we do not feel much sympathy for such people when they return insulted and disgraced. For they have themselves to thank for it. However, our humble request to the Lieutenant-Governor is that for the sake of the good name of the British Government for decency and manners His Honour will enquire into these allegations and administer some chastisement to this hot-headed Magistrate.

35. The same paper writes:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Nov. 9th, 1904.

The signs of alarm and dismay and the proposed partition of Bengal. The widespread protests which were evoked when the proposals for the partition of Bengal were first made public are no longer visible. The people are evidently under the impression that the Government has listened to their appeals and the arguments and abandoned this mischievous proposal. Probably the public are not aware that the fire was only smouldering all the while and is soon about to burst into a flame.

This Conference of Divisional Commissioners that was sitting last month—what was it for? The outside public have not the least idea. Government has closely guarded its secret in this case. And yet the impression is steadily gaining ground that the partition of Bengal must have formed one of the topics of discussion at this Conference. A recent paragraph in the *Pioneer* has served to confirm this prevailing idea.

Admitting the idea to be true, many people would perhaps think that it is the duty of our leaders to set up an agitation once more. Others again would probably say that we are such a degraded race of people that we even do not know how properly to agitate. Our agitations are mere spasmodic efforts—relieving the tension of feeling for the moment. This is quite

correct. But there is something to be said in justification of this state of things. For a dead body when subjected to unnatural stimulation can respond only by a temporary tremor, any other sign of life in it is not to be expected. To carry on a sustained agitation is an impossibility to a people like ourselves, without influence and without independence. Again, there is the further consideration that when Government is bent on carrying a measure out, it is not in the power of the people to prevent it by any amount of agitation. Some people are advising a campaign in England on this question. But we should remember that the English people are not our own kith and kin. It is of Lord Curzon, of Mr. Balfour, and of Mr. Brodrick that they are the kith and kin. A Caine or a Digby is as rare as one in a million. If Lord Curzon declares that the partition of Bengal will add to the health and prestige of the governing race, every Englishman will accept Lord Curzon's dictum as true. The English people do not know the Indian people; so there is little in the way of favour that the latter can expect from the former. So now we have no other resource left to us but to kiss the dust of the same feet that are now kicking us. We have to make this humble representation at Lord Curzon's feet that he is powerful while we are a miserable set of beggars; that we are utterly unable to pay the cost which a double set of administrators will entail; that he should kindly arrange some other means to provide for his countrymen; that we are not a powerful race, and do not therefore require to be divided; that we are naturally a weak race, and that there is consequently no need of a "divide and rule" policy in our case! Let him for once be kind enough to think of our insignificance and, by learning to despise us, save us from this doom.

36. Referring to the rumour that the partition of Bengal has been definitely decided on by Government, and that the new Province which it is intended to create as a result of the partition will be a Lieutenant-Governorship, the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 10th November observes that the creation of a Lieutenant-Governorship with its necessary appenage of a Legislative Council, a Board of Revenue, a High Court, and the retention of the existing systems of law and procedure will, in the opinion of many persons, remove all the objectionable features of the proposed change. But the cost of supporting a new first-class Government will prove an intolerable burden on the already overtaxed people of the country. Since Lord Curzon refuses to listen to the heart's cry of the people, there is nothing for the latter but to carry their appeal to the foot of the Almighty. Let them pray incessantly to God to avert their fate. And when He, Who is the Fountain of all Power, chooses to send relief, who on earth can be strong enough to withstand His will?

37. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 10th November writes:—

The arrangements for the partition of Bengal are now nearing completion: will the people of Bengal still offer no protest? The disquieting news comes from England that Lord Curzon has obtained the consent of the Secretary of State to the partition proposals; and that these proposals now include the formation of a new North-Eastern Province under a Lieutenant-Governor, consisting of Assam, the whole of the Chittagong and Dacca Divisions, and the whole of the Rajshahi Division (except Darjeeling). As a confirmation of this news, a paragraph in a recent issue of the *Pioneer* points out that the original proposals of partition have undergone modification in so far that the proposed separation of some of the Chota Nagpur and Orissa districts has been given up. But if the relief of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal be the object aimed at, then some more districts of Bengal than originally contemplated will have to be separated.

The protest made by the leaders of opinion in Bengal against the original proposals was successful. It is the duty now of the same leaders to make a new protest against the new proposals.

The original proposal involved the separation of Dacca and Mymensingh and of the entire Chittagong Division. The arguments which were adduced against these proposals proved too strong even for a man like Lord Curzon. But Lord Curzon is not a man who can admit defeat. The Russian General Kuropatkin, in spite of his defeat at the hands of the Japanese, still declares that he has not been defeated and is still preparing to advance with fresh troops

JYOTI,
Nov. 10th, 1904.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 10th, 1904.

against his enemies. Similarly, Lord Curzon's proposals were proved to be unsound by irrefutable arguments: still Lord Curzon will not admit defeat and is putting forward fresh proposals on similar lines.

It is not very difficult to prove that his new proposals are open to the same objections as his old ones. The paragraph in the *Pioneer* before referred to was evidently written by a high official, and though it does not exactly state what the new proposals are, it indicates two things distinctly: These are (1) that Lord Curzon comes back to India armed with the necessary powers from the Secretary of State to carry out the partition, and (2) that this partition involves the creation of a new North-Eastern Province, consisting of Assam, the Chittagong Division, Dacca, Mymensingh and some other districts. As regards these other districts, the news from England indicates that they are to be included in the North Bengal districts, except Backergunge, Faridpur and Dacca.

These proposals are not entirely new. A Divisional Commission sketched almost a similar plan at the time the old proposals were under discussion. Government was at that time interpellated on the subject, but no reply could be got from it.

The scheme is evidently assuming a more and more dangerous shape gradually. Of the five divisions which constitute Bengal Proper, it is proposed to leave only two with the existing Province. We cannot sit still when thinking of the immense mischief which will arise from this splitting up of the Bengali race.

Arguments might be got up against the new proposal, but Lord Curzon is not a man to be convinced by arguments. He is like Kuropatkin, in that "though vanquished" he "will argue still."

The statesman who will divide the Bengalis is the greatest enemy of the race. Such division would mean the stoppage of all further progress and the gradual diminution of influence of the Bengali community. Is there no way by which this terrible calamity may be averted?

There is a way—and that is, to try the effect of an agitation in England. There are many friends of justice among the members of the Secretary of State's Council, and they should be brought to see our view of the question. The English Ministers and the leader of the Opposition, the English Press, and the Political Associations should all be brought over to our side.

The partition of Bengal will undoubtedly bring about the ultimate extinction of the race. The rate of increase among the higher-caste Bengalis is already falling. There was one means to correct this tendency, and that was intermarriage among the different sub-sections of the same caste. Beginnings in this direction have already been made, but political separation will be an obstacle to its further spread.

We distinctly foresee the ultimate extinction of the race if the partition of Bengal is insisted on. If this impending doom is to be averted, then three things must be immediately done—(1) Bengal zamindars must subscribe together a lakh of rupees. (2) Six well-chosen delegates should be sent to England to agitate the question there. (3) Such a terrible agitation should be carried on in this country as will compel Government to abandon its designs.

BANGAVASI,
Nov 12th, 1904.

38. Referring to the announcement in the *Pioneer* about the partition of Bengal having been finally decided on, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th November writes:—

We believe this announcement will soon stir East Bengal into a renewed ferment. Soon from every home and every village in East Bengal will proceed a stream of appeals to the officials for pity and mercy. Will the authorities still remain obdurate? Will a benevolent Government thrust on its subjects a terrible wrong against which thousands are protesting with all their lives? In this day of gloom, the one hope of all people is a reliance on the mercy of the rulers of the land. And surely that reliance will not prove to be misplaced.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

39. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th November has the following:—

The partition question.

So it appears that Lord Curzon has succeeded in persuading the authorities in England to give their sanction to the partition proposal. This time not only East Bengal, but the whole of North Bengal, except Darjeeling, will be transferred to Assam. The bewitching influence

of Lord Curzon's eloquence is such that it is no wonder that he should have everything in his own way. Mr. Brodrick, the Secretary of State for India, is not a strong man; he is, moreover, very anxious to uphold the prestige of officials. It cannot therefore be expected that he should venture to oppose Lord Curzon in this matter, especially as His Lordship has won such a high position and acquired such influence in England.

Coming from a country where the people have the supreme power in their hands, Lord Curzon spurns public opinion in India, not once or twice, but at every turn. This must be set down to our sheer misfortune. Could such a thing have been possible in any other country? Even in India no other Viceroy ever dared disregard public opinion so completely as now. This is the distinctive feature of Lord Curzon's administration.

Mr. Risley at first proposed to partition Bengal according to the division of races and similarity of languages. But we now find that a new province is going to be formed with Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal, although the languages spoken in these parts are quite dissimilar! Again, East Bengal and North Bengal, though inhabited by people belonging to the same race and speaking the same language as the inhabitants of West Bengal, are to be incorporated with Assam, with which no such similarity can be traced! But these arguments are of no avail. It has been found necessary to divide and weaken the Bengali nation and no objections will have any weight. Lord Curzon is not at all abashed to find that Mr. Risley's arguments failed to delude the public. Such impudence may be worthy of crooked statesmanship, but to the simple-minded people of this country such conduct on the part of Government cannot fail to appear as inconsistent.

Lord Curzon is one of the principal advocates of imperialism. His one aim is to permanently weaken the people. What wonder that he should be bent upon dividing the Bengali race? What, then, is our duty under the circumstances? The *Pioneer* advises agitation. We cannot expect that agitation will do us any good. Still we should never allow our rulers to adopt such a mischievous policy without a protest. Our Rajas, Maharajas and zamindars have for a long time anointed the feet of the rulers with oil, but the latter could never be made to forget their purpose for a moment. If even now our moneyed men open their eyes, if instead of courting the favours of the rulers they join their countrymen in their agitation against this iniquitous change, we shall be gratified. Whatever the result may be, we shall at least have the satisfaction of having done our duty. If we manfully try to avert the calamity, nobody, not even the combined efforts of the Viceroy and the Secretary of State, will be able to do us harm.

40. Referring to the rumour widely current that Lord Curzon is coming out to India armed with authority to definitely carry out his scheme for the partition of Bengal, the *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 13th November writes:—

If it really be a fact that Government is bent on working our destruction, then it becomes the bounden duty of the hapless people of this province to devise means whereby the intensity of public feeling on this question may be brought to the knowledge of the Emperor in person.

As it is said that an Act of Parliament will be necessary to give legality to the proposed changes, our principal duty now seems to be to attempt to bring the House of Commons to see our view of the case. It is not quite reasonable to believe that the mind's eye of the entire British public will be blinded merely at a flourish of the magic wand of eloquence wielded by Lord Curzon. We ought therefore to make one last effort. If fate be indeed adverse to us, and our last effort fails like our first, we can then only bear the worst patiently. We may be despised and neglected subjects of the King, but the charge of disloyalty cannot be made against us with truth. We have heard it said that our Emperor's heart is keenly sensitive to the distress of his subjects. What other means of redress do an utterly helpless people like ourselves possess, than appeals to the sense of pity and generosity of our masters?

41. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 10th November says that the European Forester in the Chittagong Forest Division did not properly enquire into the allegation of one Gagan Chandra Sen, a guard, that he was transferred to

DACCA PRAKAS.
Nov. 13th, 1904.

JYOTI,
Nov. 10th, 1904.

Charge against a Roll Inspector
in the Chittagong Forest Division.

the penal station of Ringkhong for refusing to pay a bribe of Rs. 100 to Gopal Babu, the toll Inspector. It is the general belief that the Forester ignored the charge brought against Gopal Babu from personal considerations. The brother of one Bagala Charan Sen says that Gopal Babu refused to return a loan of Rs. 150 as a return for the favour done by him to the latter allowing him to remain at Amlighat without transferring him to the Srinagar station.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 10th 1904.

42. Referring to the appointments of Babu Chandranath De, M.A., B.A. and Messrs. H. D. Christian and D. McLeod Smith as new Deputy Magistrates which were notified in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 2nd November, the recent appointments to the Provincial Civil Service.

Sanjivani [Calcutta] of the 10th November observes that the omission in *Gazette* of any degree after the names of the latter two gentlemen suggests that they have not got any. If this supposition be true, then what becomes of the promise made by Government that none but graduates will henceforward be eligible for nomination? Under the circumstances Sir Andrew Fraser can justifiably be called on to explain what looks like a breach of faith on his part. The abolition of competitive examinations was itself a sufficient grievance without the addition of a fresh grievance in the shape of an act of breach of faith. It is unnecessary to remind a religious man like Sir A. Fraser of the heinous nature of the sin of breach of faith. Who then is responsible for these appointments? For surely Sir A. Fraser cannot knowingly have done such a thing. If the thing was done behind His Honour's back, he should take immediate steps to cancel the appointments. If His Honour does not do so, he will forfeit the confidence of the public, and people will say that it was only to secure the appointment of whites that the competitive examinations were abolished. For the sake of Sir A. Fraser's reputation it is to be hoped that the supposition that the appointments were made without his knowledge may prove true.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 14th, 1904.

43. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th November has the following:

Appointment of Deputy Magistrates under the new scheme. The competitive examination is abolished and Deputy Magistrates are now being appointed by the new method. The *Calcutta Gazette* of the last preceding week published the names of some thus appointed. When the new scheme was under consideration, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to remark that only graduates would be the recipients of these posts, but the *Calcutta Gazette* had only one name in it with the letters M.A., B.L., after it. This has led some people to suppose that there has been some omission in giving the title. But what is the good of such supposition, when the laws and regulations are made by the rulers of the country according to their own fancies? The paper goes on to remark, "but have these agitations stopped the working of the new method?"

HITAVADI,
Nov. 11th, 1904.

44. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th November makes the following allegation against Mr. W. H. H. Vincent, District Judge of Bhagalpur and Monghyr.

An allegation against the District Judge of Bhagalpur. It appears that the two Kumars of the seven-annas Baneli Raj who have lately entered into possession of their estates recently went to pay their respects to Mr. Vincent. Mr. Vincent on this occasion requested them to find a berth for his wife's sister's husband on their estate. The Kumars had no option but to agree, so it was arranged that a new post of Superintendent of the Stables, worth Rs. 200 per mensem, should be created although all the equipage of the Kumars is confined to a single carriage and four. Does not this transaction amount to an indirect form of bribery?

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

45. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 12th November has the following:

Postal affairs. In spite of the satisfactory result of the working of the Postal Department as shown in its annual report for the last year, it stands in need of a reform. The salaries of the branch postmasters should not be less than Rs. 30 a month, and those of the postal peons ought not to be less than Rs. 15 or Rs. 16 a month. Education suffers by the duties of a schoolmaster and postmaster being combined and entrusted to one and the same person. The public is also inconvenienced.

46. The same paper has the following:—

Lord Curzon's Commissions and Missions. The first term of Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty was one of Commissions, such as the Education Commission, the Police Commission and the Excise Commission, etc. The only one which His Excellency has turned to a practical use is the Education Commission, because he found in its report a ready means to strike a blow at higher education in India by a legislative enactment. The Excise Commission could not help him in carrying out his purpose and its report has therefore been shelved. The result of the Police Commission was somewhat contrary to expectations and it has been allowed to drag on a lengthy course. Now has come the time of Missions. Lord Curzon left for Home after despatching the Peace Mission which has just returned from Tibet, having played its peaceful part in that country. A Commercial Mission has been sent to Persia and its result is awaited. The third is a Political Mission about to start for Afghanistan. God knows what its mission is! It is therefore clear that His Lordship will spend the extended period of his office in dealing with these Missions only. The peculiar characteristic of His Lordship is that he forms his plans very secretly, and should anyone disclose them, he is annoyed and calls him a liar. He issued a confidential circular for employing Eurasians in the Government service and called the native papers who brought the fact to light liars. But at last the circular proved to be a genuine document. Is it not very undignified on the part of Government officials to suppress truth with a view to keep their doings a secret? The object of the Kabul Mission is not known. We cannot say whether the present Amir is on good terms or bad with the Foreign Department of the Government of India, or whether he means to have the amount of his allowance which he has not drawn since the death of his father. The *Pioneer* has of late been finding fault with him. The charge of inciting the Afridis against the British Government is being made against him. There is no doubt the Government has a sharp eye on the Amir. The Mission at any rate is going to Kabul for some political purpose and to make the Amir agree to certain terms. The general belief is that a Mission to Kabul means an increase of the Amir's subsidy.

47. Hearing that Lord Curzon is expected in India by the 9th proximo,

Lord Curzon again in India. the same paper says that Lady Curzon's falling suddenly ill just on the eve of His Lordship's departure for India has made him understand that the most powerful human being is under the will of a still mightier Being, ruling over the destiny of everything in this material world, and that this idea may induce His Lordship if he chooses, this time, to do good to the Indians, considering them to be the creatures of the same God whom Englishmen believe to be their own.

48. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 13th November observes that although

Lord Curzon's return to India. Lord Curzon's coming to India is not good news for the Indians, they should nevertheless, as loyal subjects, pray for his safe arrival.

49. The same paper says that hitherto the Police Department alone was

The Opium Department and the Eurasians. reserved for the unsuccessful and worthless white and semi-white relations and friends of officials, but now the Opium Department has also been thrown open to them. The salaries of officers of the Provincial Judicial and Executive Services range from Rs. 200 to Rs. 800, whereas in the Opium Department they range from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1,200. The examination which the candidates for the Opium Department have to pass is a nominal one, as admitted by the Board of Revenue itself, which says, "The departmental examinations are not severe." The Opium Agent of Benares has proposed to make it still easier, by removing survey from the curriculum, but the Board of Revenue has given a suitable reply by saying that if survey is not considered a necessary subject, chemistry should be substituted for it. The paper asks why the door of admission to the Opium Department has been shut against the natives. Why does the Government court unpopularity, create discontent, and commit sin by allowing race questions to enter in to the matter of giving Government appointments?

BHARAT MITRA.

BHARAT MITRA.

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 13th, 1904.

HITAVARTA.

III.—LEGISLATION.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 14th, 1904.

50. With reference to the Bengal Government's intention to enact a law for the preservation of wild birds as well as fish, the proposed gaure law, a draft of which has already been forwarded to the various Associations and Committees of this country for their opinion, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th November remarks that such an enactment would cause a panic among the Bengalis, and that there are reasons to fear that in many instances the law would result more in loss than in gain.

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

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 14th, 1904.

51. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th November says that reports are being received of the unsatisfactory condition of the crops in Bengal as well as in other Provinces. The cry for food-grains from the cottages of the poor cultivators in Bengal is as piteous as those heard from the Central Provinces, the Punjab and Baroda.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

52. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 12th November notices the *Birashtami* festival which has been celebrated for the last three years under the supervision of Miss Sarala Devi Ghosal. The festival was held this year also on *Aswini Shukla Ashtami* with great under her patronage. The number of visitors this year was very large and included Hindus, Musalmans and Christians, both male and female. Wrestling and other feats of arms were displayed by wrestlers and others.

53. Referring to the *Times*' eulogium on the Mikado on the occasion of his birthday celebration, the same paper says that this is only due to the success which Japan has achieved in her present struggle against Russia.

If any nation has a desire to be praised by the civilized world, it ought to be strong enough to inflict a crushing defeat upon a civilized nation.

54. With reference to the re-election of Mr. Roosevelt as President of the United States, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 13th November says that he is really a blessed man and fit to be an example to the world who is elected by a free people for a second time to be their President. Lord Curzon is also a ruler who is thrust upon a people against their wishes!

55. The same paper has the following:—

The English in India. The popular belief is that the admission of some man into a household proves lucky and another unlucky, and that the law is true in the case of human beings as well as of animals. The purchaser of an animal sometimes finds himself completely ruined immediately after the purchase. It sometimes happens that when a new person comes into the family of a man he finds his fortune gone. On the other hand the new man flourishes. Experience shows that some such thing may be said of the Englishman. It is not unknown to the readers of history that in whatever country they have set their foot the old inhabitants have disappeared, whereas they themselves have flourished and occupied the country. Take the case of America and Australia. Where are now the old inhabitants of those places?

India is fortunate in this respect, for she still exists, although it is about 200 to 250 years since the English first set their foot here. It has not yet become a colony of theirs, although the effect of their advent has not remained unfelt here and there, and it will not be long before the Indians disappear like the natives of Australia and America. Some colonies have already been established in Bombay and Madras. The Maharaja of Kashmir is now and then pressed for parting with the valley of Kashmir. There is already a proposal to deprive Patiala of one of its parganas, and planters are already ruling in Assam. What to say of Calcutta? A notice to the inhabitants to

the effect that they should go and live on boats is enough to clear the town of them for the benefit of Englishmen.

Only the other day Government suddenly issued a notice to almost 500 poor inhabitants of the place lying west of the Russa Road and east of the General Hospital to leave it for the use of Englishmen who live under trees in England, although no buildings have yet been commenced. The poor people living from hand to mouth were turned out in the rainy season.

56. Referring to the remarkable increase in the import of European goods into India during the last six months, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th November comments that this marked increase could easily

be accounted for, as the only articles of export from India into Europe which showed an increase were gum and indigo. Alas! What sort of commodities are we importing in return for our export? Do people trouble their heads about this matter? If they did, we should not see the present state of things.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 14th, 1904.

URIYA PAPERS.

57. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 2nd November expresses great regret at the demise of Mrs. Savage at Darjeeling.

58. The same paper states that what contributed to the success of the last Durga Puja festival in Balasore was a belief in the public mind that the agriculturists would reap a bumper harvest in the near future.

59. The same paper states that there was a riot at Amra Urangi, situated at a distance of about eight miles from the Balasore town, on the 30th of October last. There was a fight between the tenants of the place

that ended in some being killed and others severely wounded.

60. The same paper states that rain is urgently wanted in some parts of the Balasore district.

61. The same paper says that the health of the Balasore town is not good—fever, measles and cough prevailing in many houses.

62. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 5th November is of opinion that the outturn of the jute crop in the Cuttack and Balasore districts in the present year is very poor. Very late and excessive rains were not favourable to the growth and development of this crop.

63. The same paper supports the words of wisdom uttered by the Superintendent of the Art School, Calcutta, in connection with the hand-loom industry in India. The Superintendent is of opinion that hand-looms in India can be worked with profit, notwithstanding the influx of cotton piece-goods from foreign countries. In support of his observation he quotes the example of a Muhammadan in Lahore and of a villager in Mysore, who are working hand-looms of a superior make with advantage and profit. The people of Bengal are of a different turn of mind. They talk too much but do very little.

64. Referring to the interest which His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal takes in the imposition and administration of the chaukidari-tax in Bengal, the same paper points out that the chaukidari-tax is a very unpopular tax, and nothing short of its abolition will either please the people or remove their grievances.

65. The same paper states that cholera prevails in the Cuttack town and that six patients died in a single week. The first cholera case was imported into that town from the interior of the district.

66. The same paper publishes a suggestion from some of the residents of the Bamra-Talcher postal dâk. from Bamra to Talcher through Sarpal and Chandi-pada should be made to pass through Sipur so as to catch the Pallahara mail

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 2nd, 1904.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Nov. 5th, 1904.

UTKALDIPAKA.

UTKALDIPAKA.

UTKALDIPAKA.

in time. This diversion, if adopted, will enable the inhabitants of Talcher to receive their letters from Bamra within two days' time, whereas under the existing arrangements they receive them in four days' time. Considering that the number of letters in transit from Bamra to Talcher is very large, the suggestion deserves favourable consideration, especially as the additional cost under the proposed arrangements will be confined to the entertainment of only two additional runners, who will be required to convey the Talcher bag from the Naikul to the Sipur post office.

AFSAM PAPERS.

SILCHAR,
Nov. 15th, 1904.

67. The *Silchar* [Cachar] of the 15th November publishes the following Rules regarding resident tenants rules regarding tenants who may be willing to reside in the Assam reserve forests.

- (1) A tenant residing in a forest reserve shall serve on the *begar* system in that forest for ten days in the year during the winter months and for five days more on receipt of proper wages.
- (2) The lands shall be rent-free for the first three years, after which the Chief Commissioner will fix the rate of rent and grant *pottas*.
- (3) The tenants shall be permitted to graze cattle and make use of other products of the forest free of charge.

The holders of *miras* lands in Cachar seriously object to the *begar* system and are unwilling to take lands on that condition. The *begar* tenants are looked upon with contempt. Wages should be allowed for the days the tenants are required to work in the forests.

The tenants object to annual leases for their lands. Such tenants are not classed as holders of *miras* lands. As a reward for their labours the tenants expect that they should have permanent title to their lands.

The rate to be fixed after the first three years should be definitely settled beforehand.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 19th November 1904.

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 47 of 1904.

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 19th November 1904.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

8231. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the official despatch publishing a list of the British casualties during the Tibet Expedition, makes no mention of the probable casualties on the side of the Tibetans, but nevertheless it is certain that they were many hundreds. And what has the British Government gained by the shedding of so much innocent blood? They have succeeded in extorting a treaty which China is not disposed to ratify! Indeed, now that the Dalai Lama has entered China, no one need wonder if there are fresh developments of the Tibetan affair.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

8232. The *Bengalee's* Tangail correspondent writes on the 14th instant that one Kanchan Bewa complained before the Subdivisional Officer that her son, Mohar Shaikh, had been found dead under suspicious circumstances.

BENGALEE,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

Serious allegation against the Gopalpur Police, Mymensingh.
It appears that a dacoity had taken place in the house of a certain *Bairagi* in the village of Nimdas, after which the Sub-Inspector of Gopalpur came to Poddorbari and saw her son for two or three days. It is further alleged that, on the 5th instant, the Sub-Inspector sent for the boy after this, Mohar never returned home, but his body was found hanging from a tree. On information being lodged at the Gopalpur thana and subsequently the Sub-Inspector referred to above investigated the case and ordered the body to be buried. On the complaint of the mother of the deceased, however, the Subdivisional Officer has ordered the body to be sent for *post mortem* examination.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

8233. The *Bengalee* writes that the following case which has created great excitement locally shows to what extent authority is abused by some District Officers.

BENGALEE,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

It appears that on 1st March last, one Ikram Husain appeared before the Senior Deputy Magistrate of Palamau on behalf of his master, Sayyid Abdul Majid, a highly respectable zamindar, and submitted a petition asking that Babu Inder Deo Narain Singh be bound down to keep the peace, and that a police force be deputed to Jhagea, as there was a likelihood of a serious disturbance taking place. The reason assigned for the apprehension was that Abdul Majid had by order of the Court attached property belonging to Deo Narain, who in consequence was alleged to have been collecting men to harm the *rabi* crops of the *khud khest* in Abdul Majid's *jagir* lands. It was further stated that in the previous year the parties had had a dispute, which was, however, amicably settled, and Deo Narain put in a written statement admitting the validity of the purchase of the *jagir* lands by Abdul Majid. A certified copy of this statement, together with the original deed of purchase, was filed, which led the Deputy Magistrate to draw up proceedings under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code. At this stage, however, the Deputy Commissioner transferred the case to his own file without stating any reasons for doing so, which was illegal, and the bias he displayed at the start by observing that it was impossible for him to rely on any statement made by Abdul Majid clearly showed that he was thoroughly incapable of trying the case in a judicial spirit. Having transferred the case to his own file, however, the Deputy Commissioner called for a report from the police. As the report submitted was opposed to his views, he forthwith held an elaborate judicial enquiry, which was quite unnecessary, as the most junior Assistant Magistrate may have informed him, in a section 145, Criminal Procedure Code, case. In the course of the enquiry, however, the Deputy Commissioner found that there were grounds for believing that Abdul Majid had committed offences under sections 211, 193, and 471, Indian Penal Code, and from that point his conduct savours of high-handedness and oppression. In the first place, he directed the District Superintendent of Police to make an enquiry into the matter, which was altogether irregular, and the

High Court revoked the order, pointing out that the case should have been sent for enquiry or trial to a Magistrate. The Deputy Commissioner, instead of acting in accordance with these remarks, takes the extreme step of issuing warrants of arrest (without the option of bail) against Abdul Majid, one of the biggest and most respectable zamindars in Gaya; Nawab Rajput Husain, who comes from a distinguished family, and one Tulsi Singh. The first-named has absconded and rightly, and the second was kept in *hajat* for two days and then released on bail!

The *Bengalee* deplores such conduct in a popular officer like Mr. Lyall, and hopes that the demoralising environments of a non-regulation district have not undermined his sense of justice and equity.

BENGALEE,
Nov. 15th, 1904.

8234. The same journal writes that Nawab Rajput Husain was not kept in *hajat* for two days but for ten, after which he was released on bail. It asks why he was not enlarged on bail at once considering his high rank, and why the warrant was made non-bailable. The *Bengalee* hopes that Mr. Lyall will be called upon to explain his extraordinary procedure and that a satisfactory explanation will be forthcoming.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

8235. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that Mr. Carey appears to be distinguishing himself in his capacity as a judicial officer also, for he lately disposed of an appeal in

Mr. Carey, District Magistrate of Hooghly. seven minutes! The case was by no means a small one, for there were 23 witnesses examined in the Lower Courts and the judgment was one extending over fifteen pages of closely written foolscap. There were, besides, no less than twenty grounds on which the pleader for the defence argued the innocence of the prisoner, and could it have been possible for Mr. Carey to have conscientiously heard the appeal in so short a time? The accused, however, petitioned the High Court against the decision of the Magistrate, with the result that the latter was directed to hear the appeal fully and impartially. If this is the way that justice is going to be denied to the public by District Officers, there is no doubt that the ruler of the province shou'd come to their rescue.

The *Patrika* hears that Mr. Carey is anxious for frontier work and is accordingly learning Pushtu. Here, then, is a way to rid the province of this Babu-hater, and employment should be found for him in the newly created Frontier Province as soon as possible.

(d) — Education.

INDIAN NATION,
Nov. 7th, 1904.

8236. In the first of a series of articles which it promises on the proposed college at Ranchi, the *Indian Nation* says that, The proposed college at Ranchi. as a well organised and thoroughly equipped college is indeed one of the great needs of Bengal, and no party is better fitted to bring it into existence than Government, it would not merely support the scheme of the Ranchi College but heartily welcome it, if an assurance were given that the new institution would be a really superior college, much above the level of all existing colleges and fully equal in efficiency to the best of English colleges. But no such assurance has been given, either on the qualifications of the teachers to be employed or the sources from which the staff is to be drawn and subsequently recruited. It appears to be in contemplation to man the College by teachers of the same sort as are now to be found in existing Government colleges. If that is to be so—if the Ranchi College is to be another Dacca, Hooghly or Presidency College,—there is no reason for bringing it into existence at such an enormous cost in public and private money.

As to the only assurances which have been most distinctly and emphatically given, viz., that the new college is to be furnished with magnificent residential quarters and its object is to turn out "gentlemen," the *Nation* points out that the glory of Oxford and Cambridge is not the college rooms or licensed lodging-houses, but the scholars, the thinkers, the heroic workers they have turned out. Apparently superior culture is not the end to be kept in view at Ranchi. With regard to the second of the assurances given, the journal regrets that the Lieutenant-Governor did not define the word "gentlemen," but it hopes His Honour will supply the omission some day.

Meanwhile, it observes that the manufacture of gentlemen has never been recognised by any educational authorities as the proper function of a college or University. If "gentlemen" implies men of character, they are born and not made, but if by gentlemen is meant men of fashion, they are made sooner and more cheaply in a club. If dressing in European style, knowledge of European games and sports, and etiquette at European evening and dinner parties is to be all the education or the most valuable part of the education which is to be given and received at the Ranchi College, the *Nation* can only say that nothing could be more deplorable. It is enough that several Indian youth have, by one trip to Europe, been converted into the English "gentlemen" of the Rawdon-Crawley type; the means and methods of perversion are not wanted nearer home.

Turning to the apprehended abolition of the Presidency College, the journal writes that, notwithstanding His Honour's assurances to the contrary, the abolition will possibly be forced upon him. If it does go, the *Nation* will not be sorry. There is no necessity for two Presidency Colleges, and if the students do not care for the Calcutta institution, what is the good of keeping it up?

In conclusion, the journal finds the strongest objection to the proposed institution in the fear that it is to be the pet of the Government. Even its plucked students will find it easier to secure the plums of service on the ground that they have been trained as "gentlemen."

Such an institution, which promises to be only a fashionable academic hostel, is not wanted in the country.

8237. Notwithstanding His Honour's assurance that the existence of the proposed college at Ranchi. the Presidency college will not be threatened by the proposed college at Ranchi, the *Indian Mirror* says that it is reasonable to expect that the efficiency of the Ranchi College will injuriously affect the Calcutta institution. There is, moreover, no guarantee that the Ranchi College will be self-supporting in the near future, and so long as that is not possible, it is perfectly legitimate to maintain that the resources of the Government might be more usefully employed in improving the existing institutions. The *Mirror* expresses its thanks to the Lieutenant-Governor for rectifying his mistake in regard to the personnel of the Divisional Committees.

8238. Now that His Honour has cleared up the two most essential points which evoked criticism and stood in the way of the success of the Ranchi College Scheme, the *Hindoo Patriot* hopes that the well-to-do classes will come forward to support it handsomely.

8239. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* likens the fate of the eight non-official members of the Ranchi College Committee to that of the Russian spy, who if he succeeds in his hazardous plans is rewarded by his Government, but if he fails is immediately disowned and allowed to be hanged. If these eight really suggested that funds should be raised by the Divisional Committees with the help of the Commissioners and Magistrates, the *Patrika* is of opinion that they merely did so to please Sir Andrew Fraser, and if the monstrosity of the arrangement had not been commented on in the Press, they would have possibly got their reward. But the conspiracy has been discovered and the poor culprits are pitilessly thrown overboard! The journal knows that many who are on the Committee have no heart in the work, but nevertheless they are not courageous enough to speak. There are others who are opposed to the scheme, because they believe that the Presidency College must suffer, but in spite of themselves, they continue on the Committee. Truly it would be better if God annihilated such a race as the Indians!

8240. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the condition of the Allahabad University after the recent election under the University Act is just what would delight the heart of Lord Curzon. The European element is supreme and a good many of the Indians are officials! Who will then deny that this University has been reduced to a department of the State? Other Universities are not much better and, in the opinion of the *Patrika*, no independent or self-respecting Indian should have anything whatever to do with these bodies.

INDIAN MIRROR,
Nov. 13th, 1904.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
Nov. 14th, 1904.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 14th, 1904.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 17th, 1904.

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

BENGALEE,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

8241. The *Bengalee* writes that the northern portion of the Strand Road is so dimly lighted in comparison with the southern portion, that the contrast cannot fail to strike even the most superficial observer. The absurdity of this arrangement is only too palpable owing to the fact that Strand Road, south of Harrison Road, is generally deserted after dusk, whereas the portion to the north of that thoroughfare is more or less crowded during the entire twenty-four hours.

BENGALEE,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

Light and shade. Obstruction of traffic in Burrabazar. 8242. A correspondent writing to the *Bengalee* complains that since the Marwari Chamber of Commerce gained their victory over the Corporation, the obstruction of every description of traffic in the public thoroughfares of Burrabazar has become simply intolerable owing to bales of merchandise being left for hours, perhaps days, in the narrow roads! The *Bengalee* draws the serious attention of the Marwari Chamber of Commerce to this matter and warns them not to abuse the concessions which have been granted to them.

EAST,
Nov. 13th, 1904.

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

8243. The *East* draws the early attention of Mr. Jordon, the District Traffic Superintendent, to the disgraceful condition of the Fulbaria station road which is never watered and is consequently thick with dust. This is a source of serious inconvenience to pedestrians, who are said to be enveloped in dust whenever a vehicle passes. Such a state of things is discreditable, and the journal hopes that Mr. Jordon will do the needful.

BENGALEE,
Nov. 19th, 1904.

Compartments for native females. 8244. The *Bengalee* writes that stoppages as a rule being short and the movements of native females proverbially slow, they find great difficulty in reaching the compartments reserved for them in time owing to the fact that the position of these compartments is so uncertain in passenger trains, especially in the Darjeeling and Chandpur Mails. The journal accordingly suggests that the compartments reserved for native females be placed so as to be brought immediately in front of the zenana waiting-room when the train stops, or that they be painted a distinctive colour.

INDIAN NATION,
Nov. 7th, 1904.

The abolition of the competitive test. 8245. The *Indian Nation* says that the season just over in Darjeeling has been lively for another reason than the presence there of the Divisional Commissioners. Being the temporary seat of those officers who are to make nominations to the Subordinate Executive Service, there was a rush to Darjeeling of many who seek appointments for themselves, their sons, or their nephews. The whole nation will be at the door of the Magistracy for an introduction to the Commissioner who is to nominate. Young men of merit who formerly might have fought their way into the service must now stoop to another sort of competition—the ignominious competition for favour. Commissioners and Magistrates are now lords of the situation and there is not a head but must bow to them. What an engine for bringing the whole nation to submission, exclaims the *Nation*. Talking of depriving the executive of their glory, why the grip of the executive over the country has now been tightened more than ever, and if it chose to kill the Congress it could now very effectively do so, for how many will care to remain in that institution if membership means exclusion of their families from service?

INDIAN NATION,
Nov. 7th, 1904.

8246. Discussing the different rumours set afloat by the Conference of Divisional Commissioners held at Darjeeling and the suspicions which have been propagated that an elaborate scheme of retrogression has been decided upon, the *Indian Nation* thinks it best to dismiss all rumours from the mind and to wait patiently for the public declaration of results. It only hopes that the Conference which had a pleasant time of it

will not be an annual institution and will not be converted into a picnic on some pretence of public business. Neither would the journal recommend Sir Andrew Fraser, for his own good name, to hold any more secret Conferences of the kind. The public, though not entitled to know the substance of the deliberations of such a Conference from day to day, would like to know the kind of subjects discussed and help in their discussion.

8247. Referring to the dissatisfaction that has been rife in the Press The Divisional Conference at owing to the objects of the Conference of Commissioners at Darjeeling being treated in a strictly confidential manner, *East* writes that the Government are in no way bound to air administrative questions when they themselves have arrived at no decision. Besides, when the agitation based on pure supposition is so formidable, what would it have been if the real objects of the Conference had been declared beforehand? How can the Government get on with its work if it is expected to publish every little thing it undertakes for administrative purposes?

EAST,
Nov. 13th, 1904.

8248. The *Indian Nation* would be sorry but not surprised if the partition of Bengal should be accomplished. It holds that nothing could be more absurd than to imagine that a scheme so strongly recommended or accepted by the Government of India, particularly by Lord Curzon's Government, would be overthrown by the Home authorities on an appeal of any section of the Indian people, or as the result of an agitation in which fine taunts and insults were offered to Lord Curzon himself. The *Nation* blames the present method of agitation for ruining the country and is of opinion that until the country repudiates the "leaders" who are responsible for a succession of disasters, and who care more for their own displays than for the material interests of the country, it will only proceed from disaster to disaster, as it has been doing for some years past.

INDIAN NATION,
Nov. 7th, 1904.

8249. In view of the conflicting reports published by the Anglo-Indian Press regarding the formation of the North-Eastern Frontier Province, the *Bengalee* insists that

BENGALEE
Nov. 8th, 1904.

Ibid. an official communiqué on the subject is urgently necessary in order to allay the intense public feeling that is prevalent. The journal considers that there are no valid reasons for the formation of such a Province on the lines of the North-Western Provinces, as the conditions which prevail at these two extremities of the Indian Empire are vastly different. In the North-West the tribes are fierce and warlike and it is essential that the Government should be prepared to meet any emergency; whereas in the East they are comparatively docile. But if for imperial reasons the formation of a North-Eastern Province is necessary, why should it be placed under a Lieutenant-Governor? This would, in the opinion of the *Bengalee*, defeat the very object of the scheme, which is to organise a strong executive Government more or less unfettered by law and prepared to take vigorous action whenever occasion arises. Besides, the Lieutenant-Governor will be to all intents and purposes a Chief Commissioner, and thus some of the fairest districts of Bengal will be placed under an administration retrogressive and reactionary. This is the awful prospect which looms in the near future and which seriously involves the well-being of the province. Surely, then, the people are not going to remain passive? Let them unfurl the battle flag and let the war drum roll once more if they will be saved.

BENGALEE,
Nov. 12th, 1904.

8250. Lord Curzon, writes the *Bengalee*, finding that his original scheme for the dismemberment of Bengal had failed deplorably, resorted to his favourite tortuous methods of manufacturing public opinion by inducing the Nawab of Dacca to accept the parentage of a modified arrangement by which the northern districts, with the exception of Darjeeling, were to be added to East Bengal and Assam. It was by this means that the India Office were persuaded by Lord Curzon to sanction the new scheme, and the journal considers that the Nawab could not have acted more unjustly to the people and their interests by supporting a scheme which they openly and emphatically repudiated on the occasion of Lord Curzon's visit to Dacca. But apparently their protest has not reached the ears of the India Office, and it is this danger that causes the *Bengalee* to call upon the whole province to unite as one man and vehemently denounce the

present scheme. Both the India Office and Parliament should be appealed to in clear, emphatic terms, and if the agitation is as persistent and as earnest as the one that put the original project out of existence, there is no reason why the result should not be the same.

The journal reminds the people that they can expect no help whatever from the present Lieutenant-Governor, who is a stranger to the traditions and associations of Bengal, and will therefore loyally carry out any orders he may receive.

INDIAN MIRROR,
Nov. 13th, 1904.

The partition of Bengal.

his dislike of the Bengali. It would help to keep the Bengali people together and not affect them in any way if instead of dismembering Bengal, Assam were created into a Lieutenant-Governorship and Bhutan and Sikkim brought under its political influence. Or if this is not desirable, why not raise the status of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to that of a Governor and bring Assam also under his jurisdiction?

In order to carry out his policy of repression of Bengali aspirations, Lord Curzon has made the happiest selection in the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Assenting to the partition without demur, Sir Andrew Fraser is ready to deal a death-blow to higher education in Bengal by making the abolition of the Presidency College merely a question of time. By the abolition of competitive examination for the Subordinate Executive Service he has crippled the ambition of educated youths of the middle and poorer classes, and he is further contemplating increasing the powers of the Executive in various ways. The outlook for Bengal is alarming.

INDIAN MIRROR,
Nov. 13th, 1904.

8251. In commenting upon the Government Resolution on the Report of the Board of Revenue on Bengal Wards' and Wards' estates of Bengal.

Attached Estates for the year 1904-05, the *Indian Mirror* suggests that the education of wards and the children of the proprietors of encumbered estates should be such as would enable them to fill their positions in life with profit to themselves and the public at large.

BENGALEE
Nov. 13th, 1904.

8252. The *Bengalee* is glad that the District Magistrate of Backergunge has set a good example by notifying that he will not accept any *dalis*, as this would be a great relief to zamindars and others in view of the approaching Christmas, and hopes that other District Officers will issue similar instructions. These, the journal points out, may well be supplemented by a clause freeing zamindars from the trouble and expense of supplying elephants and other requisites for the *shikar* parties of high officials.

INDIAN MIRROR,
Nov. 13th, 1904.

5253. The *Indian Mirror* knows of no surer means than emigration by which the present pressure on land in this country can be relieved and a decent competence assured to those who find it impossible here to keep body and soul together. The large savings effected last year by East Indian emigrants in Trinidad point to the prosperity and well-doing of the coolies who have emigrated and their evident satisfaction with the life they lead in that colony.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA
14th Nov. 1904.

8252. At least half-a-dozen Magistrates have brought themselves to the unfavourable notice of the public during Sir Andrew Fraser's short tenure, but the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* considers that none have done so more frequently or more egregiously than Mr. Carey, the present Magistrate of Hooghly. It is rumoured that he was transferred here from Murshidabad in order that he might be under the direct supervision of the Commissioner, but the change has not been productive of much good as the following regrettable incident shows. "A member of one of the leading families of the district," to use Mr. Carey's own words, came to see him at an appointed hour, and on his arrival the visitor is stated by the District Magistrate to have entered one of his private rooms, addressed his sister, and then walked half-way up the staircase where he commenced making a noise. The *Patrika* explains that the visitor could have only entered this apartment by mistake, and when he spoke to the lady referred to, it was not to insult her but to ascertain where Mr. Carey was. As regards the third charge, the journal cannot conceive why one gentleman should make a noise

in the house of another without any reason. It would thus appear that this visitor, who is "a member of one of the leading families of the district," was intolerably disgraced by being "ejected" from the house of the man whom he had gone to visit, and further by being gibbeted as an offender in the notice board of the District Magistrate's Court! The *Patrika* trusts that Sir Andrew Fraser will enquire into this scandal, and earnestly exhorts its countrymen to shun officials as much as possible, as contact with them results in financial losses and humiliation.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

8255. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* asks of there has been any improvement in the condition of the Indians after two centuries of British rule, and is obliged to answer in the negative. Their selfish rulers have withheld from people the boon of Self-Government which is so essential to their consolidation. But their condition to-day is even worse than it was thirty years ago, when people did enjoy to some extent the benefit of governing themselves. It is true that the Legislative Councils were expanded and a few members added by election, but have they not been reduced to the position of mere ornamentals? Besides, the Bengal Legislative Council has been practically abolished, for it does not sit more than two or three times a year. Then, again, the District Boards are so constituted that they cannot be called anything other than official bodies, and the people have been cast into such political bondage that they have not the privilege of appointing or dismissing the village watchman! Thus, while a race of slaves is successfully managing an African Republic, even the shadow of Self-Government has disappeared from a country whose inhabitants were highly civilised when Europe was overrun by savages! Does this redound to the credit of a great and civilised country like England, who holds the destiny of millions in her hands?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 18th, 1904.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 19th November 1904.

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

