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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 20th June 1903.

CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(d) Education—	
Nil.		The Bayley School in Bihar	520
		The Comilla Victoria College	ib.
		The Garail Annada School	ib.
		The special commercial classes in the Presidency College	ib.
		The time for depositing fees for the next Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination	521
		The education of the Muhammadans	ib.
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(e) Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—	
(a)—Police—		Landholders excluded from the Backergunge District Board	521
Counterfeit coins in circulation in Barisal	513	Supply of medical aid by certain District Boards	522
The chaukidari-tax	ib.	Municipal election at Bogra	ib.
The police in the case of Mr. Das of Cuttack	ib.	The pound-keepers in the Chuadanga subdivision of the Nadia district	ib.
Recommendations of the Police Commission	ib.	The Calcutta Municipality	ib.
Mr. M. S. Das <i>versus</i> the District Superintendent of Police, Cuttack	ib.	Municipal scandals in Calcutta	ib.
The chaukidari-tax	514	The Calcutta Municipality	523
A case of police oppression in the Mymensingh district	ib.		
Police oppression at Beliaghata station	ib.	(f)—Questions affecting the land—	
The rumoured recommendations of the Police Commission	515	Oppression by zamindari <i>amlas</i> in connection with the settlement operations in Barisal	523
The probable outcome of the Police Commission	ib.	Agricultural Banks	ib.
A complaint against some carters in Calcutta	ib.		
The case of Mr. Das of Cuttack	ib.	(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
Cattle-lifting in the Howrah district	ib.	Anicuts in the Banka river in the Bardwan district	523
The rumoured recommendations of the Police Commission	516	The Assistant Railway Engineer in Sahebganj	ib.
The appointment of three European constables as Police Inspectors	ib.	Railway grievances	ib.
		Railway complaints	524
(b)—Working of the Courts—		A railway complaint	ib.
Complaint against a Settlement Officer in the Backergunge district	516	Bridges on the proposed railway line between Mymensingh and Porabari	ib.
A contradiction	ib.		
The sequel to the Rajshahi <i>Muharram</i> case	ib.	(h)—General—	
The acquittal of Zahurul Hossain and Pachi Sheikh	517	Natives <i>versus</i> whitemen	525
The appointment of Honorary Magistrates in the Rangpur district	ib.	Complaint against a postman in the Mymensingh district	ib.
The Puri Raja's case	ib.		
Mr. Geake and his ministerial officers	518		
A Deputy Magistrate of Araria in the Purnea district	ib.		
The 1st Munsif of Beguherai	ib.		
The sequel to the Rajshahi <i>Muharram</i> case	ib.		
The Rishra assault case	ib.		
The final decision of the case against Pachi Sheikh and Zahurul Hossain	519		
The Puri Raja's case	ib.		
(c)—Jails—			
The Backergunge District Jail	519		
The diet question in jails	520		
		III.—LEGISLATION.	
		Nil.	

	Page.		Page.
IV.—NATIVE STATES.		URIYA PAPERS.	
Nil.		Storm and rain in the Balasore district	... 526
		Rain in Jajpur in the Cuttack district	... 527
V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.		A proposal for the employment of travelling doctors	... ib.
Distress and water-scarcity in the Midnapore district	... 525	Dacoity and murder in Pallahara and Dhenkanal	... ib.
Distress within the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district	... ib.	A donation in aid of the Congress Exhibition Fund	... ib.
		A new press started at Dhenkanal	... ib.
		The Puri Raja's case	... ib.
		The police report against Mr. M. S. Das of Cuttack	... ib.
		A plea for the passed students of the Cuttack Normal School	... ib.
VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.		ASSAM PAPERS.	
Prizes for cattle-breeding	... 525		
Bengali literature and the English Government	... ib.		
The surplus of Bogra Coronation Festivities Fund	... 526		
India ignored in the scheme of Imperial federation	... ib.		
The policy of the Christian nations in Europe	... ib.		
Lord Ripon <i>versus</i> Lord Curzon	... ib.	The Sadar Tahsildar of Silchar	... 527

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 2nd June says:—

Counterfeit coins in circulation in Barisal.

The number of counterfeit coins in circulation has greatly increased. One often meets with counterfeit coins in the daily transactions of life. Coins marked 1840, 1887, and even 1892, are also being counterfeited. The large number of such coins in circulation in Barisal would indicate that some-where in the district such coins are largely and successfully manufactured.

BIKAS,
June 2nd, 1903.

2. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 9th June has the following:—

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
June 9th, 1903.

The chaukidari-tax.

It has become impossible for the people to bear the burden of the chaukidari-tax any longer. Owing to successive years of scarcity, the impoverished inhabitants of the Burdwan district are in severe distress. The wants of poor people are considered to be beneath the notice of the high-paid officials. Rice sells at 15 seers a rupee. Food for men and cattle is scarce. The great majority of the villagers have not been able to lay by anything against a bad season. Is it possible for such poor people to pay annas 2 per month as the chaukidari-tax? The tax should be abolished.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI.

3. The same paper writes as follows:—

The police in the case of Mr. Das of Cuttack.

Mr. Schurr, the District Superintendent of Police, Cuttack, with the aid of his relation, Mr. Fischer, the District Magistrate, submitted a confidential report to the Government, in which it was stated that Mr. M. S. Das, one of the leaders of the local Bar, was implicated in the dacoities which had recently taken place in Orissa. On the receipt of this report, the Government became very much displeased and took no notice of it. But Mr. Das, as soon as he got information of the matter, requested the Government to investigate it. This was accordingly done by Mr. Carlyle, the Inspector-General of Police. Mr. Carlyle found all the statements wholly false and malicious, and assured Mr. Das that the Government was not a baby to be led by a report like the one in question, and that Mr. Schurr would apologise to him. But is an apology condign punishment for an attempt to maliciously injure a person by making such horrible allegations against him? Is any punishment to be awarded to Mr. Fischer for having aided his new relation, Mr. Schurr, in the preparation of the report? These two near relatives have been left together in the same district too long and should be now separated from each other. Considerations of prestige make Government unwilling to punish its offending high officials. But if it is courageous enough to punish such officials, it will, as a matter of fact, succeed in strengthening the foundations of the British Empire by placing them on justice and impartiality.

4. Referring to what are believed to be the recommendations made by the Police Commission, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 10th

Recommendations of the Police Commission.

June says that though it is too early to pronounce any opinion as to the benefits to be expected from the proposed reforms, this much is certain, that if they are carried out, the expenses of the Police Department will be increased by three crores of rupees every year.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 10th, 1903.

5. Referring to the case in which a friction having occurred between

Mr. M. S. Das versus the District Superintendent of Police, Cuttack.

Mr. M. S. Das of Cuttack and Mr. Schurr, the District Superintendent of Police, in the same district, the latter secretly reported to the Government that the former was an accomplice of dacoits and a habitual receiver of stolen properties, and which ended in Mr. Schurr's apologising to Mr. Das, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 11th June writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI,
June 11th, 1903.

The practice of submitting secret reports to the Government about bad characters is a safe instrument in the hands of the police to wreak their vengeance on such respectable people as happen to incur their displeasure, and they often have recourse to it to bring disgrace on their enemies, however

innocent the latter may be. Government had remained perfectly silent over Mr. Schurr's report against Mr. Das, and had not the latter been made aware of it by a secret means, Mr. Schurr's cowardly and malicious act would have never been brought to light and Mr. Das would never have got an opportunity of defending his character. Europeans do not admit that the European section of the police is, like the native section, vicious and corrupt. They think that the character of every European is as white as his skin. But Mr. Schurr's Act in the above case shows, very disparagingly indeed, the extent of the whiteness of the European character. Government should now admit that the morality of the European section of the police also is bad!

SANJIVANI,
June 11th, 1903.

6. The same paper publishes two letters from two villages in the Mymensingh and Khulna districts containing descriptions, similar to those which have appeared in previous

The chaukidari-tax. issues, of the oppressions which are committed by chaukidars, panchayets, &c., on poor people, the hardship that is caused by enhancements of the chaukidari-tax, and the evils which characterise the present chaukidari system.

SANJIVANI.

7. The same paper says that recently a young girl, a maid-servant attached to the household of Munshi Hamiduddin, a respectable inhabitant of Palla within the Netrakona Municipality in the Mymensingh district,

A case of police oppression in the Mymensingh district.

fled from her master's house. On this, a man reported to the police that a certain Bahadur Ali had enticed away the girl, whom he alleged to be his wife. The local Deputy Magistrate issued body warrants against the girl and Bahadur Ali. Two days after Munshi Hamiduddin's son, Lal Miya, accompanied by 50 or 60 of his men and two police constables, surrounded Bahadur Ali's house, and began to belabour, persecute and insult in various ways Bahadur Ali's parents and others whom they found in it, the two constables seeing the whole thing from a short distance. The villagers, however, unable to see the horrible sight any longer, snatched away the old parents from their hands. On the 17th *Baisak* last Bahadur Ali's father, Kangali, complained against the police to the Deputy Magistrate, but the latter hearing that the police had already preferred a complaint that Kangali and others had snatched away persons under arrest, placed Kangali's case lower down than the police case in his file. After some days, Bahadur Ali appeared, but was not arrested. On the 20th *Jaistha* last a strong police force, accompanied by more than one hundred of Lal Miya's men, surrounded Bahadur Ali's house and searched it for the purpose of arresting him, but he could not be found. Frantic with rage, they then began to search Bahadur Ali's neighbours' houses. They broke Bahadur Ali's old uncle's arm and whipped him severely, and demolished many a poor man's little things. Bahadur Ali's uncle is now in a precarious condition. All grown-up male inhabitants of the village have fled away for fear of the police. The District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate should pay their earliest attention to the matter. Eleven murders have occurred within the subdivision within the last three months and thefts are frequent, but the police is unable to trace the offenders in any case. A certain man once caught a thief and brought him to the Barhatta thana. The Sub-Inspector of the thana, after taking the thief's deposition, prosecuted the thief-catcher under section 342 of the Penal Code. The Deputy Magistrate who tried the case, having come to know the truth about it, acquitted the thief-catcher and sentenced the thief to 16 stripes. It is not therefore safe for private people to catch thieves.

SANJIVANI.

8. The same paper has the following:—

Police oppression at Beliaghata station.

Babu Bepin Chandra Pal, the editor of *New India*, returned to Calcutta from Diamond Harbour last Sunday. On arriving at the station, Bepin Babu hired three carriages, and, putting luggage and ladies within them, prepared to start for his dwelling. But a constable stationed there demanded a pice from each of the gharriwalas. Bepin Babu reported this to the Police Sub-Inspector on duty, on which the officer became very angry and ordered the constable concerned to seize the gharries with the luggage and ladies within them, in spite of remonstrances on the part of Bepin Babu. The ladies, some of whom were grown up, had to get down from the carriages and wait for about half an hour in the burning sun until gharries could be found to take

them away. If such oppression can be committed in Calcutta, it can be easily imagined to what lengths the police can go in the mufassal.

9. With reference to the recommendations of the Police Commission as reported in a Bombay paper, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 12th June writes as follows:—

The rumoured recommendations of the Police Commission.

Our fears are going to be realised. There will be, as we feared, increase of pay and bringing out of more European officers from England. The only thing that remains to be done is to increase the powers of the police. That, too, considering the Government's anxiety to increase the number of European police officers, will not be surely left unaccomplished. By hook or by crook, the authorities will achieve that object for the protection of their fellow-countrymen. There will then remain nothing more to be desired. And we natives shall be gratified to see an increased number of Europeans in the highest posts in the police service!!!

There is not the least doubt that what is to happen must happen. But the question is, what necessity was there to waste money on Commissions and Conferences? The country has seen a large number of Commissions, and knows only too well to what extent the authorities have adopted their recommendations. Did the Government accept any recommendation of the Welby Commission save one? Would it not have been better, under the circumstances, to follow a *zubhurdust* policy and reform the police by summary orders than appoint a Commission to advise the Government? By following such a policy, Government would have killed two birds with one stone—it would have effected its purpose without any hitch and would have, at the same time, deprived us of all courage to protest against its action. By appointing a Commission, Government has only unnecessarily courted a bad name for itself. The other course would have been both cheap and effective, and it is difficult to see why Government rejected it in favour of one which is neither.

10. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th June guesses that the Police Commission will recommend higher pay and appointment of *sahebs* to Police Inspectorships. Even now, when the Commission's report is still under consideration, the Bengal Government has appointed three European constables as Inspectors, and it is believed that ere long many more Europeans will be appointed as such to serve in the Patna, Burdwan, Gaya, Midnapore, 24-Parganas, Backergunge, Dacca, Mymensingh, Bankura, Bagura and Rangpur districts. So long all the higher posts in the Police Department were monopolised by white men, and now the lower posts also are going to them. This is Lord Curzon's police reform!

11. A sugar merchant of Chinipati, Calcutta, writes to the same paper that a number of *gunda* carters keep the road in front of his shop blocked with their carts the whole day, and compel the sugar merchants of the place to hire those carts only for their business. If a cart is hired from another place, these carters beat the driver of that cart and abuse the merchant who has hired it. The beat-constable takes illegal gratification from them and winks at their misdoings.

12. Referring to the confidential police report made by Mr. Schurr, the District Superintendent of Police, Cuttack, against Mr. Das, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 13th June writes as follows:—

The case of Mr. Das of Cuttack.

The complaint is generally made in the annual reports of the Police Department that the zamindars and other respectable classes of the country do not aid the police in the apprehension of culprits. But the real reason of this apparent indifference on the part of the zamindars and other respectable classes is that, while aiding the police, one often finds himself implicated along with the culprits. After the case of Mr. Das, will anybody again dare to help the police?

13. The *People and Pratiwasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th June says that in Domjur and the neighbouring villages in the Howrah district *budmashes* steal cows from cow-sheds and afterwards kill them for their skins.

Cattle-lifting in the Howrah district.

SAMAY,
June 12th, 1903.

HITAVADI,
June 12th 1903.

HITAVADI.

BASUMATI,
June 13th, 1903.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIWASI
June 13th, 1903.

The police is doing nothing in the matter. The attention of the District Magistrate is drawn to it.

HINDI
BANGAVASI,
June 15th, 1903.

14. According to the *Pioneer* newspaper, says the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th June, the recommendations of the Police Commission, if adopted *in toto*, will cost Government about three crores of rupees—an amount which the Indian Exchequer can ill spare at present. But the Government is likely to adopt the recommendations in part. It is hoped that a high-minded Viceroy like Lord Curzon will not do anything which is not good for India.

DACCA GAZETTE,
June 15th, 1903.

15. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 15th June has the following:—
The appointment of three European Constables as Police Inspectors.
We have been alarmed at the policy which the Government of Bengal has lately adopted in reforming the Police Department. Recently some additional posts of Inspectors were sanctioned for the Dacca, Backergunge, Mymensingh, 24 Parganas, and seven other districts. Everybody thought deserving Sub-Inspectors would be promoted to these posts. But, strange to say, the Inspector-General of Police has appointed three European Constables to three of them. Does this action of the Inspector-General of Police, Bengal, foreshadow the recommendations of the Police Commission? We believe that in making these appointments the Inspector-General has acted in accordance with the recommendations of the Police Commission, of which the Lieutenant-Governor elect of Bengal was the President. Is Lord Curzon, then, only making provision for a number of his own countrymen in the name of police reform? We had hoped that, as the result of the labours of the Police Commission, there would be a larger employment of educated natives in the higher posts in the Police Department. But, as a matter of fact, we see that an attempt is being made to exclude the natives even from the posts of Inspectors by filling them with low class Europeans.

Some people are saying that the Bengal Government could not have acted as it has done without secret instructions from the Supreme Government. But we cannot believe this. If it were so, there would be no necessity for appointing an expensive Commission.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BIKAS,
June 9th, 1903.

16. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 9th June says:—

Complaint against a Settlement Officer in the Backergunge district.

The complaint was made in a previous issue of this paper that the subordinates of Mr. Jack, the Settlement Officer in charge of the Kashipur-Ganpara camp in the Barisal district, were more oppressive towards the raiyats who came to the camp on business than Mr. Jack himself. This, however, is no longer the case. Suspecting that what appeared in the *Bikas* had really proceeded from the inhabitants of Kashipur, Mr. Jack and the officers subordinate to him have become very angry with them! The attendance of parties is being now strictly enforced, and fines are of daily occurrence. Will not Mr. Beatson-Bell, "the friend of the people," put down such oppression?

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
June 9th, 1903.

17. A correspondent of the *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 9th June contradicts the allegations made in the issue of the *Bikas* of the 12th May last against Mr. Jack, the Assistant Settlement Officer of Kashipur, Barisal (see Report on Native Papers for 23rd May, 1903, para. 17).

A contradiction.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 10th, 1903.

18. Referring to the sentence of imprisonment passed on Maulvi Zahurul Hosain, Honorary Magistrate of Rajshahi, by Mr. Mehta, the Subdivisional Magistrate of Lalbagh, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 10th June writes as follows:—

Mr. Mehta has, contrary to all expectations, passed a sentence in the well-known Rajshahi case which really makes one shudder.

The Maulvi, who is an Honorary Magistrate and a leader of the local Muhammadans, is 70 years old and has recently suffered a great bereavement by the loss of a son. It was Mr. Roe who summoned the Maulvi as a witness in the Rajshahi *Muharram* case, and subsequently prosecuted him for giving false evidence. The Maulvi had committed no offence under

the law, and if he had not been acquitted on appeal, he could not have possibly outlived his term of one year in the jail. Mr. Mehta had practically passed a sentence of death on an old man for no offence. He had also in the same case sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment the accused Pachai Shaikh on the strength of the evidence furnished by the compounder and that supplied by the registers of a hospital, although those documents looked very much like forgeries.

19. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 10th June is exceedingly glad that Mr. Webster, the District Judge of Murshidabad, has acquitted Shah Zahurul Hosain and Pachai Shaikh who were convicted by the Subdivisional Officer of Lalbagh in the case which might be called a sequel of the Rajshahi *Muharram* case. Mr. Webster has shown a sense of justice quite becoming an Englishman, and his courage in not allowing political considerations to interfere with it is really praiseworthy. The case is one which shows how a man, however innocent, can be harassed and persecuted by a Magistrate with whom he has the misfortune to quarrel.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
June 10th, 1903.

20. The *Rangpur Dikprakas* [Rangpur] of the 11th June says that it has now become necessary to change the Honorary Magistrates at certain places in the Rangpur district, in accordance with the Government circular which directs the change of such Magistrates after every three years' service. Lists of eligible persons are being prepared in consequence. Even the names of village headmen are being included in the lists. What is desirable is that only men possessing education and knowledge of law should be appointed as Honorary Magistrates. Formerly the pleaders and the mukhtars of the district used to be appointed as such. Subsequently landed proprietors began to be raised to the Honorary Bench. But now it seems low caste men from the peasant class are going to be selected. A change of Honorary Magistrates is calculated to be beneficial, but such a change as is going to take place is certainly not desirable.

RANGPUR
DIKPRAKAS,
June 11th, 1903.

21. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th June has the following in its English columns:—

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
June 11th, 1903.

The Puri Raja's case.

The judgment in the above case extends over 35 sheets. The Mussalman Deputy Magistrate, who tried the case, could have delivered it in four sentences and no harm would have been done. We summarise it in exactly four sentences and give below the facts of the case in as succinct a manner as possible. The Deputy might have said:—

- (1) I do not believe that Police Inspector Narayan Das abused the Raja.
- (2) I do not believe that the Sub-Deputy Collector, Sudarsan Das, helped the police when they broke open the doors of the Raja's zanana.
- (3) I believe that, under the law, the Police Inspector, Narayan Das, was justified in carrying out the order of the Magistrate, Mr. Garrett, and the constables were justified in obeying the orders of their superior, the Police Inspector.
- (4) And therefore they are all innocent and I acquit them.

But was the warrant which the police executed legal or illegal, and was Mr. Garrett justified in issuing such a warrant? The Deputy Magistrate very conveniently and discreetly does not discuss this important point at all, though upon its right solution depended the case of the Raja.

The finding of the Deputy Magistrate is then this. It is admitted that the Police Inspector with a number of constables really broke open the doors, entered the sacred precincts of the zanana, arrested the Raja, and used harsh words to them. They did it on the strength of an illegal order of the Magistrate; for, though the legality or the illegality of the order has not been discussed by the Deputy Magistrate, it is an admitted fact that it was illegal. Thus according to the decision of the Deputy Magistrate, any police officer, armed with an illegal order of the Magistrate, may enter into the zanana of any Hindu gentleman by breaking open the doors of his house; and neither he nor anybody else can be held responsible for this gross outrage. Have we come

to this pass at last? It behoves the Government, in the interests of law and order and the maintenance of its fair fame, to move the High Court for the re-trial of the case and restore public confidence in the administration of justice in this country.

JYOTI,
June 11th, 1903.

22. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 11th June says that as soon as Mr. Geake took up his appointment as the Magistrate and Collector of Chittagong, he proceeded to reform his ministerial establishment by requiring some of the most important employes in the office to make room for persons hailing from other districts.

Already two of his ministerial officers, the present sarishtadar and the head nazir of both the Collectorate and the Criminal Court, are men who are not natives of Chittagong, and Mr. Geake is now bringing such outsiders to fill the posts of the Collectorate head clerk, accountant, mahafij, treasurer, &c. There are many men of character and ability in the Chittagong district just as there are in any other. Had the present officers, whether natives of Chittagong or not, been promoted in the usual course according to merit, there would have been no cause of complaint. Mr. Geake, who is the *ma-bap* of the district, ought not to deprive its natives of the means of their livelihood in this way.

HITAVADI,
June 12th, 1903.

23. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th June says that a European Deputy Magistrate of Araria in the Purnea district recently beat the chaukidar attached to the local inspection bungalow for objecting, under instructions from the District Engineer, to the *sahab's* taking away a tub belonging to the bungalow. The District Magistrate has refused to give the chaukidar permission to bring a case against his assaulter. The Lieutenant-Governor is requested to enquire into the matter.

HITAVADI,

24. The same paper says that Mr. Mahmud Hassan, the 1st Munsif of Begusrai, appears to think that his highest duty as a Munsif is to induce, by means of threats and entreaties, parties to compromise their cases. If he fails to get any cases compromised in this manner, he orders the parties and pleaders concerned to stay away from the Court on the days of hearing, and then dismisses them under section 98 of the Civil Procedure Code. Afterwards he restores them to his file under section 99 on receiving applications from the plaintiffs to that effect. Cases No. 367, 368, 370 and 193 of 1900, 28 and 76 of 1901, and 62 of 1902 are instances in point. In most of these cases the parties were present on the days on which they were dismissed, but Mr. Hassan obliged them to stay away from the Court room and then passed the order of dismissal.

BASUMATI,
June 13th, 1903.

25. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 13th June says:—
The decision of the District Judge of Berhampore acquitting, on appeal, Maulvie Zahurul Hosain and Pachai Sheikh convicted of giving false evidence in the Rajshahi *Muharram* case, by Mr. Mehta, the Joint Magistrate of Lalbagh, has given great satisfaction. It is the belief of the general public that the District Superintendent of Police had actually done something wrong, but that he got off scot-free with the assistance of Mr. Roe. The conduct of Mr. Roe, a judicial officer, in connection with the present case, is greatly reprehensible.

BANGAVASI,
June 13th, 1903.

26. After commenting on the sentences passed by Mr. Mehta, the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Lalbagh, on Maulvie Zuhurral Hossein and Pachai Sheikh, respectively, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th June writes as follows:—

The case in which Mr. Hilton, the Manager of the Serampore Weaving Mill, was prosecuted by the station-master of Rishra, for using criminal force and abusive language, has been dismissed by the Joint-Magistrate of Serampore. The grounds of the acquittal of the accused were most flimsy. Slight inaccuracies occurring in the evidence of the prosecution witnesses as to the particular abusive words used by the accused, were thought sufficient for disbelieving the evidence adduced by the prosecution.

The witnesses cannot surely be expected to possess such powerful memory as to remember in perfect sequence all the words used in an affray. In both

the cases above referred to, the evidence of the natives was disbelieved. In the latter case the trying Magistrate disbelieved the statement that the accused took the old station-master by the throat on a slight provocation, because it was the Magistrate's belief that Europeans do not behave themselves in that way on slight provocation. But is that true? What was the offence of Mr. Corbett's khansama after all? The results of the trial of the above two cases have alarmed the natives of the country.

27. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 15th June has the following in its English columns:—

DACCA GAZETTE,
June 15th, 1903.

The final decision of the case against Pachai Sheikh and Zuhurrul Hossein.

Justice has at last been meted out to Pachai Sheikh and Zuhurrul Hossein by the District Judge of Berhampore, who has acquitted both the accused of the charge of perjury. One striking feature in connection with this affair is that this Zuhurrul Hossein was summoned as a witness, not by Pachai Sheikh, but by Government, and for statements made by him from personal knowledge and belief, which eventually turned out to be favourable to Pachai, the respectable gentleman was charged with the offence of perjury. But the thing that strikes us most in this connection is that during the trial of these two accused, Mr. Ryan, the complainant, was away home on furlough, and though both the Government Pleader and the Counsel for the accused admitted that the presence of Mr. Ryan was necessary for the ends of justice, and though Pachai Sheikh submitted that the evidence of Mr. Ryan was essentially necessary for the purpose of his defence, the Subdivisional Magistrate of Lalbagh proceeded with the case in his absence, and mercilessly convicted and sentenced them both to long terms of imprisonment. And what else could the poor man do? He was simply the conduit pipe of his master, the District Magistrate, who was the *de facto* complainant in the case. Such are the concomitant evils of the unification of the judicial and the executive functions in the same individual, and it is for reasons like these that we cry so loudly for the separation of the two functions.

28. The *Bangabhumii* [Calcutta] of the 16th June has the following:—

BANGABHUMI,
June 16th, 1903.

The Puri Raja's case.

The result of the case of the Raja of Puri teaches the following lessons:—

- (1) The Government will not punish those of its officers who interfere with the religious beliefs of the people.
- (2) However reprehensible the acts of a subordinate officer may be, provided they were done under the excuse of obeying orders, the Government will not punish him.
- (3) No redress can be obtained against the wrongs committed by a District Officer.
- (4) Protection of the life and property of the people, spoken of by the Government as one of its greatest objects, is nothing but an empty profession.
- (5) As the Magistrate has got a police force under him, he has a great opportunity for oppression.

All this would not have happened had there been no police placed under the control of the Magistrate. As long as young men of immature years and devoid of a sense of duty are placed at the head of districts, so long will this reproach of the British rule continue to exist.

(c)—*Jails.*

29. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 9th June says:—

BIKAS,
June 9th, 1903.

The Backergunge District Jail.

The health of the Barisal District Jail is getting worse every year. Overcrowding is the principal cause of the increase of mortality in the jail. The Jail premises never contain less than 550 prisoners, although they cannot comfortably accommodate more than 450 persons. The prisoners are no doubt all offenders, yet they should be lodged like men, and not huddled up together like so many pigs. Another cause which may account for the increased ill-health is the deficient supply of pure drinking-water, which is, in fact, a general complaint throughout the town.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 10th, 1903.

30. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 10th June says that it appears that the Government is making an endeavour to improve the sanitation of the jails. A sum of a lakh and a half of rupees has been sanctioned for providing better accommodation in the jails in many districts. But what is to be done with regard to that most important matter, the proper feeding of the prisoners? What is delicious diet to a certain class of prisoners may be slow poison to another class. The deaths which are ascribed in the official reports to bowel-complaints are often solely due to the slow-poisoning effect of indigestible food. The civilised British Government should adopt some measures to remedy this state of affairs.

(d)—Education.

AL PUNCH,
June 6th, 1903.

31. *Al Punch* [Bankipore] of the 6th June is sorry that the Bayley School in Bihar is about to cease to exist on account of want of funds. The institution had a large fund at its disposal, but during the incumbency of a Bengali trustee of the fund it was misspent. The local Government, seeing the critical condition in which the school is placed, has withdrawn its grant-in-aid. It is hoped that the Government will restore the grant, and call upon the native *raises* and zamindars to make contributions towards the support of the institution.

PRATINIDHI,
June 6th, 1903.

32. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 6th June says that the efficiency of the Comilla Victoria College is deteriorating. The following four causes are assigned for the alleged deterioration :—

- (1) There are no standing rules for the appointment or dismissal of the professors, who being thus uncertain of their own position, cannot pay much attention to their work.
- (2) The relation subsisting between the professors and their pupils is far from sweet and sacred.
- (3) The expenditure of the college exceeds the income.
- (4) The Committee of Management is never consulted, and never holds a meeting.

PRATINIDHI,

33. The same paper says that the results of the Entrance examination as regards the Garail Annada School were very bad this year. The school, which is aided by the Government, so munificently supported by Raja Asutosh Nath Roy Bahadur, and situated so near the large and prosperous village Kali Kachha, ought to have fared better in the University examination. It appears that the managing committee of the school are not empowered to appoint or dismiss the teachers. In consequence, teachers are frequently changed, the school is often closed without any adequate reason, and the teachers absent themselves frequently. Under these circumstances the work of the school is bound to suffer.

SAMAY,
June 12th, 1903.

34. Referring to the recent notification in the *Calcutta Gazette* announcing that special commercial classes will be opened in the Presidency College, Calcutta, and assuring the applicants for admission to such classes that "the examination at the end of this course will be held by Government to be equivalent to the F.A. Examination of the Calcutta University," the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 12th June says that the strangest thing about this assurance is that though the students who pass the commercial classes examination will enjoy equal privileges with those who pass the F.A. Examination of the Calcutta University, they will have had no connection with the University. It has been also extremely unjust for the Government to reduce the number of Government scholarships which used to be awarded on the results of the University examinations, to provide scholarships for the students of the commercial classes. If Government thought it greatly necessary to increase the number of students in engineering and clerical classes by holding out to them inducements in the shape of scholarships, it ought to have provided separate scholarships for them. The commercial classes may benefit the merchants by making good clerks easily available to them, but will not the classes interfere with the progress of the University? Is this the way in

which the main object of Lord Curzon's Universities Commission is to be achieved?

Will the passed students of the commercial classes, who are promised equal privileges with F.A. passed students, be allowed, like the latter, to read for the Pleadership examination or take their admission into the Medical College? If the University confers these two privileges on the passed students of the commercial classes, it is doubtful whether or no by so doing it will increase its own glory and powers.

The Government's action in adopting what must be regarded as objectionable measures in the name of educational reform, before the Secretary of State has expressed his opinion on the recommendations of the Universities Commission, has alarmed the Indian public. If Government is doing all this to reduce the number of graduates, who, after taking their degrees, fail to find suitable employment for themselves, the writer has nothing to say to the course it has taken. But, if its object is to do good to the people of India, the Director of Public Instruction should clearly explain now that object can be attained by the course Government is following.

35. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 12th June says that this year the Inspectors of Schools in Bengal have been rather early in directing the heads of all schools under them to deposit fees for the next Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination within June, in the Presidency Division even by the 15th June. Almost in every school the fees are deposited after a test examination, which is held after the summer vacation. This year many schools are still remaining closed on account of the vacation, and their heads are therefore quite in the dark about the circular containing the above direction. The time for depositing the fees this year should therefore be extended, and from the next year the direction should reach the heads of the schools before the beginning of the summer vacation.

The time for depositing fees for the next Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.
June 12th, 1903.

36. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 12th June writes as follows:—

The education of the Muhammadans.

In the last University examinations, 198 Muhammadans passed in the Entrance, 75 in the First Arts, and 21 in the B.A. examination. The total number of successful Muhammadan candidates is less than the total number of Hindu candidates passing from a single district. The Government is wholly indifferent to the wants and grievances of the Muhammadan community. To employ two or three Deputy Inspectors of Schools in the Education Department and to spend a few rupees for primary education is not sufficient for the purpose of promoting the spread of education amongst the Muhammadans. The Muhammadans are loyal,—they do not want high education for enabling them to rail against the Government. But if the Muhammadans are left in ignorance they will no doubt bring about great troubles. The Muhammadan population of the districts of Backergunge, Mymensingh, Rangpur, and Pabna are illiterate, and there is no offence in the Indian Penal Code which they do not commit.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
June 12th, 1903.

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

37. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 2nd June writes as follows:—

Landholders excluded from the Backergunge District Board.

The income of District Boards is derived from the road-cess collected from landholders, and it is the duty of the District Boards to apply the money thus collected to the improvement of the district by constructing roads, &c., in the best possible manner. The landholders are thus intimately connected with District Boards. Yet from almost all these Boards, specially from the Backergunge District Board, landholders are studiously excluded. Those who have no interest in the land cannot be expected to take real interest in questions affecting the improvement of the land. In selecting members for the District Board, the inhabitants of the district who possess land in it and are acquainted with the wants of the people ought to be preferred to persons who are not so interested and are but remotely connected with the district town.

BIKAS,
June 2nd 1903.

A change is often beneficial, and a change of the class of persons who have sat upon the District Board of Barisal for a long time, will certainly prove of great advantage.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 10th, 1903.

38. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 10th June says a movement inaugurated by thirteen District Boards in these Provinces for supplying medical aid to people in the mufassal by deputing doctors provided with medicines to go about from village to village is likely to produce some good effect. But no permanent benefit can be done except by establishing a larger number of Government charitable dispensaries than are in existence in the mufassal at present.

SANJIVANI,
June 11th, 1903.

39. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 11th June writes as follows :—
Since the inauguration of Municipal Self-Government in this country, the Bogra Municipality had with commendable zeal done its duty in a praiseworthy fashion with non-official Chairman and Vice-Chairman at its head. But the District Magistrate has resolved upon ruining the Municipality. Amongst the Commissioners nominated by the District Magistrate was one who had on previous occasions been deprived of his Honorary Magistracy and membership of the District Board for having been implicated in a murder case. This man, along with some Government officers, went to the houses of the mukhtars canvassing votes for one Babu Manmatha Nath Bose, Deputy Magistrate, who had been proposed as the Chairman. Two of the mukhtars refused their votes, on which the Police Inspector in charge was called back from the mufassal and the mukhtars intimidated into giving in their votes for the Deputy Magistrate. The Municipality was thus made to accept the Deputy Babu as its Chairman.

HITAVADI,
June 12th, 1903.

40. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th June says that cows happening to graze by the sides of that part of the road between Chuadanga in the Nadia district and Jhenida in the Jessore district which lies within the Chuadanga subdivision are taken to pounds by men who receive from pound-keepers two annas for every cow thus impounded. These men sometimes allure the animals to the road-sides by showing them food, and as soon as they come to eat it they are caught and taken to pounds. If Government desires to turn the road-sides to any use, it should fence them rather than allow pound-keepers to plunder poor raiyats in this way.

NAVA YUG,
June 13th, 1903.

41. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 13th June says that complaints against the Calcutta Municipality have become almost universal in the town. People think that the Calcutta Municipality is a machine, worked with the life-blood of the rate-payers, for maintaining Eurasians.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
June 13th, 1903.

42. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th June has the following in its English columns :—
Municipal scandals in Calcutta. Mr. Apar's return to Calcutta is certainly cursed by the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation and some of his colleagues. Mr. Apar has opened fire with scientific precision, and Mr. Greer may writhe and wriggle but cannot get out of the range. In the new Act it is provided that no gentleman can be a Commissioner, much less a member of the General Committee, who is a partner in any unregistered firm holding contracts with the Municipality. Yet Mr. Apar's searching questions have forced the Chairman to admit there were some European gentlemen on the Committee and the Corporation who were connected with contracting business houses. They had to eat the humble pie in that they refunded the fees they got, and walked out of the Municipality. Mr. Greer of course absolves them from all blame, as they did what they did in ignorance of the law. Pretty argument this for an Englishman to fulminate, whose countrymen as rulers of this land do not admit ignorance as an excuse. In a country where one man in 10 and one woman in 200 can alone read and write a vernacular language, publication of laws in English in Government Gazettes is thought enough to proclaim them to the people. And then ignorance is not only rebuked but punished according to the penal clauses. And yet in the metropolis itself we have a Chairman of the Corporation who does not know the law he is working out, and English

merchants who coolly pocket the fee but fail to work to be worthy of the hire. An Indian Commissioner would have been pilloried on showing such ignorance. What a commentary on Anglo-Indian activity for and sympathy with the people.

43. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th June draws the attention of the municipal authorities to the filthy condition of all narrow streets and lanes in the native quarter of Calcutta. The prevalence of all sorts of epidemic diseases, such as plague, cholera, and malaria, is due to the dirty condition of those streets and lanes.

The Calcutta Municipality.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
June 15th, 1903.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

Oppression by zamindari amla in connection with the settlement operations in Backergunge.

44. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 9th June says that the zamindars' men have found an opportunity to oppress the poor raiyats in connection with the settlement operations which are now proceeding in the Backergunge district. The majority of the raiyats are ignorant and illiterate, and are unable to explain their rights to the Settlement Officers. This duty naturally devolves on the tahsildars of the respective zamindars, who take full advantage of the trust to benefit themselves. Some of them overstate the rents of the raiyats and thus unnecessarily put them to great trouble. Others take money from the raiyats, ostensibly for payment to the Settlement Officers, but really to fill their own coffers. Much of the bad reputation of the Settlement Officers is due to the conduct of the zamindars' tahsildars.

BIKAS,
June 9th, 1903.

45. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 10th June says that the question of the establishment of Agricultural Banks has been long under the consideration of the Government. Many of the Government officials advocate the establishment of such Banks, and the rules regulating their management will shortly be framed. But the Government, it seems, is not likely to finance the Banks sufficiently. In this country, where almost the normal condition of 85 per cent. of the agriculturists is one of starvation, Agricultural Banks conducted with small capital would only cause dissatisfaction by their unavoidable failure to grant advances to all who applied to them for assistance.

Agricultural Banks.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 10th, 1903.

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

Anicuts in the Banka river in the Burdwan district.

46. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 9th June says that, owing to a number of anicuts built on the Banka river near the Sanktigarh station in the Burdwan district for the purpose of supplying water to the Eden Canal and to the East Indian Railway establishments, the inhabitants of the villages situated lower down the stream cannot get a sufficient supply of water.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
June 9th, 1903.

It is suspected that the officers in charge of the anicuts deliberately refrain from letting any water pass through them.

47. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th June says that Mr. H. C. Magaris, Assistant Railway Engineer in Sahebganj, behaves very badly towards his official subordinates—chaprasis, chaukidars, &c., and abuses them in such vulgar and insulting language as "stupid," "damned fool," "idiot," *শালা* *বুড়*, &c. Recently he has fined a chaukidar Rs. 5 and beaten a *chaprasi* for making a little delay in responding to his calls. He obliges his clerks to work from early morning to nightfall, but himself appears in the office twice or thrice during the day, and that for a few minutes only. Towards the end of May last he travelled to Bhagalpur with a horse and returned with it without paying any fare. Articles belonging to the Railway Company are turned by him to his private use. Formerly there were only three *chaprasis* in the office, but Mr. Magaris has appointed three more to serve his *memsahab*.

HITAVADI,
June 12th, 1903.

48. Referring to the report of the Railway Commission, the same paper says that Mr. Robertson does not appear to have paid much attention to the question of oppression

Railway grievances.

HITAVADI.

of women by railway servants. He is an Englishman, and it is impossible for him to form a true idea of the sensitiveness which the Indians feel in regard to the modesty of their women. The want of respectability, good breeding, and education in railway servants is in many cases responsible for their misbehaviour towards the sex in this country. They do not dare approach European ladies, but all native women they look upon as safe objects of their villainy. The supply of trains and carriages on Indian railways is very inadequate, when one considers the very large number of passengers who travel by them, so that trains become regularly packed with passengers, and it is easily conceivable what a hardship it must be in this tropical climate to travel in overcrowded trains. In times of fairs and festivals, passengers are even obliged to travel in waggons. Rules 16 and 18 in the Time-Table of the East Indian Railway are ambiguous as to the highest number of passengers which an intermediate class carriage should carry. Watermen are seldom found in stations, because they always remain engaged in the private service of station-masters, signallers, &c. The men who sell ice and aerated waters in trains cheat passengers by using false weights and charging high prices.

49. The same paper publishes the following railway complaints:—

HITAVADI,
June 12th, 1903.

Railway complaints.

(1) Babu Nandalal Chaudhuri writes from Howrah that on the 13th May last he paid three ten-rupee currency notes to the booking-clerk of the Cuttack station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway and asked for seven third class tickets from Cuttack to Calcutta. The real price of the seven tickets was Rs. 23-3. But the booking-clerk returned him Rs. 6 only, on the pretext that he had no small coins to give him annas 13 more which was due to him, although he had enough small coins before him to pay Nanda Babu with. Nanda Babu was thus defrauded of annas 13 by the booking-clerk. Many other passengers were also similarly defrauded.

(2) A correspondent complains of the inadequate supply of intermediate class carriages in No. 5 up train on the East Indian Railway.

(3) A correspondent says that the sweetmeat vendor in the Bongong station on the Bengal Central Railway has to pay Rs. 1,000 to the Railway Company every six months for permission to sell sweetmeats in the station. The man cannot therefore supply good sweetmeats to passengers.

DACCA PRAKASH,
June 14th, 1903.

50. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 14th June says that on the 28th March last a ticket collector of the Narayanganj station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway took

A railway complaint.

the wrong half of the ticket of a passenger named Dharendra Nath Basu, who was travelling from Dacca to Calcutta. Dharendra Babu was in a hurry to catch the steamer which was about to start and by which he was to travel, and consequently could not detect the mistake. The ticket examiner in the steamer also did not detect it, although he punched the wrong half which remained with Dharendra Babu. The mistake was, however, detected in the Sealdah station and Rs. 3-10 was realised from him. He wrote to the Railway authorities for refund of the money, but after a prolonged correspondence with them he was informed by letter No. ⁵⁸⁹/₂₄ 03 of the Traffic Superintendent, Dacca, that "the circumstances of the case do not admit of a refund being granted."

CHARU MIHIR,
June 16th, 1903.

51. A correspondent writing in the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th June says:—

Bridges on the proposed railway line between Mymensingh and Porabari.

A survey of the route of the proposed line of railway between Mymensingh and Porabari has been made. During the survey, an application was made to the Engineer, Mr. Lunax, for enlarging the existing District Board bridge one mile to the south of the station Elenga. It now appears that, far from enlarging the bridge, both this bridge and the bridge at the village Mahespur to the north of Elenga are to be done away with altogether. The tract of the country to the west of the 13 miles of the Tangail-Madhupur Road between Kalihati and Tangail is annually inundated during the rains. The want of sufficient outlet for water through this road is the sole cause of this excessive flood. If sufficient outlets are not provided, the increased weight of the railroad will greatly aggravate the evil.

(h)—General.

52. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th June has heard that the Government of India has instructed the Government of Assam to reserve all first class Deputy Magistrateships under it for Europeans and Eurasians only. It does not speak well for the Viceroy to maintain such distinction of creed and colour, and it is a matter of great regret that during His Excellency's term of office the claims of natives should in a good many cases be set aside in favour of Europeans and Eurasians.

HITAVADI,
June 12th, 1903.

53. A correspondent writing in the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th June says:—
Complaint against a postman in the Mymensingh district

Letters, &c., for Daulya Gangail, a village in the Mymensingh district, inhabited by many Brahmin pandits and respectable persons, are delivered by a peon from the post-office at Atharabari, four miles distant. The peon has to come to the village twice every week for the delivery of letters. But instead of doing so, he generally sends the letters by the zamindars' peons. The peon when he does come, does not bring any stamps or post-cards with him, considering it to be beneath his dignity to do so. All this causes considerable delay and harassment both in receiving and sending letters. Sometimes the peon suddenly makes his appearance in the village, gets some of the more obliging gentlemen to attest to the regularity of his attendance in the village for two or three weeks, and then disappears.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 16th, 1903.

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

54. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 10th June refers to the prevalence of distress and severe water-scarcity in the Midnapore district. Cholera, small-pox, and other epidemics are doing great havoc, whilst the great majority of the inhabitants find themselves unable to procure two meals in a day.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
June 10th, 1903.

55. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 16th June speaks of severe distress within the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district. Many people are living on boiled leaves of tamarind trees, &c., while a very large portion of the population of the subdivision is being unable to procure two meals in a day.

NIHAR,
June 16th, 1903.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

56. Referring to the announcement made by Government that prizes will be awarded to those who are able to exhibit animals of the best breed at agricultural exhibitions to be held in the country, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 10th June says that a proclamation declaring the intentions of the Government should be made in all villages and market-places to offer encouragement to the agricultural classes in the breeding and rearing of cattle.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 10th, 1903.

57. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th June refutes the *Englishman* newspaper's assertion to the effect that the late lamented Bengali poet, Hem Chandra Banerji, devoted his life entirely to the service of literature to the utter neglect of worldly matters. He was a leading pleader of the Calcutta High Court in his time, and the poverty from which he suffered in his old age was brought about by causes other than a neglect of mundane affairs. Again, in regard to another assertion made by the *Englishman* to the effect that literary pursuit in India finds no encouragement from the children of the soil, the writer says that the national literature of no country can flourish without encouragement by its sovereign, and that the English Government has never paid much attention to the cause of Bengali literature. Musalman *badshahs* were better than the English Government in this matter.

HITAVADI,
June 12th, 1903

HITAVADI,
June 12th, 1903.

58. A correspondent of the same paper says that the surplus money of the Bogra Coronation Festivities Fund should be devoted to such works as the establishment of an agricultural school and the promotion of education, works which are sorely needed in the Bogra district, instead of wasting it in constructing a club-house, as has been decided upon by the local officials.

HITAVADI.

The surplus of the Bogra Coronation Festivities Fund.

59. The same paper writes as follows:—

India ignored in the scheme of Imperial federation.

If the Ministry led by Mr. Chamberlain is really trying to unite and strongly bind together the different parts of the British Empire, why do they make no mention of India in this connection? England is the mother country and the colonies are her daughters. What is India then? The Ministry surely consider her to be England's step-daughter, or why should they take no notice of her in this question of supreme imperial importance?

CHARU MIHIR,
June 16th, 1903.

60. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th June writes as follows:—

The policy of the Christian nations of Europe.

Carrying in their hands the standard of peace and civilisation, the Christians are creating great opportunities for extending their dominions in the different quarters of the globe. The worshippers of Christ are never slow to scrutinise with a keen eye the oppressions which are committed and the acts of injustice which are done by the followers of other religions, and to endeavour to put a check upon those oppressions, whenever an opportunity occurs, by extending their rule to the oppressed countries and thereby showering peace upon them. It is this policy which lay at the root of the China imbroglio. It is also the sympathy and help of the Christian nations which enabled the small States of Roumania, Servia, and Bulgaria to throw off the yoke off Turkey. Crete also sought to follow in their wake. No wonder that Turkey, the only Musalman State in Europe, should be an eye-sore to the other European nations. The oppressions which are from time to time committed by those nations in order to spite Turkey are enough to horrify every civilised people. Lately, news has come that the Blgaurians committed the most inhuman atrocities in destroying a Turkish village—not allowing even pregnant women to escape the points of their swords. Is not this a blacker picture than the one which Englishmen have drawn of Surajuddowla's doings? What defence can the Christians, who intend to bear the standard of peace and civilisation on their shoulders, make of the doings of their co-religionists in Bulgaria?

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
June 17th, 1903.

61. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th June has the following in its English columns:—

Lord Ripon versus Lord Curzon.

The reaction which set in in the spirit and method of Government in India soon after the rule of Ripon the Righteous has, according to the universal belief prevailing in our community, come to a head in the reign of Curzon the Clever. Among the other results of the reactionary spirit, the following have emerged from the stage of nebulous ideas into accomplished facts in the present administration:—(1) The arbitrary distinction between Indians and Europeans with respect to higher service in the Education Department (as in others) was admitted hesitatingly before the present administration. Lord Curzon's Government will be ever remembered for not only unblushingly making the distinction but taking pride (as it were) in the doctrine that natives must never aspire to higher positions, which ought to be reserved for Europeans. (2) The Native Chiefs were in theory at least treated as independent rulers in subordinate alliance with the British before Lord Curzon's time. In Lord Curzon's Government they have been proclaimed to be British subjects. (3) In accord with the original liberal spirit of rule, decentralisation was the motto. Now we are verging on autocracy in its literal sense.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
June 4th, 1903.

62. The *Samvadvakika* [Balasore] of the 4th June states that there were

Storm and rain in the Balasore district.

showers of rain, accompanied with storm, in the north-western part of the Balasore district. The force of the wind in Berhampore and Fulwar in that district was so strong that many trees were uprooted and many

houses were demolished. One woman was killed and two men were wounded by the falling of earthen walls.

63. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 6th June says that there were rains in the Jajpur subdivision of the Cuttack district. It is expected that monsoon rains will soon set in.

UTKALDIPKA,
June 6th, 1903.

Rain in Jajpur in the Cuttack district.

64. The *Samvadvakika* [Balasore] of the 4th June suggests that the District Board of Balasore should make arrangements for the employment of travelling doctors, who would move about in different parts of the Balasore district, distributing medicines to the poor and helpless and others who may stand in need of medical treatment.

SAMVAD VARIKA,
June 4th, 1903.

A proposal for the employment of travelling doctors.

65. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 6th June gives instances of dacoity and murder in Pallahara and Dhenkanal, and hopes that the local authorities will be in a position to bring the offenders to justice at an early date.

GARJATBASINI,
June 6th, 1903.

Dacoity and murder in Pallahara and Dhenkanal.

66. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 6th June highly appreciates the donation of Rs. 300 made to the Exhibition Fund of the Indian National Congress which is proposed to be held in Madras in the next cold weather.

UTKALDIPKA,
June 6th, 1903.

A donation in aid of the Congress Exhibition Fund.

67. Referring to the establishment of a new press, named *Surpratap Press* at Dhenkanal, the same paper observes that artificial increase in the number of printing machines is no sign of progress, though a few individuals may derive some benefit from it, and that capitalists should devote their capital to other trades and industries.

UTKALDIPKA.

A new press started at Dhenkanal.

68. Referring to the Puri Raja's case, the same paper observes that the general public are dissatisfied with the result of the trial, and that an impression has got hold of the public mind that the trying Magistrate was influenced by the bias of his superior.

UTKALDIPKA.

The Puri Raja's case.

69. Referring to the statement made in the *Bengalee* newspaper that the District Superintendent of Police, Cuttack, reported, with the approval of the District Magistrate, to Government that Mr. M. S. Das, the pleader of Cuttack, was in the habit of patronising and sheltering dacoits in various ways, the same paper observes that no man's life and property can be safe when such secret reports are submitted to Government without any enquiry. It is a regret that Mr. Gupta went on leave without making any enquiry, though he was asked by Government to do so, thus leaving an impression in the public mind that he was unwilling to offend two big officials like the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police. It is believed that the enquiry, made by the Inspector-General of Police, who came to Cuttack in the past month, was conducted in a fair way.

UTKALDIPKA.

The police report against Mr. M. S. Das of Cuttack.

70. A correspondent of the same paper regrets to note that in filling up appointments in the Puri Training schools, sufficient encouragement was not given to the passed students of the Cuttack Normal School, and hopes that the Puri District Board will give preference to such students when the occasion comes for filling up the posts of extra Inspecting Pandits in that district.

UTKALDIPKA.

A plea for the passed students of the Cuttack Normal School.

ASSAM PAPERS.

71. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 31st May says that the Sadar Tahsildar of Silchar behaves very harshly towards his *amlas*. He overworks them, abuses them, and subjects them to various forms of indignity and hardship. Mr. Halliday, the late Deputy Commissioner of Silchar, once took him to task for this. Mr. Johnston is prayed to transfer him to some other place.

SILCHAR,
May 31st, 1903.

The Sadar Tahsildar of Silchar.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,
Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 20th June, 1903.

B. S. Press. 308C-78-24.6.1903-C. W.



REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 20th June 1903.

CONTENTS.

PAGE.	PAGE.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.	(f)—Questions affecting the Land—
Nil.	Nil.
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.	(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation—
(a)—Police—	Nil.
The Cuttack scandal ... 213	(h)—General—
Ditto ... ib.	Nomination <i>versus</i> Competition in the Subordinate
Ditto ... ib.	Executive Service ... 216
Ditto ... ib.	The Assam Provincial Service ... ib.
Ditto ... ib.	A Deputy Magistrate assaults a chaukidar in
Mr. Schurr, the "gigantic" Superintendent of	Purnea ... ib.
Police ... ib.	The Subordinate Civil Service ... 217
Some recent appointments in the police ... ib.	The Custom House Commission's recommenda-
"Maskabari" ... 214	tions ... ib.
"Ditto" ... ib.	
"Ditto" ... ib.	
(b)—Working of the Courts—	
The philosophy of colour in the Serampore case ... 214	III.—LEGISLATION.
Native <i>versus</i> European ... 215	Nil.
The Rajshahi perjury case ... ib.	
The Puri Raja's case ... ib.	IV.—NATIVE STATES.
(c)—Jails—	The Tippera succession case ... 217
Nil.	Ditto ... ib.
(d)—Education—	
Nil.	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administra-	Nil.
tion—	
Europeans and Local Self-Government ... 215	VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.
The Bertram incident ... ib.	The Hindu caste system ... 217
The Calcutta Municipality ... 216	
The Silchar Board ... ib.	



II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

615. The *Indian Mirror* feels sure that if Sir Andrew Fraser were now the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Mr. Schurr would not be permitted to remain in State employ a day longer. The journal does not expect such a drastic, but altogether just, remedy from Mr. Bourdillon, for such a case of phenomenal police delusion, ignorance, and attempted persecution of one of the most prominent of Indian public men.

INDIAN MIRROR,
10th June 1903.

616. Reviewing the facts of the case in which Mr. Schurr, the District Superintendent of Police, Cuttack, brought a charge against Mr. Modhu Sudan Das, *ex-Member* of the Bengal Legislative Council, of protecting dacoits and receiving stolen property, the *Bengalee* wishes to know what notice the Government has taken of Mr. Schurr's conduct. His recklessness, his incapacity to discriminate truth from falsehood, his readiness to draw absurd inferences point to his utter unfitness for the office he holds. The journal trusts the matter will not be permitted to be settled with an apology.

BENGALÉE,
10th June 1903.

617. The case of Mr. M. S. Das shows, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, with what contempt people are treated even by petty officials. It compares the positions occupied by Mr. Schurr and Mr. Das, and inveighs against the practice that exists of Magistrates and District Superintendents of Police reporting against private individuals. What, it asks, will prevent another Police Superintendent from reporting that Maharaja Sir Jotindra Mohan Tagore has a hypothenuse in his house, or that the Maharaja of Darbhanga has indented for a parallelogram, nay, a rhomboid, from Russia?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th June 1903.

618. The same paper reads Mr. Schurr the lesson of Mr. Beames's failure to rise to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal owing to his bitter hatred of the people. If Mr. Schurr wishes to prosper, he should learn to hate less the people who maintain him.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th June 1903.

619. Reverting to this case, the *Bengalee* says that if it serves the purpose of opening the eyes of the Government to the fact that no Indian's position is safe in the present state of things, then verily the anxiety and trouble which Mr. Das has gone through will not have been gone through in vain.

BENGALÉE,
12th June 1903.

620. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes a scathing criticism of Mr. Schurr's evidence before the Police Commission, in which he stated that the majority of Police Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables, and Constables oppress and harass the public.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th June 1903.

"And who oppressed and harassed Mr. Das? Not a 'native' but a European. Who availed himself of the opportunity of stabbing a man from behind? Not a 'native' but a European. What he charged a native with without proof, namely, that a 'native' would do certain things under certain circumstances, he himself did."

The journal compares Mr. Schurr to Sancho Panza, in "Don Quixote," and exclaims with Teresa Panza, his wife, on learning that her husband had been made a Governor, "Sancho of my soul! Who could have thought that a goat-herd would have come to be a Governor of Islands?"

"In the same manner, if Sancho had managed goats, Mr. Schurr had handled his constables. Does that entitle him to talk like a statesman? Just see how seriously he adopts the phraseology of the administrator and statesman and talks in the first person plural! Mr. Schurr is perhaps the first Police Superintendent who has dared to appropriate the 'we' in making a statement."

621. The *Bengalee* believes that Lord Curzon is the chief dominating influence in determining the policy which is proving fatal to the cause of Indian progress and which in Bengal has reached its culminating point in the extinction of Local Self-Government and the disregard of the claims of the

BENGALÉE,
10th June 1903.

Some recent appointments in the police.

children of the soil to high office. All this is done under the auspices of Mr. Bourdillon's Government, but his measures are but the reflex of this policy of the Imperial Government. Lately three European Constables possessing no experience have been appointed Inspectors of Police in Bengal, in opposition to the recommendations of the Public Service Commission. Their appointments involve a double injustice to the Indian community; first, because they are inferior men, and second, because the claims of the children of the soil have been ignored. The *Bengalee* fears that if the new policy is to be in the ascendant, the India of the future will, notwithstanding Lord Curzon's statement to the contrary, be an India of "empty prospect" and "justifiable discontent."

INDIAN MIRROR,
11th June 1903.

622. Commenting upon the exposures made by the *Bengalee*, the *Indian Mirror* says:—

"Maskabari."

"These are very grave allegations, which have got to be disproved, and the one way to do it is for the policeman, charged with sharing in the bribe, to prosecute the *Bengalee* both civilly and criminally for an atrocious libel."

But as the *Bengalee* has evidently not spoken without the book, a Government investigation may no longer be delayed.

BENGALÉE,
11th June 1903.

623. The *Bengalee*, reverting to the practice of members of the Calcutta Police taking *maskabari* from every wine-shop keeper, states that this monthly bribe is distributed as follows:—

	Rs.
Superintendent	5
Inspector	5
Daroga	2
Jamadars	1 each.
Inspector's orderly	0-8

A similar payment is understood to be made to the police by every *pán-shop* keeper, since the introduction of the sale of cocaine.

The journal reproduces the circulars issued by Mr. Showers in 1901 and Mr. Bignell in 1902, threatening to deal severely with officers charged with accepting this form of bribe, and commenting upon the failure of the two Commissioners to check the pernicious practice, calls upon Government to give the Commissioner of Police *carte blanche* and to hold him responsible for the purity of the police force. Whatever may be the cause of Mr. Bignell's poor success, the *Bengalee* is confident that such a state of things cannot escape the notice of His Honour or His Excellency the Viceroy.

BENGALÉE,
13th June 1903.

624. The same journal is confident that if this evil is ever to be stopped, Mr. Bignell is the man to do it, and that he will now wage a regular crusade against it. He may

rely to the fullest extent upon the support and, if necessary, the co-operation of the public in taking any action that he may think fit in this matter. If the Calcutta police is to be reformed at all, here the beginning must be made, for as long as the *maskabari* system prevails, there can be no diminution of corruption. If the evil is still left untouched, the public will cease to believe that the Government are really anxious for police reform, however vehemently they may profess to be so.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BENGALÉE,
2th June 1903.

625. Commenting upon the Serampore assault case, the *Bengalee* says that everything proving conclusively the predominance of white over black, it has no hesitation in saying that those of its countrymen who, deluded by the theory that all men are equal in the eye of the law, think that white and black are equal in a Court of justice in India, are guilty of unintentional blasphemy. And so, evidently, thought the Subdivisional Officer of Serampore. Sworn black testimony stood contradicted by white testimony, partially sworn and partially unsworn. What could the Subdivisional Officer, placed in such a position, do but follow the rule laid down by nature herself, and accept the white testimony and reject the black? His conduct would have

been unexceptionable if he had not unfortunately descended to argument. He should have taken his stand on the law of nature, and not tried to seek the assistance of reasoning in the case.

626. The *Indian Empire* refers at length to two cases between Indians and Europeans disposed of this week, one at Serampore, (Hilton *versus* the Station Master of Rishra) and the other at Poona (Rev. Mr. Nelson *versus* Sonewala).

INDIAN EMPIRE,
9th June 1903.

In both the cases, says the journal, the European accused were acquitted not because there was no evidence to support the case for the prosecution, but because the Magistrates preferred to believe the unsworn statements of the European accused and disbelieve the sworn testimony of native witnesses. If Magistrates and Judges exercise their power of discretion in accepting or rejecting evidence given before them in this way, and make it a rule to believe a European and disbelieve an Indian, then adieu to all hope of ever getting justice in all such cases. The matter is getting more and more serious day by day. Already there is a strong impression in the country that an Indian has no chance in a Court of law against a European. The recent cases will only go to confirm that impression.

627. The acquittal of the accused in these cases by the Sessions Judge was, says the *Bengalee*, almost a foregone conclusion, but alas! the acquittal partakes much of the character of a Pyrrhic victory. What reparation or compensation can the two victims of official tyranny expect to obtain for all that they have endured? It now remains to be seen what notice Government will take of the conduct of Mr. Ryan and Mr. Roe, who were the sole authors of all this mischief.

BENGALÉE,
10th June 1903.

628. Commenting upon the decision of the Deputy Magistrate who tried the case of the Raja of Puri, the *Bengalee* asks: Has it come to this that any police officer, armed with an illegal order of the Magistrate, may enter into the zenana of any Hindu gentleman by breaking down the doors of his house; and neither he nor anybody else can be held responsible for this gross outrage! It behoves the Government, in the interests of law and order and the maintenance of its fair fame, to move the High Court for the retrial of the case and restore public confidence in the administration of justice in this country.

BENGALÉE,
11th June 1903.

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

629. The *Indian Empire* does not object to Europeans co-operating with Indians in matters of local administration, but what is objectionable is that some of these Europeans do not forget their business instincts when engaged as Municipal Commissioners. Government reconstituted the Calcutta Municipality with the object of purging it from corruption; yet against all law and sense of decency and fair play, Mr. Bertram, the most prominent among the European Commissioners and a representative of the Chamber of Commerce to boot, while acting as a member of the Board and on its General Committee, entered into a large contract with the Corporation. But the action of Mr. Bertram is nothing in comparison with the practice that obtains in Assam. There the members of the various Boards, who are mostly planters, are also contractors under the Boards. The present rupture between the European members of the Silchar Board and its Chairman is due to this fact.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
9th June 1903.

630. Reverting to this incident, the *Bengalee* asks: Why was not Mr. Bertram disqualified at once? If the Chairman did not, as he should have, make it his business to have known that Gladstone, Wyllie and Company was not registered, did Mr. Bertram himself not know of the existence of this provision of the law? But the question has a wider bearing than the personal issues involved. It is very clear from the admitted facts of the case that Mr. Bertram was under the law disqualified as a member of the Corporation. He had no right to vote at the meetings of the Corporation or of the General Committee. His vote, therefore, was illegal. Were not there many questions decided which, but for

BENGALÉE,
10th June 1903.

his vote, would have been decided in the opposite way? What about the decisions arrived at in these cases? Clearly they were illegal, and if personal interests were involved, the parties who lost their cases have a legitimate grievance. The journal hopes the Corporation will not be dragged into the meshes of any tedious litigation.

INDIAN MIRROR,
13th June 1903.

631. The revelations of municipal scandals which Mr. Apcar has made in the newspapers lately lays bare, says the

The Calcutta Municipality.

Indian Mirror, a story more sordid, more disgraceful, and more disgusting by reason of the offenders being those very Europeans, who were loudest in their denunciation of the old municipal constitution of Calcutta and of the corrupt doings of the native Commissioners. The journal adds:—

“There is a new move by which European firms are turning themselves into registered companies. A firm may be private with one partner in London and another in Calcutta, but the moment it is registered, it becomes a limited liability company, the Calcutta partner can become a Commissioner and do business with the Corporation in the shape of contracts unblushingly. Thus may a defective law be evaded and Europeans may run the Corporation to their own mutual profit!”

INDIAN MIRROR
13th June 1903.

632. Mr. Marshall, a European member of the Silchar Board, took a contract for improving the Scottpur-Udarband road, which was constructed mainly for the convenience of his own tea garden, but when he submitted his bills, Mr. Johnstone, the Chairman, who is a Civilian trained in Bengal, and does not like the practice of members taking contracts, forwarded a cheque for only a fraction of the amount. The other European members of the Board have thereupon sent Mr. Johnstone a threat that they will resign in a body if Mr. Marshall's bills are not paid in full. Commenting upon this incident, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:—

The Silchar Board.

“The whole question hinges on one point, viz., whether it is permissible for the members to take contracts from the Board? As members they are naturally led to suggest the construction of such roads as are likely to be beneficial to them. If, after this, they are permitted to have a voice in passing the bills submitted by themselves, public funds are not likely to be protected as scrupulously as they should be.”

The journal thinks that the Chief Commissioner should intervene and put a stop to this practice. In Calcutta, the Commissioners are never allowed to take contracts from the Municipality.

(h)—General.

INDIAN MIRROR,
7th June 1903.

633. The *Indian Mirror* is sorry to observe in a number of new appointments that the rule established by Sir Charles Elliott of appointing to the Subordinate Executive Service half by nomination and half by competition is being gradually broken through in favour of nomination. It hopes the Local Government will be brought to see the error of its ways.

634. The *Bengalee* learns that the Government of India have lately sanctioned the creation of two grades of Rs. 700 and Rs. 800, respectively, for the Provincial Service in Assam, with the recommendation, however, that only Europeans and Eurasians must be appointed to those grades. Verily, says the journal, if this is true, the Government of India have set their seal to a jobbery of the most indefensible character and sought to perpetrate an injustice of the grossest kind on Indian officers of tried ability in the service. It hopes that the potent voice of public opinion will shame the Government into undoing what they have done.

BENGALÉE,
10th June 1903.

The Assam Provincial Service.

635. The *Bengalee* learns that a European Deputy Magistrate of Purnea thrashed the dák bungalow chaukidar for refusing to allow him to remove a bath tub from the bungalow and that the District Magistrate would not take cognisance of the matter and refused the chaukidar leave to prosecute.

BENGALÉE,
10th June 1903.

A Deputy Magistrate assaults a chaukidar in Purnea.

It trusts the Government will take notice of the case and of the conduct of the Deputy Magistrate concerned.

636. Not a few of the men appointed during the last winter to the Subordinate Civil Service, owed their appointments, says the *Bengalee*, to nomination pure and simple. This is rather hard lines upon men of far superior qualifications, who have passed a variety of competitive tests, as, for example, the passed students of the Sibpur Civil Engineering College. Many of these men would gladly accept a Sub-Deputy Collectorship, and to ignore their claims in order to provide for Dowds, would be to commit a grave administrative blunder indeed.

BENGALÉE,
11th June 1903.

637. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is simply staggered at the audacity of the proposals contained in the "uninteresting" and "unattractive" Report of the Calcutta Custom House Commission, to increase the number of Europeans and Eurasians in the upper grades, and to appoint a Civilian as Deputy Collector of Customs. And the Bengal Government, instead of rejecting the proposals with horror, have approved of them and asked the Board to report upon them! "The British Lion in India is a little too greedy!" exclaims the journal.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th May 1903.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

638. Adverting to the question on this subject, which it is Mr. Roberts's intention to put to the Secretary of State, the *Bengalee* says:—

BENGALÉE,
11th June 1903.

"We shall be curious to know what answer will be given to this question. But whatever it may be, it will not remove the strong public feeling entertained on the subject in this country. A very grave wrong has been committed in this, as in the Cherra succession case, to which we referred the other day, and no amount of official equivocation will alter the fact."

639. The same paper, reverting to this subject, says that the rule of succession, which the Government of India has set aside, has for generations secured a regular succession from father to son. Where, then, is the justification for discontinuing it? The order indeed has satisfied nobody. It has not satisfied the Bara Thakur, whose appeal has been rejected. It has not satisfied the Raja, who has recorded a protest. The journal is sorry for the Raja, who has brought upon himself and his State endless trouble by his attempt to defeat the lawful rights of the Bara Thakur.

BENGALÉE,
13th June 1903.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

640. The *Bengalee* is of opinion that the time has come when the Hindu caste system should be thoroughly remodelled and redistributed. It recognises that in such matters it is futile to look to Government for help. The Hindus each one of them owe it to themselves individually and to the country at large to undertake themselves this serious duty.

BENGALÉE,
12th June 1903.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 20th June 1903.

H. B. ST. LEGER,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

