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REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 23rd January 1904.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 16th January says that the Jagadballabhpur thana in the Howrah district is situated at one end of its jurisdiction. This makes a proper police supervision of all the villages under the thana impossible. Besides this, the virulent malaria of Jagadballabhpur weakens and disables the police officers stationed in it. Most probably the extraordinary prevalence of crime within the jurisdiction of the thana is due to these causes. The thana should be transferred to Ranmahal, or Garhbalia, or some other healthy village at the centre of its jurisdiction.

HOWRAH HITAISHI.
Jan. 16th, 1904.

The Jagadballabhpur thana in the Howrah district.

2. The *Mistabhashi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January says that on the 15th instant a public meeting was held in Pabna town, to protest against the proposed transfer. The activity of the police in the matter has, however, astonished everybody. A respectable inhabitant of the town says that one day some of his friends were discussing the question among themselves, and that the next day he was visited by a police officer who put to him all sorts of questions such as "Who are discussing the matter?" "What is the public feeling?" "In what places will protest meetings be held?" "Who are the principal agitators?" etc. Has Government authorised the police to make such enquiries?

MISTABHASHI,
Jan. 18th, 1904.

The conduct of the Pabna Police regarding the dismemberment question.

3. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 13th January says that on the 12th January last, the last day, that is, for the payment of the Paus *kist* of Government revenue, the Treasurer of the Midnapore treasury refused to take payment after 5 P.M., when a large number of men were still waiting to pay in their revenues. Mr. Lusson, the kind-hearted Collector, at last came to the treasury and gave orders for the receipt of the revenue from all who were waiting.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Jan. 13th, 1904.

Payment of revenue at the Midnapore Treasury.

The Midnapore treasury should follow the practice of the Hooghly treasury, which is kept open for the receipt of revenue from morning to evening for three or four days previous to the last day of payment.

4. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th January writes as follows:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Jan. 13th, 1904.

The Tilak case.

The Sessions Judge of Poona has admitted that Mr. Tilak was actuated by the purest motives and tried to save his friend's property. But how, even after such an expression of opinion, the Judge did not acquit Mr. Tilak is more than we can understand. Some persons believe that though the Judge was for acquitting Mr. Tilak, he was compelled to convict him under pressure from other quarters. We place no faith in such a statement. But there is another fact which has greatly amazed and mortified us. Immediately after the judgment was delivered, Mr. Tilak was handcuffed and conducted to jail. Mr. Tilak is a highly respected citizen. He was a member of the Bombay Legislative Council, and in social position and respectability is certainly not inferior to Mr. Bain, the tea-planter. If the same consideration were shown to Mr. Tilak as was shown to Mr. Bain, who had been accused of murder, would the British Empire have been ruined? The prestige of Government has not been increased by the exhibition of its political ascendancy by means of the cruel treatment accorded to Mr. Tilak by the Bombay authorities. On the other hand, such treatment is likely to produce the belief in the public mind that Government is utterly unmindful of the honour and respect due to the people of this country.

5. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 14th January complains of the haughty temper of the "Executive Munsif" of Khulna. A certain roughness marks his conduct everywhere. The other day he insulted an old mukhtear named Navin Chandra Chatterji without enquiring whether Navin Babu's conduct had anything to do with the manner in which the

KHULNA
Jan. 14th, 1904.

The "Executive Munsif" of Khulna.

6. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 14th January complains of the haughty temper of the "Executive Munsif" of Khulna. A certain roughness marks his conduct everywhere. The other day he insulted an old mukhtear named Navin Chandra Chatterji without enquiring whether Navin Babu's conduct had anything to do with the manner in which the

public are treated by his *amla*, but the next moment begged Navin Babu's pardon and suspended some of the latter. The suspended *amla* are, however, being permitted to work regularly. It is for the High Court to judge whether such an ill-tempered and whimsical man is fit for the judicial service.

JYOTI,
Jan. 14th, 1904.

6. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 14th January says:—

Mr Tilak handcuffed. The fact that Mr. Tilak was carried handcuffed to jail from the Poona Sessions Court, has grieved the heart of every Indian. People are saying many things in this connection. What we say however is that the authorities desired only to test our patience and see how we may bear the sight of any indignities which may be offered to our brethren. We are not sorry for Tilak, for he is a great man and the fact that he was handcuffed will not pain him; the handcuff has rather been sanctified by his touch, and henceforth it will cease to be a mark of dishonour to prisoners. We fear only our own lot.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 15th, 1904.

7. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th January says:—

Mr. Tilak handcuffed. We are sorry Mr. Balgangadhar Tilak was handcuffed before being carried to jail from the Poona Sessions Court. There was no possibility of such a respectable prisoner escaping from custody. It did not therefore behove the authorities to insult him in that manner. Would they have dared to deal out the same treatment to a European prisoner of Mr. Tilak's position? Government's treatment of Mr. Tilak has grieved every Indian heart, which will continue to respect that esteemed gentleman as deeply as ever, in spite of any indignities which he may suffer at the hands of the Government.

SAMAY,
Jan. 15th, 1904.

8. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 15th January writes that the fine of Rs. 50

The conviction of the proprietor of the *Mahima* newspaper. inflicted on each of the four accused who are the printer, publisher, editor, and proprietor respectively of the *Mahima*, must be regarded as too severe. The

Magistrate ought to have considered whether the accused by disregarding the law caused any pecuniary loss to Government, or whether by not giving the necessary declaration they acted like the snarchists of Europe or whether they published in their paper any seditious matter. When, as a matter of fact, nothing of that character was published, the accused might be let off with a warning, or at the worst, fined a few rupees.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
Jan. 15th, 1904.

9. The *Howrah Hitaiishi* [Howrah] of the 16th January is glad to learn

The Serampore Sub-Registry Office. that the unfair means by which money was so long exacted from people resorting to the Serampore Sub-Registry Office (see Report on Native papers of the 16th January, paragraph 10) on business have been put a stop to.

NIHAR,
Jan. 19th, 1904.

10. A correspondent from Garbeta writes to the *Nihar* [Contai] of the

The site selected for the proposed Garbeta Subdivisional headquarters. 19th January that the zamindar Company of Midnapore have objected to the site selected for the proposed Subdivisional town at Garbeta, as it includes their race-ground and pleasure-ground. The correspondent says that the site has not been well chosen, as not only is there water-scarcity at that place, but the proximity of the Sadar Cutcherry of the powerful zamindar Company will make it impossible for any one to conduct a case against them.

(c)—Jails.

NIHAR,
Jan. 12th, 1904.

11. We observed in our last issue (see Report on Native Papers of the 16th January, paragraph 12), says the *Nikas*

The Barisal Jail. [Barisal] of the 12th January, that the authorities of the Barisal Jail considered themselves above all municipal law and did whatever they liked in defiance of it. Now law prohibits the making of brick-kilns in a municipal town. But the authorities of the Barisal Jail have erected a brick-kiln within its four walls.

(d)—Education.

MEDINI BANDHAR,
Jan. 13th, 1904.

12. The *Medini Bandhar* [Midnapore] of the 13th January heartily thanks

The State technical scholarships. the Government for the institution of State technical scholarships. These scholarships will enable promising native youths to go for technical education to foreign countries and to be of great service to their country after their return.

13. The same paper has been sorry to receive many complaints against Babu Rajendra Lal Moitra, M.A., Principal of the Midnapore College, who is said not to conduct himself with becoming gravity in his intercourse with the College students, and especially with Musalman students and students who are married.

MEDINI BANDHAY,
Jan. 13th, 1903.

14. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th January writes that the truth of its remarks (see Report on Native Papers of the 26th December 1903, paragraph 16) regarding the injustice done to Sub-Inspectors of Schools will appear from the list of promotions of officers of the Subordinate Educational Service, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 16th December. The main point is that the lower teachers and clerks get promotions in much less time than the Sub-Inspectors. Babu Hira Lal Mukerji, the eleventh clerk of Mr. Pedler's office, has risen, in the brief space of about two years and-a-half, from the 75-rupee grade to the 125-rupee grade, while among the experienced Sub-Inspectors, five are rotting in the Rs. 100 grade for four or five years, and three from 8 to 10 years in the same grade. Instead of giving to Sub-Inspectors getting more than Rs. 100 per month mileage at the rate of four annas, they may be given the allowance at the rate of two annas, and the unwillingness of the authorities to grant to Sub-Inspectors mileage at four annas need not thus be a bar to their promotion.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 14th, 1904.

15. The same paper thanks the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, for listening to its complaint (see Report on Native Papers of the 16th January, paragraph 14) against his subordinate, Babu Adhar Chandra Mukherji, and transferring him to the Presidency College.

SANJIVANI,

16. A correspondent of the *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 16th January writes as follows:—

NAVA YUG,
Jan. 16th, 1904.

The Officiating Deputy Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division.

On the 31st December last, Babu Kamini Kumar Sen, Officiating Deputy Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division, accompanied by the Sub-Inspector of the Srinagar Circle, appeared in the Birtara Circle School at about 3-30 P.M. for inspection. Kamini Babu gave a dictation to the students and asked the *Guru Mahasaya* to examine their slates. After examining the slates the *Guru Mahasaya*s handed them to Kamini Babu. Kamini Babu then asked the *Guru Mahasaya* himself to write the dictation on the school-board. Understanding what Kamini Babu meant to do, the latter refused to obey. Thereupon the Deputy Inspector hurriedly finished the inspection work with an angry face and went away. After a few days the *Guru Mahasaya* received a letter from him dismissing him from service, and it is said that he was dismissed on the ground of insubordination. From the conversation which Kamini Babu had with the *Guru Mahasaya* the former ought to have seen that the latter was not an unlettered fool. As a matter of fact, he had accepted service in the school only out of love for it, because he is rich enough to maintain two or three such *gurus* himself.

Inspecting officers should not think that their duty is done by examining *gurus* alone. They ought to explain difficult portions of text-books to students by remaining two or three days among them. But this sort of inspection cannot be expected as long as specially trained men are not appointed as inspecting officers. As for the *gurus*, their worth as *gurus* should not be measured by the salaries they receive.

The Director of Public Instruction is requested to consider the case of the dismissed *Guru Mahasaya*.

17. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th January thanks the Government for having made a new monthly grant of Rs. 225 for the encouragement of Sanskrit learning. Hearty thanks must also be given to Mahamahopadhyaya Hara Prosad Sastri, to whose exertions the Sanskrit College, Calcutta, owes the creation of three new Professorships to be maintained with this grant.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 16th, 1904.

18. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 17th January congratulates the Director of Public Instruction on the happy selections he has made for filling up the three new Professorships in the Calcutta Sanskrit College. Mr. Pedler does not require scholarship of the old and orthodox type in Professors of the Sanskrit College. The qualification he wants in such

RANGALAY,
Jan. 17th, 1904.

The new Professors of the Sanskrit College.

Professors is a general knowledge of all departments of Sanskrit learning and scholarship in some particular branch, together with a knowledge of English and of the Western methods of antiquarian research. Men, possessed of these qualifications to begin with, can be trained up, by the aid of Western *savants*, to become such Professors as the Government wants. From this point of view, all the three selections which have been made by Mr. Pedler are unexceptionable, because the men selected are young and have yet time to learn and become such Professors as are wanted.

DACCA PRAKAS,
Jan. 17th, 1904.

19. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 17th January thanks the authorities for having appointed Pundit Prasanna Kumar Tarkanidhi, the Chief *naiyayik* of Bikrampur, as the Assistant Professor of Nyaya in the Sanskrit College, Calcutta.

The Assistant Professor of
Nyaya, Sanskrit College, Calcutta.

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

HINDU RANJIKA,
Jan. 6th, 1904.

20. The *Hindu Ranjika* [Rampur-Boalia] of the 6th January makes the following remarks about the "Carrying Company" at Rampur-Boalia:—

The "Carrying Company" at
Rampur-Boalia.

The number of bullock-carts plying between Rampur-Boalia and Natore is only four. This is hardly sufficient. The number of carts should be increased to remove the inconvenience of passengers. By refusing to give reserved accommodation to Babu Nalininath Bishi, the Company acted most unjustly, as that gentleman was seriously inconvenienced by the refusal. We hope the District Magistrate will not allow such irregularities in future.

HINDU RANJIKA.

21. The same paper writes that the proposed tramway from the Rampur-Boalia town to the Courts will not be in any way useful to the townspeople. It will, moreover, drive the hackney carriages out of existence. The proposal to fix the opening hours of the different offices in such a way as to prevent the overcrowding of passengers in the tram cars seems to be impracticable.

22. A correspondent of the *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 13th January supports the memorial to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal against the proposal to extend the area of the Asansol Municipality.

PALLIVASI.
Jan. 13th, 1904.

The proposed extension of the
area of the Asansol Municipality.

23. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 13th January has the following:—

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Jan. 13th, 1904.

The promised sanitation grant
of the Raja Bahadur of Lalgola.

Raja Jogendra Narain Rai, of Lalgola, intends this year to give a sum of Rs. 50,000 to be devoted to the improvement of the health of the Murshidabad district. But the amount will be too small to do any good to the whole district. It can, however, do much good to the Berhampore town. For want of a proper drainage system in the Berhampore Municipality, the inhabitants of the place suffer a great deal, especially from malaria. The Municipality can do nothing for want of funds to improve matters. The Berhampore people should therefore elect and send representatives to the Raja Bahadur of Lalgola with the prayer that he will allow the money to be devoted for the improvement of the Berhampore town alone.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 13th, 1904.

24. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th January draws the attention of the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality to the exorbitant fare which the hackney carriage drivers often demand. Lately a gentleman arriving at the Howrah station with family was compelled to pay Rs. 2-4 as hire to Kalighat Bazar and back, although under the authorized rates it ought to have been Re. 1-6 only.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,

25. The same paper is informed that the owners of the Shamnagar Victoria Jute Mills are trying to take possession of the "Paschimvahini ghat" at Bhadreswar and the road leading to it. Their previous attempt to gain the same end with the help of Mr. Robertson, one of their number and the Chairman of the local Municipality, proved a failure. On religious grounds the Hindus have very great objections to the transfer of the ghat and the road

The ascendancy of the European
mill-owners.

to the mill-owners. The road is lined with sacred banyan trees which the Hindus cannot allow to be destroyed. The Magistrate of Hooghly is said to have promised his help to the mill-owners in this matter. This report, if true, is much to be regretted.

The European mill-owners are gradually trying to occupy the same position as was formerly occupied by the powerful indigo-planters in Bengal. The local officials, by conceding all they want, have immensely increased their influence and importance.

26. The same paper writes:—

The suspension of the Nadia Municipality.

We could not even dream that a benevolent ruler like Sir Andrew Fraser would go so far as to suspend the Nadia Municipality for such a trivial

offence. Surely the Government is all-powerful and can do whatever it pleases. But the Nadia Municipality was not guilty of any such shortcoming as might bring it under the purview of section 65 of the Municipal Act. The reason why the provision relating to privies was not extended to all parts of the town was that the health of those parts in which it was not in force was not in any way worse than that of parts where it was already in operation. But unfortunately this explanation was not considered as satisfactory by Government.

There is, however, an important point in the letter of Mr. Shirres to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division. Mr. Shirres says that the water from the well-privies percolates through the sandy sub-soil and pollutes the river water, and is thus a source of danger to health. If that is the case, how is it that Government allows the construction by European owners of factories of septic tanks, the water from which pollutes the water of the Hooghly in the same manner? Why is there no objection made to this? People believe that Government does, by fair means or foul, whatever it likes to do, and does not trouble itself about the propriety or the impropriety of the act.

27. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th January says

The blocking of the Suryyapur khal.

that the blocking of the Suryyapur khal has, besides ruining the prospects of agriculture in the Diamond Harbour subdivision and the Baruipur

chauki, greatly impaired the health of those parts of the country. There are not less than 300 villages within the area bounded by Baruipur on the north and Magrahat and Jaynagar on the south, and Suryyapur on the east and Rajarhat on the west. In December last, 752 people died of cholera in only 57 of these villages. Malaria also virulently rages in many of these villages. It is a matter of great regret that the health of mufassal villages is not at all attended to by the authorities.

28. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 14th January says that the health of

The Khulna Municipality.

Khulna town has greatly deteriorated within very recent times, and that the local Municipality is

responsible for this. The supply of drinking water is extremely insufficient. Besides this, the water of the tank from which the supply is made has been declared unwholesome by the Civil Medical Officer of the place. The water is drawn with two small buckets from the muddy edge of the tank which is overgrown with aquatic plants. There is a pump, but that is undergoing a perpetual repair and is never used. Diseases have become so prevalent in the town that while formerly it would not maintain one dispensary, it now maintains seven or eight dispensaries. One seldom meets with a sweeper or a scavenger's cart in any of the roads in the town, except in that which passes in front of the local law-courts and the District Magistrate's residence. Owing to these causes, cholera assumed a virulent aspect in the town last year. But the lesson which people thought would be learnt by the Municipality from the ravages of the fell disease has been lost on it. This year also cholera has made its appearance in the town, and it will be fortunate if it does not make a wide-spread havoc.

29. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th January writes that at a recent

The salary of the Chief Engineer of the Calcutta Municipality.

meeting of the Calcutta Municipality, the Chairman, Mr. Greer, showed the greatest solicitude to increase the salary of the Chief Engineer from

Rs. 1,800 to Rs. 3,000. The present salary was sufficiently high to attract

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 13th, 1904.

SANJIVANI.
Jan. 14th, 1904.

KHULNA,
Jan. 14th, 1904.

HITAVADI.
Jan. 15th, 1904.

the best men for the appointment; yet Mr. Greer, in utter disregard of the rate-payers' interests, and with the concurrence of self-seeking Commissioners, got the salary fixed at Rs. 3,000. In vain did Mr. Apear propose that the pay of the Chief Engineer should be Rs. 1,800 rising to Rs. 2,000. The salary of the Chief Engineer of the Bombay Municipality is Rs. 1,500, and at Madras it is even less than that. No Government Engineer gets more than Rs. 2,500 as salary. But the Chief Engineer of the Calcutta Municipality must nevertheless get Rs. 3,000! What can be a greater scandal than this?

BANGAVASI.
Jan. 16th, 1904.

30. Referring to the suspension of the Nadia Municipality, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th January says "Haribol," "Haribol." It is Nadia of which Sir William Hunter wrote that it "exercised much influence

upon the politics, manners, and morals of the Bengalis." The educated inhabitants of Nadia kept and nourished the Municipality as if it were the fabulous bird which would bring forth jewels, but the bird has been taken away by the hand which gave it. This is not a punishment but a relief to the Commissioners of the Municipality. They have had enough of the favour to lament its discontinuance. As for the orthodox section of the population of the town, let them now tell their sorrows to Government with tears in their eyes. What became the fate of Santipur some time ago has become the fate of Nadia now. Let the same fate await every municipal town in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa. In that case Government will be free to introduce such sanitary measures as it may set its heart upon, and the natives of the country will not be held responsible for the life and death of their fellow-countrymen. What greater blessing can man expect to have?

BHARAT MITRA,
Jan. 16th 1904.

31. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 16th January says that the rate-payers of Calcutta have been sadly disappointed in Mr. Greer, Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality. The water-supply, the scavenging, and the lighting arrangements of the town are as bad as ever, and it is said that Mr. Greer is taking no steps to bring to light the irregularities of the Accounts Department of the Municipality.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

RATNAKAR.
Jan. 16th, 1904.

32. A correspondent of the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 16th January draws attention to the hardship which is caused to tenants in the Jamtara subdivision of the Sonthal Parganas district in consequence of the Government's action in not allowing any private transfers of land in that place. Why such a practice should not prevail in Jamtara, when in the neighbouring pargana of Muhammadabad in the Dumka subdivision such transfers are allowed, is quite inexplicable. In Jamtara even a zamindar is not allowed to have a holding sold in execution of a decree for arrears of rent. All he can do is to apply for ejectment.

The Government should remove these causes of hardship to the Jamtara tenantry and permit private transfer of all land, at least with the permission of Government.

Notices of ejectment are not now always served by beat of drum. This leads to much jobbery.

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

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Jan. 13th, 1904.

33. A correspondent writing to the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th January complains that the mehters at the Howrah railway station do not allow passengers to use the station privy without exacting money from each of them. Two female passengers were thus disallowed and put to great trouble. The mehters are paid servants of the Railway Company. That they are permitted to put passengers to such trouble is greatly to be regretted. The East Indian and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway authorities should promptly put a stop to the inconvenience.

34. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 14th January says that the changes recently made in the timing of trains and the abolition of express trains on the Bengal Central

KHULNA,
Jan. 14th, 1904.

A railway grievance.

Railway are causing great inconvenience to passengers on the line. It takes the trains on this line eight hours to run the distance of 110 miles between Sealdah and Khulna. The matter was brought to the notice of the late Sir John Woodburn, with the result that the railway authorities provided two express trains, but now both have been abolished.

35. A correspondent complains in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th January that since the fearful collision on the Sini section of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, the passenger trains are always late in arriving at Kharagpur. The passengers to Howrah cannot therefore catch the Puri passenger train and are consequently detained at Kharagpur for twelve hours. The railway authorities might save all this trouble by running a special train to Howrah. The correspondent found the second-class female compartment closed, and the man in charge of the compartment was away. He was in great trouble with the ladies in his charge. He went out and examined the third-class waiting shed and found that it was in a deplorable condition. The interior of the shed was full of night-soil and all sorts of filth. That such an important junction station should have such miserable accommodation for the third-class passengers is discreditable to the railway authorities.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 15th, 1904.

A railway complaint.

Referring to our complaint about the absence of female ticket-collectors from the Howrah railway station, the Traffic Manager of the East Indian Railway tells us, in his letter No. 386, dated the 6th January last, that "this was due to one of the female ticket-collectors being on leave, but she has since resumed duty." But in the current week also no female ticket-collector has been found to attend No. 9 Loop Mail, No. 25 Burdwan Passenger, or No. 19 Loop Passenger train. As a matter of fact, the attendance of female ticket-collectors has been far from being regular during the last few months. We therefore think that the Traffic Manager's statement is not correct. Why do not the railway authorities make temporary arrangements during the absence on leave or otherwise of female ticket-collectors? What is the use of giving worthless replies instead of trying to remove the grievance complained of?

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
Jan. 16th, 1904.

36. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 16th January says:—

Female ticket-collectors at the Howrah railway station.

Referring to our complaint about the absence of female ticket-collectors from the Howrah railway station, the Traffic Manager of the East Indian Railway tells us, in his letter No. 386, dated the 6th January last, that "this was due to one of the female ticket-collectors being on leave, but she has since resumed duty." But in the current week also no female ticket-collector has been found to attend No. 9 Loop Mail, No. 25 Burdwan Passenger, or No. 19 Loop Passenger train. As a matter of fact, the attendance of female ticket-collectors has been far from being regular during the last few months. We therefore think that the Traffic Manager's statement is not correct. Why do not the railway authorities make temporary arrangements during the absence on leave or otherwise of female ticket-collectors? What is the use of giving worthless replies instead of trying to remove the grievance complained of?

37. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th January says that in the *Indian Engineering* of the 2nd January last there are two advertisements to the effect that three men on Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 each are wanted by the Superintendent of the Carriage and Waggon Department, East Indian Railway, and a clerk on Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 by the Locomotive Superintendent, Madras Railway; but none need apply for any of these posts unless he is a Eurasian or a European. The other day Lord Curzon said that he knew nothing of the Conference which had sat at Delhi to settle the question of giving preference to Eurasian and European candidates for posts on Indian railways. How is it that he knows nothing of a rule which is standing and is still followed in practice?

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 16th, 1904.

Employment of Eurasians and Europeans on Indian railways.

Advertisements to the effect that three men on Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 each are wanted by the Superintendent of the Carriage and Waggon Department, East Indian Railway, and a clerk on Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 by the Locomotive Superintendent, Madras Railway; but none need apply for any of these posts unless he is a Eurasian or a European. The other day Lord Curzon said that he knew nothing of the Conference which had sat at Delhi to settle the question of giving preference to Eurasian and European candidates for posts on Indian railways. How is it that he knows nothing of a rule which is standing and is still followed in practice?

38. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 16th January draws the attention of the Eastern Bengal State Railway authorities to the serious loss and inconvenience caused to the well-known merchants of Hatkhola by the system of issuing what are known as risk notes. After receiving delivery of their goods and paying all the charges, the merchants not unfrequently find that a certain portion of the consignments is missing. They are required to take immediate delivery of their goods by presenting their receipts and to sign their names in the railway delivery book, and are not allowed an opportunity of examining their goods beforehand. The jute which the shed foreman gives to the jute-merchants as compensation for any loss they may have suffered is worthless. If jute of better quality is demanded, the risk note comes to the rescue, and all objection vanishes. When re-weighment of the goods takes place at Calcutta or at Chitpur, the owner or his agent

Inconvenience of merchants on the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

Advertisements to the effect that three men on Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 each are wanted by the Superintendent of the Carriage and Waggon Department, East Indian Railway, and a clerk on Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 by the Locomotive Superintendent, Madras Railway; but none need apply for any of these posts unless he is a Eurasian or a European. The other day Lord Curzon said that he knew nothing of the Conference which had sat at Delhi to settle the question of giving preference to Eurasian and European candidates for posts on Indian railways. How is it that he knows nothing of a rule which is standing and is still followed in practice?

BASUMATI,
Jan. 16th, 1904.

is not allowed to be present at the re-weighment. But excess charges, when made by the railway, must be paid by the owner of the goods. When a complaint is made to the railway authorities, the stereotyped reply, "the matter will receive attention" is promptly given. But the matter ends there. The Director-General of Railways, in his letter No. 505R.T., dated Simla, the 11th June 1903, wrote:—

"Babu Maharaj, H. K. Ray Chaudhuri, and others are informed that the matter is receiving attention."

No action has been taken since the letter was written. This is how attention is paid to complaints against the railway.

MISTABHASHI,
Jan. 18th, 1904.

39. It is rumoured, says the *Mistabhashi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January, that the authorities of the East Indian Railway desire to establish a station at the Jamal village, and not at Siurhi, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant from it, on the projected railway between the Ondal station and the Loop line. But a petition has been made to the Government of India for establishing the station at Kendua and not at Jamal. This will do no harm to the Railway Company, while it will prove of immense benefit to the petitioners.

A petition.

PRATIVASI,
Jan. 19th, 1904.

40. A trustworthy correspondent of the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th January says that owing to some recent changes in timing, the down steamers of the Kallygunge Mixed Service fail to catch the night train at Goalundo. The *Jordan* steamer arrives at the Binanai, Aralia, Nagarbarhi, and many other stations at dead of night, and as there are no waiting-rooms at these stations, passengers suffer greatly in the open air. When the steamer arrives at Goalundo the passengers fall into a greater difficulty because the night train having departed and the restaurants remaining closed at the late hour, they have to spend the remaining hours of the night on the sandy bank of the Padma. They are not allowed to spend the night on the steamer. On account of these difficulties people nowadays go to Goalundo by boats, and this has greatly reduced the income of the Steamer Company.

Nowadays the down steamer generally reaches Goalundo early in the morning. If it is made to arrive a little later, it can catch the Chandpur express train and at the same time remove to some extent the inconveniences of its passengers. Again, arrangements having been made for carrying the mails of Aralia, Nagarbarhi, etc., by steamer, they are arriving at Calcutta a day later than usual.

(h)—General.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
Jan. 9th, 1904.

41. The *Barisal Hitaiishi* [Barisal] of the 9th January says that the arguments with which Mr. Risley has sought to support the proposed transfer of Dacca and Mymensingh do not apply to Backergunge. Geographically speaking, Backergunge and Faridpur are connected more with Khulna and Jessore than with Dacca and Mymensingh, no large river like the Padma separating them for each other. Hence even if Dacca and Mymensingh are transferred to Assam, there will be no necessity to take Backergunge and Faridpur with them. To do justice to Bengal, however, no part of it should be transferred to Assam.

Backergunge and Faridpur in the transfer question.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Jan. 11th, 1904.

A grand mass meeting.

42. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 11th January has the following in its English columns:—
A GRAND MASS MEETING.

Dacca is now, to all intents and purposes, politically dead. A time there was when Dacca used to take the lead in all political agitations, but now it is nowhere. Nowadays Dacca is lethargic and is very slow to move. If it moves at all, it moves only when it is stirred up to its lowest depth. Mr. Risley's famous letter seems to have infused new life into the dead bones of Dacca. Whatever may be the result of this agitation, we will always remain thankful to Mr. Risley for this revivification of Dacca which was given up as dead by its best friends. Mr. Risley's proposal is, so far, a blessing in disguise.

Last Monday's demonstration at the Sadar Ghat was unique in all respects, and never in the annals of this old historic city was popular agitation given a grander and more solid embodiment. Long before the appointed hour huge

and appalling masses of human figures, unending and continuous, wended their way to the historic spot at the Sadar Ghat, and it was late after the dusk that the gathering dispersed. The representatives of all communities and interests, both European and Native, high in position and great in influence, mustered strong. Various professions and callings, high and humble, were represented by hundreds and thousands and thousands. The calculating grocers, the crafty vendors, the illiterate jehus from the labours of their coach-box, and who else not, enthusiastically caught the spirit of this tremendous gathering and contributed their quota of loyalty to this mighty demonstration. The Sadar Ghat presented a spectacle the like of which the oldest man of the city cannot with effort recall. In enthusiasm and in numerical strength all other preceding local popular movements modestly pale before it. The same feelings of resentment at the proposed partition swayed the thousand hearts that were imperceptibly drawn to the rendezvous to participate in the proceedings of this monster assemblage. It was a seething mass of humanity, with anxiety and alarm stamped on each countenance and flashes of moral indignation shooting from all eyes. What with undivided unity of heart, what with perfect and sincere unanimity of opinion the huge gathering devoured every word of the speakers with insatiable avidity. Speakers followed speakers, and the maddened multitude carried all the resolutions by rapturous acclamation of approval when the hollowness of Mr. Risley's sophistry was scathingly exposed.

Query: Who organised this stupendous assembly? What magnetic force brought the Reis and Rayyets, the rich and the poor, the learned and the illiterate—we ask again, what it was that brought together these different classes of people and made them stand shoulder to shoulder on a common platform? The sight was in deed worth seeing.

43. The same paper writes:—

The proposed transfer of East Bengal to Assam.

Government must be thoroughly mistaken if it thinks that the mere giving of a sweet sounding name to the proposed province will allay the strong feeling which has been roused by the proposal to transfer Dacca, Mymensingh, and Chittagong to Assam. Even the illiterate cultivators in those districts are quite against the transfer. If by proposing to make Dacca the capital, Government wishes to lessen the agitation, it is in error. Those districts are not the land of savages and barbarians that they will succumb to the temptation held out to them. The Chief Commissioner of Assam has much ado in managing his province full of tea-planters and coolies. He cannot be expected to attend to the affairs of a much larger province. As to the privilege of the High Court, the *Pioneer* has declared that the people of East Bengal will gradually lose it. We believed Lord Curzon to be an enthusiastic preserver of ancient greatness. But he now proposes to transfer Dacca, the renowned capital of Bengal during Muhammadan rule, to Assam!

DACCA GAZETTE.
Jan. 11th, 1901.

Protest meetings.

44. The same paper publishes accounts of protest meetings held at 32 different places.

DACCA GAZETTE

CHAM MIHIR,
Jan. 12th, 1901.

45. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 12th January says that Mr. Risley's proposal has created a universal panic and discontent in the country and filled men's

The proposed transfer.

minds with gloomy forebodings. Everywhere—at home, in the street, in the market-place, in the school, in the place of business—people of all ranks and conditions in life are thinking of only one subject, viz., the proposed transfer. The proposal has made impossible things possible; it has made the unlettered rustic speak, the idiot think, the zamindar whose only ambition was to please his District Magistrate, go against him; in short, it has made the whole country unite together in one thought and in one purpose. Not a bit of this description is exaggerated. Would that Mr. Risley had seen with his own eyes the spirit of self-sacrifice and the indefatigable energy which prevail in the districts in question.

The same paper says that recently the Magistrate told a number of zamindars and respectable people assembled in his house that if they would consent to a proposal to transfer the Dacca, Chittagong, and Rajshahi districts, except Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling, to Assam, and to place the newly constituted province under a Lieutenant-Governor assisted by a Legislative Council, he would be willing to support it. The Magistrate did not say

whether Government had really any such proposal in contemplation. The public will not venture to give any opinion on it before it is published in an official Gazette.

CHARU MIHIR.
Jan. 12th, 1904.

CHARU MIHIR.

CHARU MIHIR.

46. The same paper notices more than 40 meetings held or to be held in different places in the Mymensingh district to protest against the proposed transfer.

Protest meetings.

47. The same paper publishes letters sympathising with the protest movement and gives accounts of a large number of protest meetings.

Protest meetings.

48. The same paper publishes the following in English:—

An open letter.

AN OPEN LETTER TO W. B. THOMSON, ESQ., I.C.S., DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, MYMENSINGH.

II.

Sir,—I said in my last, that the resolution about the partition of Bengal has come upon the people as an unexpected thunderbolt and made the life of every inhabitant of Dacca and Mymensingh simply miserable. Should you, Sir, care to enquire, why? The simple answer is that the proposal is so unreasonable, unjustifiable, and inequitable as to lay, most unceremoniously, the axe at the root of our present political status. This has been completely overlooked by Mr. Risley. I cannot congratulate him for the position he has assumed, namely, that it is of no moment to a people to be deprived of its political status and that all objections to their being so deprived is purely sentimental. Sentiment forsooth! Even if it were, is it absolutely of no consequence? Does not sentiment play a great part even in politics? Is protest against depriving a people of its political status for no fault of theirs, but for some supposed administrative convenience, really a matter of sentiment? In Bengal we have a voice in the making of our own laws, we have the right to elect our representatives in our Council, and represent our grievances through them. We have a right to put an immediate and effective check upon all executive vagaries, which in India, unfortunately, is by no means uncommon, and when it pleases Mr. Risley, for probably his future administrative convenience, to deprive us of all these rights and privileges, we are told that no one should protest; for such protests are nothing but temporary, artificial, and interested!

The proposal in fact is so fraught with mischief that the whole of India, not to speak of Bengal only, is vitally interested in protesting against it. Can you, Sir, as a true Englishman, ignore the gravity of this constitutional issue? Is it necessary to explain why this widespread and unexpected commotion throughout the length and breadth of the entire province, not to speak of the ill-fated districts only, is convulsing the whole country? Would you, Sir, care to pause for a moment and consider what that feeling is which plays into every heart from the highest to the lowest—from that of Maharaja Sir Jotindra Mohan Tagore to that of your punkha-cooly? Is everybody deceived by sentiment? Is there not a single soul in this vast province that is not affected by a jaundiced vision and can thus see things in their true colour? Is the now famous Home Secretary the only person who is in the right and all others in the wrong? I do not know the method of drawing up an indictment against a whole people. He that accuses all mankind of error is sworn to commit only one.

Dacca and Mymensingh are henceforward to be regarded by the *ipse dixit* of Mr. Risley as the part of a non-regulated Province and Scheduled district to welcome the odium and contempt attaching to these names. They are to be driven outside the pale of civilised India and are to be considered unworthy of associating even with their fortunate neighbours.

Mr. Risley has been pleased to assure us that our present administration will remain in tact, and to prove this he has very conveniently referred to a portion of an Act, Vic., 17 and 18, C. 70, being at the same time carefully silent about the second portion of the said enactment. This latter provides that the existing laws may be superseded by the regulations of the ruler of

the Province to which the territories are annexed, no doubt, with the sanction of the Viceroy in Council. Mr. Risley says our laws remain. For how long, pray? Will the Government be constitutionally bound to retain these laws? Is it not a matter of grace and favour rather than of right? Will the Chief Commissioner of Assam and the Viceroy be divested of the powers already vested in them to supersede the existing laws, by future regulations made in secret, of the annexing province? Has Mr. Risley at all considered this or any of the above points in his resolution?

I must say, Sir, that I am unable to reconcile the introduction of this most arbitrary change in the cases of Dacca and Mymensingh with the principles of justice, with reason, or with the prosperity of the two unhappy districts. If Government were a matter of arbitrary will, then Mr. Risley's will without question should certainly count as superior to all. But Government and legislation are matters of reason and judgment, and not of inclination and what sort of reason is that in which the determination precedes the discussion in which the authoritative instructions and mandates are issued which one must be bound blindly and implicitly to obey, though contrary to the clearest conviction of his judgment and conscience?—These are things which were utterly unknown to laws of this land, and which arise from a fundamental mistake of the whole tenor of our administration.

Sir, the patient cries when the pain is great, he cries the louder when the doctor is near, so that he may be cured the sooner. If the cry is false and the pain is a fraud, let the doctor prove it. It is no reason to say we can afford to make you miserable. The question is whether you can render your people miserable and whether it is not your interest to make them happy. As one of the greatest English statesmen has said, "It is not what a lawyer tells me what I *may* do, but what humanity, reason, and justice tell me what I ought to do."

It is very fortunate for the people of Mymensingh that you are taking a kind, unbiassed, and sympathetic interest in the matter of the threatened partition. You have been able to gauge the depth of the public feeling, and it now remains for you to consider what course you should now adopt. If you think, Sir, that the feeling is real and not feigned, that the agitation is genuine, not artificial, that the outcry is sincere, though it cannot be said now whether it will be temporary, that the people have lost their peace of mind with the one idea of their fate being joined together with that of Assam, then, Sir, it will be for you to consider whether you will take some steps to allay the feelings of the people, or at least to take them into confidence and to advise them how best to avoid this calamity. More in my next.

49. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 12th January writes as follows:—

The proposal to transfer Backergunge and Faridpur to Assam.

It is admitted on all hands that no part of Bengal should be transferred to Assam. But if Government is determined to transfer Dacca and Mymensingh, it should not take Backergunge and Faridpur along with them, because

the arguments by which Government has tried to support the proposed transfer do not apply to the latter districts. We should like to know upon what arguments the additional proposal to transfer Backergunge and Faridpur has been based. We can hardly believe that any sensible man can make such a proposal.

BIKAS,
Jan. 12th, 1904.

50. Under the heading, "Fearful news," the same paper publishes Mr. Macpherson's letter to the Commissioner of the Dacca Division on the subject of the proposed transfer.

BIKAS.

51. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 13th January says that the well-to-do people of Saidabad have tried much to get a post office established in the place. The Postal Superintendent, too, reported to the

Wanted a post office at Saidabad in the Murshidabad district.

postal authorities the need of such an office. When there is enough work for a post office at Saidabad, it is really an act of injustice not to grant it one. It will be doing a real good to the inhabitants of the place if, at present, they are granted, at least, a receiving post office. The Postal Superintendent and the other postal authorities should pass necessary orders on the subject.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Jan. 13th, 1904.

52. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th January has the following:—

The proposed dismemberment of Bengal.

We prefer to call the proposed territorial redistribution a separation of Bengalis rather than a dismemberment of Bengal. In fact, a separation among Bengalis is inevitable if Bengal be dismembered in the manner proposed in Mr. Risley's letter. There will be no sympathy between East and West Bengal after such dismemberment: the tie of sympathy that binds the two together will be snapped by their living under two different Governments and the Bengali community will thus be weakened. The fierce agitation all over East Bengal is due to the overwhelming grief caused by the apprehension of this serious calamity—this painful separation. Such an agitation is perhaps unprecedented in the annals of East Bengal.

Monster meetings attended by thousands of persons are being held in Dacca, Mymensingh, and Chittagong. The meeting at Dacca is an instance in point. The Bengalis are a most meek and law-abiding people, and that is the reason why Government has failed to realize the intrinsic depth of this agitation. When a weak, dumb creature oppressed by severe anguish utters its deep but feeble moan, that cry of pain does, and, in the nature of things, can attract the notice of none but a truly generous and sympathetic soul.

We have always been partial to the English Government. It is our firm belief that there is justice in English dominion, sympathy for the people in the English Government, and love of justice in the English heart, but we are deeply pained to see, from time to time, the serious trouble that is caused by the caprice of individuals and the slight and neglect with which Government treats the cry of anguish of its weak and poor subjects in order to carry its point and to let its caprice have its way. But Government ought to know that not to listen to the cry of those who have no other means of making known the anguish they feel is not only a wrong and improper act, but an act of the utmost cruelty and heartlessness.

We have great respect for Lord Curzon. It is our belief that he is as kind and sympathetic as he is conscientious. Is not the fact of many hundreds of thousands of people passing their days and nights in the utmost anxiety by reason of a proposal prompted by sheer caprice and of their uttering a cry of pain in public meetings reaching his ears? Is not this united wail of East Bengal entering the ears of him who knows minutely even what is written in an obscure corner of a newspaper?

Mr. Risley's proposal will not extend the British Empire nor fill the British exchequer with gold, silver, diamond, and pearls, nor add to the strength or reputation of the English people. Why then this determination to give effect to it? We learn from Mr. Risley's letter that the proposal, if carried out, will promote administrative convenience. His arguments in support of that contention will hardly appear as arguments to sensible people. Those arguments are self-conflicting and suicidal. In proposing a separation of East from West Bengal he has trampled upon the argument used by him in advocating the bringing of the entire Uriya population under one Government. The English Government feels it a shame even to avow that "the will of the strong is law and there is no need of arguments in such a case." How will it then defend an action in which the people see a clear indication of the above principle? In fact, Mr. Risley's arguments in favour of the proposed dismemberment of Bengal are extremely weak. Why should Government make hundreds of thousands of people weep by acting upon a line of reasoning that is so weak?

Suppose we grant to Mr. Risley that the scheme will, in some measure, promote administrative convenience. But such convenience will mean the convenience of a handful of salaried civilians. Would it show either keen political vision or keen political judgment on the part of the Viceroy to put hundreds of thousands to serious inconvenience in order to promote the convenience of a handful of salaried servants? No political philosopher in the world will approve of such reasoning or of such an action.

It may be urged on behalf of Government that this proposal need not distress the people at all, and that the pain that they complain of is purely imaginary and but a momentary feeling which will soon pass away. But what

pain, we ask, is not a momentary feeling? Does not the fierce flame of anguish that is kindled in the heart of the devoted wife at the loss of the husband whom she held dear as life itself abate in intensity as time goes on? Nay, does not a smile appear, in the course of time, on the face of the woman whose grief at the loss of her husband had made her resolve upon immolating herself on his funeral pyre? But does not the smouldering fire of grief, burning constantly in her heart like a slow but perennial funeral pyre, slowly destroy, all the same, her peace and happiness? Her silent grief, though invisible to every other eye and unfelt by every other heart, torments her none the less by day and by night.

If Bengalis be separated from Bengalis, such a smouldering fire of grief will burn noiselessly for ever in their hearts. In a few days this feeble cry of pain uttered by the people will have ceased to be heard by Government; but the pain which they feel in their hearts will never pass away. A Government which does not try to enter into the feelings of the people and gives no ear to their piteous cry of anguish is unable, even if most powerful and adorable as a god, to secure the tribute of loving gratitude offered by grateful human hearts. We can by no means bring ourselves to believe that, in the time of a judicious and cool-headed Viceroy like Lord Curzon, the people's cry of anguish will be treated with such cruel contempt. It is, however, most astonishing that His Excellency has failed, up to this time to reassure this weak people with hopeful words.

We have a representation to make to Lord Curzon. He must believe that the people of this country, unless deeply pained, never take part in any agitation. They are now severely pinched by hunger, and have neither the inclination nor the ability to join in an agitation for the mere sake of a sensation. Unless deeply pained, the people of this country do not come forward in this manner to protest against any action of Government. We know the inner life of East Bengal. Hundreds of thousands of people there have been really pained by this proposal. The very *zanana* women have been pained by it. Why should Lord Curzon set about this dreadful act? Let him save the people of Bengal from this danger and receive their countless thanks and blessings for that service.

Government may think to itself, "There was universal agitation like this at the time of passing the Consent Bill, too, but there is now no sign whatever of that agitation and the measure is causing no hardship to the people." To this we may reply, that that measure does not touch the interests of the people, inasmuch as it is, in a manner, a dead letter. In fact, there was no need of introducing a law of that kind in this country, and it is impossible that the fact of the commission of the offence made punishable by it should ever come to the notice of Government. In fact, so long as the ever-cherished sense of honour is present in Hindu and Musalman *zananas*, so long will that law remain a dead letter. It is, therefore, no cause of practical hardship, though Government may possibly succeed in its attempt, if it be bent upon enforcing it, by the employment of spies. But in the present case, the public are convinced that nothing will save them from the mischievous operation of the scheme of dismemberment. There is no means of counteracting the operation of that scheme, and the public inconvenience caused by it will therefore be permanent. Our humble and earnest representation to Lord Curzon is that he should now soothe the disquieted people with reassuring words, and thereby receive the tribute of their loving gratitude.

53. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 13th January writes that Government ought never to allow the unrestricted sale of cocaine. But medical practitioners should not be required to take out licenses for keeping cocaine in their dispensaries.

The sale of cocaine.

54. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th January writes as follows:—

The proposed transfer.

When Sylhet and Cachar were transferred to Assam it was announced by Government that the laws in force in Bengal would continue to be applied to them. Let us now see how Government has kept its promise. In Bengal the road-cess never exceeds 2 pice per rupee of rent, but in Sylhet and Cachar it is levied at three annas per acre and all arrears of the cess are realised by the sale of estates. How can it then be believed that the promises which Government is now making in relation to Dacca, Mymensingh, and Chittagong will be kept by it after their

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
Jan. 13th, 1904.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 14th, 1904.

transference to Assam? "One of the grounds on which Bengalis refuse to be transferred to Assam is its backward administration. A respectable and educated gentleman (the correspondent's letter is published) says that it was only on the 4th January last that the engagement of pleaders in revenue cases was sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner of Assam. that no one can complain against a tahsildar, without the permission of the Chief Commissioner and that since 1894 the places going by the name Mikirhile have received the benefit of no law, stamp or revenue, or civil or criminal. No Bengali will ever consent to be transferred to a province in which such is the state of things.

SANJIVANI.
14th Jan. 1904.

55. The same paper says:—

The proposed transfer.

Recently both Mr. Garth of Dacca and the District Magistrate of Mymensingh said to certain zamindars and other respectable people that Government had made an alternative proposal to transfer the Dacca, Chittagong, and Rajshahi Divisions, except Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling, to Assam, and give the newly constituted province a Lieutenant-Governor and a Legislative Council. The native gentlemen to whom this information was given, have not yet expressed their opinion on the proposal, but public feeling is decidedly against it, because its adoption would have the effect of weakening Bengal. It is also rumoured that Chutia Nagpur will not be transferred to the Central Provinces because Government does not desire to separate the coal districts of Chutia Nagpur from Bengal. However that may be, the letter written by the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Commissioner of the Dacca Division proposing a transfer of the whole of that Division to Assam, is silent about the creation of a Lieutenant-Governorship or a Legislative Council in the province to be newly constituted. It is therefore to be considered how far the native public can trust the words of Mr. Garth and the District Magistrate of Mymensingh.

SANJIVANI.

56. The same paper publishes a number of letters purporting to have been written by respectable men and women, in which the writers express their feelings of dis-

The proposed transfer.

approbation as regards the proposed transfer.

SANJIVANI.

57. The same paper publishes accounts of protest meetings held at the following places:—

Protest meetings.

Dacca district.

Jainshar ...	...	...	...	January 5th.
Bhagyakul ...	...	...	...	January 6th.
Svarnagram ...	...	...	...	January 7th.
Narayanganj...	...	...	...	January 8th.
Lohujung ...	...	...	...	January 9th.
Bahar Lohujung	...	...	...	January 10th.
Brahmanga ...	...	...	...	January 11th.
Dacca ...	...	...	...	January 12th.
Sabhar ...	...	...	...	January 13th.
Munshiganj ...	...	...	...	January 14th.
Jainshar ...	...	...	...	January 15th.
Munshiganj ...	...	...	...	January 16th.
Bejgaon ...	...	...	...	January 17th.
Narayanganj ...	...	...	...	January 18th.
Dhankora, Manikganj	...	...	...	January 19th.
Bajrajogini ...	...	...	...	January 20th.
Navagram ...	...	...	...	January 21st.
Teghoria ...	...	...	...	January 22nd.
Munshiganj ...	...	...	...	January 23rd.
Baidyerbazar ...	...	...	...	January 24th.

Mymensingh district.

Kishorganj ...	...	...	...	January 5th.
Nandaupur ...	...	...	...	January 6th.
Pagaldighi ...	...	...	...	January 7th.
Sarisabarhi ...	...	...	...	January 8th.
Sankrail ...	...	...	...	January 9th.
Tangail ...	...	...	...	January 10th.
Kishorganj ...	...	...	...	January 11th.

Jamurki	January 8th.
Jamalpur	...	...	...
Bajitpur	...	...	...
Elashin	...	...	...
Mymensingh	...	...	...
Tangail	January 9th.
Tarati, Muktagachha	...	...	...
Muktagachha	...	...	...
Gauripur	...	...	...
Bansati, Muktagachha	...	...	...
Mymensingh	January 10th.
Jamalpur	...	...	...
Kendua	...	...	...
Netrakona	...	...	...
Jamurki	...	...	...
Alijhuri	January 11th.
Ramganj	...	...	...
Jamurki	...	...	...
Kishorganj	...	...	...
Atharobarhi	...	...	...
Narayandaha...	January 12th.
Jamurki	...	...	...
Mymensingh	...	...	...
Maisakanda, Tangail	...	...	...
Muhammadpur	...	...	...
Masua	January 13th.
Delduar	...	...	...
Tangail	...	...	...
Gauripur	...	...	...
Digpait	...	...	...
Elashin	January 13th.
Jamurki	...	...	...
Senkrail	...	...	...
Muktagachha	

Tippera district.

Chandpur	...	...	...	January 8th.
Brahmanbaria	...	...	...	January 10th.
Comilla	...	...	...	January 11th.
Sarail	January 12th.
Chandpur	
Comilla	

Chittagong district.

Chittagong	January 9th.
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Faridpur district.

Faridpur	January 10th.
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Giridih subdivision.

Giridih	January 10th.
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Backergunge district.

Barisal	January 10th.
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58. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 14th January points out the following, among others, as evils which are likely to result from the proposed transfer :—

The proposed transfer.

Jyoti.
Jan. 14th, 1904.

- (1) *The cooly law.*—The proposed transfer will offer larger opportunities for luring away poor Chittagong people to tea-gardens and bringing them under the cooly law.
- (2) *Increase of taxes.*—The road-cess will be increased.
- (3) Association with the Assamese will have a deteriorating effect upon the Bengalis of Chittagong, just as the latter have deteriorated by reason of their association with the Burmese.

SAMAY,
Jan. 15th, 1904.

The proposed dismemberment
of Bengal.

59. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 15th January says that the growing spirit and independence of the people of East Bengal, their wealth, courage, enterprise, and perseverance, their intimate union with the people of West Bengal and hearty co-operation in all good movements started in this part of the province are a source of displeasure and disquiet to the rulers of this country, whose cardinal policy is to divide and rule. Hence this proposal to banish them to Assam, where arbitrary administration of the law by Military Captains and Deputy Commissioners and contact with a backward population devoid of all life and spirit, who will give them neither help or sympathy, will soon crush all spirit and independence out of them, deal a death-blow to their progress and prosperity, and soon reduce them to the level of the rest of the population of the province.

All schemes of division, decentralisation and the like will thus succeed at one and the same time. Thanks to Lord Curzon and his crooked-minded Law Member, the vaunted educational progress of Bengal is going to receive a rude check. Thanks to the Universities Bill and the Official Secrets Bill, what remains to be accomplished will soon be accomplished. Government will thus gain all its ends, and by the operation of the laws made by it, not only the people of East Bengal but we also shall become as meek as the lamb and as despicable as the ass and cry victory to the crooked-minded legislators.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Jan. 13th, 1904.

The proposed transfer of East
Bengal to Assam.

60. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 13th January writes that at first it was proposed to transfer only Chittagong to Assam. Then came the proposal to transfer Dacca and Mymensingh. The people of these districts are in great terror at these proposals. And now comes the astounding news that Backergunge and Faridpur are also to be transferred to Assam! The great Padma and the Meghna rivers separate these districts from Dacca. The proposal to transfer them to Assam is unnatural. It would be a much better arrangement to include Faridpur, Backergunge, Jessore, and Khulna under a separate Commissionership.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 15th, 1904.

The proposed transfer of East
Bengal to Assam.

61. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th January writes:— Territorial changes such as are proposed, which cannot fail to inflict terrible mental agony on the people of Bengal and at the same time give rise to the greatest discontent in the country, ought never to be made. The establishment of an Executive Council to assist the Lieutenant-Governor, may, in our opinion, remove all the administrative difficulties dwelt upon in the Government of India's letter. But while all possible objections to the proposed transfer have been anticipated and discussed in Mr. Risley's letter, no mention is made in it of the advantages or disadvantages that may follow from the establishment of an Executive Council. What may be the cause of such omission? Is it because Government has some ulterior object in view which would be frustrated if that question were discussed?

Now that it has been made abundantly clear to Government that the people of Bengal are decidedly against the proposed changes, we hope Lord Curzon will reassure the public mind by giving up, once for all, proposals which are likely to produce so much mischief in future.

HITAVADI,

Oppression in the Government
Central Press, Calcutta.

62. The same paper writes that the compositors, distributors, the pressmen, the assistant foreman, and coolies in the Government Central Press, Calcutta, are made to work on Sundays. This is illegal. Under section 5B of the Factory Act (Act XV of 1881) no one is allowed to work on Sundays in any factory. When under exceptional circumstances the operatives are required to work on Sundays, the law makes special provisions to meet such cases. But no attention is paid to these in the Government Central Press. It is a curious fact that proof-readers and other officers who are able to make representations to the higher authorities, are not required to work on Sundays. This shows the character of the *zulm* that is practised on the poor men, who being illiterate, cannot protest. No allowance or holiday is ever granted to them by way of compensation for their working on Sundays. Officers in charge of the Central Press heartlessly overwork the poor men to show the

progress of work and thereby win the good opinion of their superiors. Is there no one to take notice of such oppression?

63. A correspondent of the same paper writing from Bhowanipur, Calcutta, refers to a number of postal grievances suffered by the inhabitants of that place. The system of hourly delivery, though introduced in the local post-office, is not followed in practice. Letters of one day are often delivered on the following day. People going to the post-office for having letters registered, or money orders or telegrams sent, have generally to wait there for an hour. The cause of all this mismanagement is that although the work and income of the office have greatly increased, its staff has not been proportionately strengthened. The telegraph office attached to the post-office should be kept open for twenty-four hours like all first class offices, and benches should be kept in it for respectable people to sit on.

HITAVADI,
15th Jan. 1904.

64. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th January contains notices of the protest meetings held at the following places:—

CHARU MIHIR,
Jan. 16th, 1904.

Muktagacha, Jamalpur, Sridharganj, Sakhnai, Sambhuganj, Hat Karia, Nandanpur Jogendranagar, Tulandar, Gangatia, Chuniapatal, Basigram, Hasanpur, Pulpur, Kumaruli, Shyamganj, Kedarpur, Elashin, Astagram, and Gachibata.

65. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 16th January draws the attention of the authorities to the hard lot of the postal peons of the Simla post-office in Calcutta. The system of hourly delivery in Calcutta has necessitated an increase in the number of peons in all post-offices in the town. But the number of peons in the Simla post-office has not been increased and consequently the peons are overworked, so much so that they hardly find time to eat their meals.

NAVA YUG.
Jan. 16th, 1904.

66. The *Anusandhan* [Calcutta] of the 16th January says that instead of dismembering Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam should be brought under one Government, and have one language, namely, Bengali, recognised as the language of the newly constituted Province.

ANUSANDHAN.
Jan. 16th, 1904.

67. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th January says that the *Ratnakar* newspaper of Asansole supports its arguments on the Budh-Gaya question. Can there be any doubt that a disturbance of the peace which now prevails at Budh-Gaya would wound the feelings of all Hindus?

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 16th, 1904.

68. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 17th January says that the proposal to dismember Bengal was made by the Government of Lord Curzon not seriously, but with the sole object of diverting public attention from and weakening the force of the agitation on the Universities Bill and the Official Secrets Act Amendment Bill. If not weakened by some means or other, the agitation on those two Bills might grow so strong as to disturb the equanimity of Parliament and cause it to send a warning to Lord Curzon.

RANGALAY,
Jan. 17th, 1904.

Another object of the proposal seems to be the abolition of the Permanent Settlement, which though existing now only in name, has become an eyesore to Government. But why employ stratagems to abolish it, instead of setting about the work in an open and direct manner?

69. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 17th January says that the following resolution was passed, at a meeting held on that date in Dacca town:—

DACCA PRAKASH.
Jan. 17th, 1904.

A protest meeting in Dacca town.
“This conference after having carefully considered the proposal made by the Hon'ble Nawab Salimulla Bahadur to a body of respectable gentlemen invited by him on the 11th January current, viz.—The constitution of a new province to be called by any suitable name other than Assam, comprising the present Province of Assam, the Dacca Division, the Chittagong Division, the Rajshahi Division, with the exception of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, and Cooch Behar (may be also the districts of Jessore and Khulna from the Presidency Division), provided that the jurisdiction of the High Court of

Calcutta may remain intact and the new Province be governed by a Lieutenant-Governor with a Legislative Council, and that Dacca be the seat of Government—desires to place on record, with due deference to the views of the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur, a unanimous expression of opinion against any scheme by which the Bengali-speaking people would be placed under separate administrations."

DACCA PRAKAS,
Jan. 17th 1904.

Protest meetings

70. The same paper publishes accounts of more than 40 protest meetings.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Jan. 18th, 1904.

71. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January says that the reduction of the telegraph rates for deferred messages from 8 annas to 4 annas under the modified rule will not compensate the loss which the public will sustain by paying for the address. The authorities ought to reconsider the matter.

The new telegraph rates.

NIHAR,
Jan. 19th, 1904.

72. For the information of the Collector of Midnapore, who is expected to pay a visit to Contai shortly, the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 19th January writes:—

The needs of Contai

The want of a lady doctor is keenly felt at Contai. The district Board has not yet removed this want. We hope the District Magistrate will, as Chairman of the District Board, make arrangements for a lady doctor at Contai. There ought to be a trenching ground at Contai. Rubbish and sweepings are not removed and are accumulating. The health of the town is sure to suffer from this cause. The school building should be *pucca*. The class-rooms in the existing building are not properly ventilated and may tell upon the health of the teachers and the taught. Lastly, the nearest railway station from Contai is more than 35 miles distant. A light railway from the Contai road to Contai would remove the inconvenience.

PRATIJNA,
Jan. 20th, 1904.

73. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 20th January says that the new rules for the sale of quinine and instructions to the public for its use will no doubt do a great deal of good to this malaria-ridden poor country.

Rules and instructions about quinine.

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

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Jan. 13th, 1904.

74. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 13th January says that the poverty of the Midnapore raiyats, aggravated by the repeated crop failures of the last three or four years, is driving them to sell the whole of the harvests which they gathered in the present winter. The cheap price at which paddy and rice are just now selling in Midnapore and the large exports are sufficient proofs of this. It behoves the moneyed people of Midnapore to purchase and store up paddy and rice in this cheap season as a reserve against the hard times that are sure to follow in a few months.

Large exports of rice and paddy from Midnapore.

RATNAKAR,
Jan. 16th, 1904.

75. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 16th January says that much scarcity both of food and water prevails in Basudha, Baghura, Dangal, and other villages in the Kanksa thana of the Burdwan district. There is only one tank in Basudha, and that is being drawn upon even for agricultural purposes.

Food and water scarcity in some villages in the Burdwan district.

VI.—MI CELLANEOUS.

HITAVARTA,
Jan. 10th, 1904.

76. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 10th January has the following:—
The attitude taken up by the *Pioneer* newspapers towards the Congress is of a very hostile character. The speech delivered by Mr. Lal Mohan Ghosh, President of the last Congress, has proved too much for it, and it has criticised the speech in the following spirit. Mr. Ghosh looks with dislike upon the good feeling which exists at present between the rulers and the ruled. Mr. Ghosh may say what he likes, but all Indians will not agree with him. The Honourable Aga Khan, for instance, in his speech at the Muhammadan Educational Conference said:—

"Providence has given us a Government that guarantees justice; intellectual and religious liberty; personal freedom: a Government that gives a clear field and no favour, that constantly reminds us that fitness is the only test, and that for the fit there are no obstacles."

But listen to us, *Pioneer*. Those who kill sheep and goats for the purpose of eating their flesh must, of course, say that God has permitted them to do so. But, ask the poor animals themselves, and they will say that the people in question kill them only to gratify their greed. The Indians under British rule are like so many goats and sheep, who are being treated according to the will of their ruler. We cannot admit that we deserve such treatment under the law of God. But Englishmen, of course, will say that we do, because they inflict such treatment upon us in gratification of their own ambition. The *Pioneer's* motive in saying all this is to create ill-feeling between Hindus and Musalmans. But it ought to know that we, Hindus and Musalmans, have at last come fully to understand that our prosperity as an Indian nation depend on our amity and friendship. Our contemporary in order to sow seeds of dissension between Hindus and Masulmans, says:—

"And the contrast is not made less strange when we reflect that the contented speaker comes of a class which certainly has not gained relatively by the rise of the British Power: whereas University distinctions, membership of the Inns of Court, large legal practice, and the leisured pursuit of Western literature, which might be expected to make men like Mr. W. C. Bonerjee and Mr. L. M. Ghose find the world pretty tolerable, are palpably the outcome of a state of society which only the British connection could have established."

Whatever the Aga Khan said in his speech is quite sentimental and was said in a very good spirit. We are loyal to the British Government in the same spirit in which the Aga Khan is, but, at the same time, we are truth-seekers, and it is therefore our duty to bring to light that which is not true. We ask the Aga Khan, has the Government always acted up to the policy of fair field and no favour? If the Government had a mind to do so, it would not have reserved a large proportion of substantial appointments for Eurasians and Europeans, and Sir James LaTouche would not have set apart all lucrative posts in his province for Europeans and Eurasians. We know very few cases in which the Government has given a fair field to meritorious native candidates for employment. Had we been granted full personal freedom and intellectual liberty by the Government, there would not have been any need for the Official Secrets Amendment and the Universities Bills.

77. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 12th January writes:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Jan. 12th, 1904.

The model Indian patriot. If we are true patriots, let us use native cloths, and wholly give up Manchester-made fabrics. Let us at once discontinue the use of Liverpool salt, which is made by *mlechchas* and made unholy by contact with cow's bones. Let us cultivate cotton and make our own clothing. As long as we cannot plant machinery for weaving cloth, we must remain satisfied with our home-made coarse cloths. If we are really patriotic, we must set the example that others may follow in our footsteps.

78. Referring to the letter of a correspondent from Goari-Krishnagar giving details of an assault by a European Executive Engineer upon a native gentleman near the railway bridge which is being constructed over the Kharia river and asking "Is there no remedy for this?" the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th January observes:—

HITAVADI,
Jan. 15th, 1904.

To this query we can only reply in the words of the old and revered Mr. Hume—"The issues are in your own hands." We have our right of self-defence. If the Executive Engineer took the law into his own hands and made an unprovoked assault upon a native gentleman, the latter would surely have been within his rights if he had acted in self-defence. A Bengali gentleman should, when going out for a walk, provide himself with a stout stick, with a view not only to defend himself from such attacks, but also to minimise the chance of being so attacked.

79. Referring to the alleged murder of a European named J. T. Williams by Puran Gorh, a cooly in Assam, reported in the *Assam Weekly Chronicle*, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 16th January writes:—

BASUMATI,
Jan. 16th, 1904.

The cooly, in doing what he did, never cared for his own life. Those who go to punish their oppressor do so at the peril of their lives. The Assam coolies are heavily laid under obligation, and if they have now begun to pay up their

dues with interest thereon, there is nothing to wonder at in this. If the wretch, having cleared his debts, is now hanged, no one ought to be sorry at it.

BARUMATI,
Jan. 16th 1904.

80. The same paper writes as follows :—

The Indian Viceroy not independent.

Those of our contemporaries who at first lauded Lord Curzon to the skies are now willing to hurl him down to bottomless depths. We are amazed at the sight. We have all along observed that the Viceroy of India can do nothing, either for weal or for woe, independently. The policy of the British Government regarding India is daily becoming worse, and therefore the attitude of Indian Viceroys is growing more and more unsympathetic. We have seen how Lord Ripon failed in his benevolent purpose for the same reason. We see that Lord Curzon is unable to proceed a step forward without orders from England. If the Home authorities had not been perverted at heart and in mind, none of the evil counsels of Lord Curzon would have received their support. Our contemporaries ought to be a little circumspect. It will not do merely to find fault with the instrument, the player must also be found fault with.

BARUMATI.

81. "Nityananda Deo Sarma" writes to the editor of the same paper:—

Uselessness of native agitation.

You are under the impression that it was owing to your agitation that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal was led to write a letter to the Viceroy, who thereupon consented to give the name "Eastern Province" to the new province, and to transfer the seat of Government from Shillong to Chittagong. Egregious folly! These are mere diplomatic moves. That such letters should be written was settled long ago. The English know very well how to deceive fools like you. The fact is, the rulers will do what they intend to do, and will not wait for anybody's opinion.

The best advice I can give you is—Do not try to interfere in anything that the English rulers do. Never entertain the belief that your loud cries will produce any the least effect. Did your outcries stay the hands of Government in changing the constitution of the Calcutta Corporation? You took your stand upon law and fancied that your position was unassailable. You forgot that the authorities could change the law. Take another instance: You find fault with some Government official, you criticise his actions severely in your newspapers, and you expect that the official must be dismissed. But you find that in a few days the official is promoted. These cases ought to convince you that Government is not prepared to attach any importance to your words. Therefore, give up useless agitation and do what you can for the good of your country. Is there water-scarcity in your district? Do not apply to the District Board for help. You may think that you are paying taxes, and the District Board is bound to give you relief. Here is your mistake. Government is under no obligation to do anything for you. Gracefully and humbly accept what is offered out of kindness. Know that Government will not give what they do not give. Do not cry; do not agitate. You have your newspapers. Fill up your columns with an account of how a jackal lost his life or how a sheep was born with seven legs, and similar stories.

ASSAM PAPERS.

SILCHAR,
Jan. 8th, 1904.

82. The *Silchar* [Cachar] of the 8th January thanks Mr. Fuller, Chief

Two orders of the Chief Commissioner.

Commissioner of Assam, for his recent order requiring that the public services in Assam should henceforth be filled up exclusively by the Assamese. This order of the Chief Commissioner will give an impetus to education in the backward province of Assam.

The Chief Commissioner's order that in all appeals heard by him, pleaders will be allowed to appear before the Court to represent the parties will also greatly benefit the people of Assam.

SILCHAR

83. The same paper thanks Lord Curzon for his proposal to increase the

The proposed territorial change.

size of Assam by transferring to it some portions of Bengal. The scheme, as propounded by His Lordship's Government, is not calculated to harm Bengal, while it will benefit

Assam very greatly. The objections which have been hitherto raised against the proposal by the people and the Press of Bengal are all puerile and not worth paying any heed to. The Brahmaputra will be the most appropriate boundary both of Assam and of Bengal, and the Government of India is quite right when it says that in language East Bengal has greater affinity with Assam than with West Bengal. At all events, if it is not found possible to transfer Dacca and Mymensingh to Assam, it will do for Assam if she gets the Chittagong Division alone.

As the Government of India is quite determined upon the proposed transfer, the people of Dacca, Mymensingh, and Chittagong should, instead of wasting their money and energy on futile objections, put forth their efforts to have the new province raised to a Lieutenant-Governorship.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 23rd January, 1904.

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 23rd January 1904.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

147. The *Weekly Chronicle* (Assam) writes that it is well known that Fazl Rahman, the Head Muharrir of the Sylhet Police Office, a favoured subordinate of Mr. Boxwell, the District Superintendent of Police, is dreaded by police officers and men alike who all over the district are obliged to propitiate him. In a case recently brought against the muharrir it is alleged that Mr. Boxwell, who should have placed the man under suspension, did all in his power to have the case withdrawn at a certain stage; endeavoured while the case was pending, to get the man promoted to a Sub-Inspectorship; succeeded in getting the case transferred to the file of another officer than the one who was originally trying it; got the case taken up on a date which was not fixed for its hearing; personally prevented the Court Sub-Inspector from stating the case for the prosecution, and finally, having obtained the muharrir's discharge, awarded him Rs. 15 as compensation. The *Chronicle* insists on Fazl Rahman prosecuting his accusers for a false and malicious charge. "It behoves the authorities to punish us for our impudence or to punish the responsible official who has been found to be Fazl Rahman's sheet-anchor in his troubles. Nor will it be out of place to enquire how a District Superintendent has come to be hand and glove with a subordinate of such a reputation."

Mr. F. Boxwell, District Superintendent of Police Sylhet.

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,
12th Jan. 1904.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

148. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* comments upon the case of Abbas, who was sentenced to death by the Sessions Judge of Tippera, which sentence, however, was reduced by the High Court, on appeal, to one of two years' rigorous imprisonment. This case shows how "some of our Judges are imbued with a spirit of unconscious ferocity."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Jan. 1904.

149. The *Hindoo Patriot* hopes that Babu Saroda Charan Mitter will succeed Mr. Justice Guru Das Banerji, and that the Civilian District Judge, whom the Government wishes to promote, will wait a little longer and fill the vacancy which will be caused by Mr. Justice Stevens's retirement.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
16th Jan. 1904.

The journal thinks that the present year, when eight new Judges will be appointed, will afford an excellent opportunity for strengthening the High Court, if the Government really desires to do it. It trusts there will be no favouritism.

150. Whatever might have been the object of Government in appointing a Civilian to the post of Chief Presidency Magistrate, it is a significant fact, says the *Bengalee*, that since Mr. Weston's advent, there has been a considerable increase in the number of convictions in bad-livelihood cases. Under the old régime, the mere fact that the accused had been convicted before, was not held to be conclusive evidence, unless supported by other and more direct evidence, and therefore the police oftener failed than succeeded in procuring conviction. That more direct evidence than a mere previous conviction is necessary is the view held by the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court, and it would be well if the Chief Presidency Magistrate were made acquainted with and acted upon it. As Mr. Abdur Rahim, the last but not the least of the Romans of the old régime, whose presence has been a powerful check upon the police, is credited to have said lately to a prosecuting Inspector in a bad-livelihood case, "it is an appalling state of things if the police arrest persons, enquire into their cases for days while they are in custody, and then send them up without any evidence to make out a case against them. Such a procedure would be justified only in a reign of terror."

BENGALÉE,
10th Jan. 1904.

151. The *Bengalee* complains that applicants for copies of judgments, decrees, etc., from the Copying Department of the Appellate Side of the High Court, are obliged to dance attendance from day to day before they can

The Copying Department of the Appellate Side of the High Court.

BENGALÉE,
10th Jan. 1904.

obtain them. The law's delays are bad enough, but when to these are added the delays of this department it is verily a case of Ossa upon Pelion.

(d)—Education.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
16th Jan. 1904.

152. The *Hindoo Patriot* is supremely thankful to the Government for the institution of scholarships for the promotion of native industries, and regards it as a step in the right direction.

State scholarships.

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

BENGALIEE,
17th Jan. 1904.

153. The *Bengalee* points out that under section 258 of the Calcutta Municipal Act, the Chairman is required to give a written notice to the owner of a house requiring

"A chapter of illegalities."

him to fix an outer stop-cock. In the majority of cases no such notice is given and an opportunity is taken, when the owner is not at home, to fix a stop-cock of a particular pattern which diminishes the flow and pressure of water. As this high-handedness and *zulum* will lead to serious collision, the *Bengalee* hopes Mr. Greer will take steps to stop the illegalities.

INDIAN MIRROR,
19th Jan. 1904.

154. Seeing the success that has met the establishment of the Sanitary Association in Bombay, the *Indian Mirror* wonders why a similar Association cannot be started in Calcutta. Considering the constitution of the

A Sanitary Association for Calcutta.

Corporation under the new Municipal Act, the vested rights or wrongs of the Municipal Executive, as also the strong feeling manifested and shared in by both Europeans and Indians, and engendered by the incapacity of the Corporation, the time is not altogether unfavourable for a combination between Europeans and Indians for the city's welfare. Only there must be no pretences of superiority, no recriminations, and no calling names. If the Corporation itself could be induced to co-operate, all the better.

BENGALIEE,
19th Jan. 1904.

155. The *Bengalee* is glad to learn that the permanent Manager of the Hastings Mill at Rishra has, since his return from

The septic tank latrines at Rishra.

leave, disapproved of the septic tank latrines erected by his *locum tenens*, and is ready to do all that can be done to remove the least possible ground of complaint. The journal is confident that he will be able to hit upon an arrangement which will be entirely free from any objection on sanitary or religious grounds.

BENGALIEE,
20th Jan. 1904.

156. In its next issue the *Bengalee* writes that the septic tanks at Rishra are being used by the mill hands in defiance of everything. So strong is the local Hindu feeling

Ibid.

on the subject, a feeling which is shared by the general Hindu community, that in a memorial addressed to the Lieutenant-Governor, the memorialists say they would prefer deserting their native land to suffering their sacred water to be unnecessarily polluted and their religion outraged. The journal hopes Sir Andrew Fraser, who visits the scene to-day, will be satisfied that the complaint is just, and order the discontinuance of the tanks.

157. The same journal regrets to learn that a proposal is being considered to erect septic tank latrines at Ishapur for the

BENGALIEE,
19th Jan. 1904.

The septic tank latrines at Ishapur.

two to three thousand artificers and labourers employed in the Ordnance Factory. If this proposal is sanctioned, the tanks will discharge at a point which is barely a mile above the intake of the Pulta Water-Works, from which Calcutta gets its supply of drinking water, and this the Health Officer of Calcutta has stated will be a source of danger to the health of the town. The journal hopes the proposal will be abandoned. It has already created a consternation at Ishapur and surrounding places, and it is not desirable to prolong either the panic or the suspense.

BENGALIEE,
20th Jan. 1904.

158. The *Bengalee* hopes that when Mr. Greer goes on leave, the Government will not again commit the mistake of appointing Mr. Silk to officiate as Chairman. The

Who is to be Mr. Greer's *locum tenens*?

Indian rate-payers have absolutely no confidence in him. The journal suggests the appointment of the Vice-Chairman, not the Deputy Chairman, who is new to his post. Whether the choice fell on the

Deputy Chairman or the Vice-Chairman, the public would have little ground for complaint. All that they desire is that Mr. Silk may not be appointed to act whether for a long or for a short period. "He is no friend of the Indian rate-payers and we do not want him."

159. The *Indian Mirror* expresses the same hope that Mr. Silk will not be appointed Mr. Greer's *locum tenens*. The rate-payers do not want him.

INDIAN MIRROR,
21st Jan. 1904.

160. The *Bengalee* ventilates the following grievances of the residents of Arpooly Lane, Ward IX. The owner of a one-storied hut (No. 7 of the lane) was prosecuted for

BENGALRY,
21st Jan. 1904.

raising a second storey and fined Rs. 40, and a fresh case was instituted to compel him to demolish the unauthorised additional storey. While the case was pending, the owner managed to obtain the sanction of the City Architect to the plan of the two-storied hut which he had submitted, and when the case came on for hearing the Municipal Building Overseer withdrew the case on the ground that there had been serious deviations from the sanctioned plan for which he proposed to institute a fresh suit.

Although this happened in July no prosecution has been begun as yet. Meanwhile the residents of the lane are being greatly inconvenienced. The lane is only 9 feet wide, and the owner of the hut has left a space of only two feet. Will Mr. Greer be good enough to enquire how the City Architect came to sanction the plan while the case was pending, and why the Building Surveyor has not done his duty? The case looks suspicious and calls for an enquiry.

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

161. The Chandpur correspondent of the *Bengalee* writes that the temple of *Kali*, standing for several years on the land of the Assam-Bengal Railway at Chandpur, is threatened with removal. Hindus who have resorted daily to this shrine would be grateful if the authorities did not interfere with it, since it occupies very little ground.

BENGALRY,
16th Jan. 1904.

162. The *Indian Mirror* writes that since Mr. Bashford has been Chief Auditor of the East Indian Railway, convenanted and unconvenanted auditors have been treated with scant consideration, and are being dismissed and superseded by chartered accountants from England and men from the Indian Midland Railway who are incompetent and inexperienced. The incompetence and injustice which have become rampant in Mr. Bashford's incumbency need looking into.

INDIAN MIRROR,
21st Jan. 1904.

(h)—*General.*

163. The *Behar Times* publishes the appeal of Babu Rajaram, late a muharrir of the Munsif's Court, Arrah, to the Lieutenant-Governor, against his dismissal by the District Judge on suspicion of being corrupt, and on the report of a pleader between whom and the muharrir there had been some previous misunderstanding.

BEHAR TIMES,
16th Jan. 1904.

The state of feeling between the men demanded the careful consideration of the allegations of the one against the other. The 24 years' service of the muharrir being good, the journal thinks that Government should go deep into the real facts of the case before removing an officer on the ground of suspected misconduct.

164. Commenting upon the case of death after flogging which occurred in the Bombay Presidency, the *Moslem Chronicle* "commends the incident to the attention of the eminent advocates of the extension of flogging, whose opinions are met with up and down the reports of judicial administration."

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
16th Jan. 1904.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
19th Jan. 1904.

165. The *Indian Empire* pronounces whipping to be a barbarous form of punishment and is surprised why the Government continues to adopt it, although it is opposed by both Indians and Europeans. When the Act was amended, Mr. Woodroffe, Advocate-General, as a member of the Viceregal Council, reasonably suggested suspending the punishment pending the hearing of the appeal, if any, but this did not find favour with the Government, which is for its immediate execution. In addition to the notorious Barh whipping case quoted by Mr. Woodroffe in support of his statement, the journal refers to the recent case in Bombay in which death followed flogging.

If no earthly power can bring those responsible for the poor man's death to account, there is certainly a power beyond the earth who lets no man's acts pass unnoticed.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
15th Jan. 1904.

166. The *Moslem Chronicle* writes that the Magistrate of Noakhali, pre-eminently a Muhammadan district with strong religious conservatism, has created the greatest possible discontent and heartburning by refusing to close the Courts on the last *Id*, the most important of the Moslem festivals. The journal doubts if this officer deserves to hold the responsible place he occupies and, if it had its way, it would "dismiss him or give him the alternative of a Deputy Magistracy, or hold him tied to his post for five consecutive years with no leave, furlough, or holiday respite."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th Jan. 1904.

167. Adverting to the case of Babu Manomohan Mukerji, who was dismissed from his appointment as Sub-Deputy Collector on the ground that he had obtained the appointment by misrepresentation, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* supports the Babu's prayer that a judicial enquiry be made into the case as he is undoubtedly the victim of jealousy and foul play, which he is in a position to prove.

BENGALKE,
16th Jan. 1904.

168. The *Bengalee* refers to the charges of corruption brought against certain officers of the Calcutta Income-tax Office by Dr. Kanai Lal Das, of Nimitola, and Sital Prosad Dutt, of Kantapur. It would like to know whether any action was taken upon the complaint of the former, or "if the guilty assessor has been successfully screened by a certain high official who shall for the present remain nameless." In the charges instituted by Sital Prosad, the Deputy Collector found the accused assessor guilty and this view was confirmed by Mr. Lyon, but this case does not appear to have been decided owing to the appearance of the Marwari Association on the scene with its army of witnesses. There is lastly the case brought by Ram Kumar Jetmull, whose witnesses have applied for an indemnity. It is reported that Mr. Gerard visited the Marwari merchants, who had offered to give evidence of corruption, and sought to dissuade them from doing so. The journal prays for the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the charges and to grant an indemnity to the witnesses who may appear before it.

INDIAN MIRROR,
16th Jan. 1904.

169. Passing from a consideration of the income-tax and the popular feeling against it to the manner of its administration, the *Indian Mirror* observes that till 1887 there was certainly a solicitude on the part of the Government to keep the administration of the tax in Calcutta at least as pure as possible, witness the fact that an assessor was dismissed the service on mere suspicion. In these days, however, incomes are assumed without any examination of accounts, and statements by the person taxed count for little. Judged only by the amount he brings to the coffers of the State, it is not surprising that an assessor should swell the proceeds of his division to the highest figure. In addition to this, the gravest charges may now be preferred against officers concerned without a disposition on the part of superior officers to help the accusers to prove them. Nay, it is impossible to read the recent Marwari memorial to Government without coming to the conclusion that there is a distinct desire to burke enquiry. Sir Andrew Fraser has a serious task before him in restoring the confidence of the Calcutta public in the purity of the income-tax administration, but the *Mirror* has no doubt that His Honour will do what is right and proper.

170. The *Indian Mirror*, noticing in Lord Curzon's recent utterances a strain of impatience, and petulance and remarking that much of his recent work has been of a doubtful quality, recommends His Excellency to take rest. His approaching visit to the Andamans may give His Excellency his much-needed rest, but there are grim associations connected with a viceregal visit to the Andamans, and the *Mirror* would rather Lord Curzon cruised in less troubled waters. His visit to Eastern Bengal will mean more work and no rest, which is a pity, and restless himself, His Excellency has dragged many millions of British Indian subjects into unrest in this one particular matter of the transfer of Dacca and Mymensingh to Assam.

INDIAN MIRROR,
17th Jan. 1904.

Lord Curzon's movements.

171. The *Bengalee* refers to the Official Secrets Bill, the Universities Bill, and the proposal for the dismemberment of Bengal as three questions of first-rate importance which are agitating the minds of the people. Fortunately, Anglo-Indian opinion is opposed to the first-named measure, with the result that Government has been in a hurry to climb down. It is hoped that, guided by wiser counsels, the Government will so recast the Bill as to make it innocuous and acceptable. The journal regrets that in regard to the second rock ahead, the Universities Bill, no promises of amendment have been held out. The measure will be passed by the aid of a mechanical majority which the Government possesses in the Council. Yet the Government should harbour no illusions as regards the attitude of the Indians. The cause of education is in danger, and a manful effort must be made to avert the threatened blow. As regards the partition of Bengal, which has grown into a scheme for the separation of Faridpur, Backergunge, Khulna, Jessore, and some other districts of Rajshahi as well, the writer begs Government to say what it regards to be the irreducible minimum, and whether it wants administrative convenience or an artificial weakening of the Bengali nation. "Is it our nationality that is an eyesore to the authorities?" Fortunately, the Anglo-Indian mercantile community are not likely to support any scheme for the mutilation of the Province, and the Anglo-Indian Press has condemned the proposal with as much vehemence as the Indian Press.

BENGALUR,
17th Jan. 1904.

The three rocks ahead

172. Reverting to the subject of the treatment of Indian clerks in the Foreign Office, the *Bengalee* endeavours to make out that the recruitment of clerks by public examination, from the operations of which "that lucky mediocrity of the Civil Service" Sir Mortimer Durand, succeeded in exempting the Foreign Office, worked most successfully, and that the Indian clerks so recruited in that office have proved efficient and have risen to the top of their grades without in any way swamping the office. The journal is convinced that if the examination system is re-introduced, the Foreign Office will get the best men, of whom a fair proportion will be Europeans, and not those free-school or no-school clerks whose number has been alarmingly predominant in this most important office.

BENGALUR,
18th Jan. 1904.

The Foreign Office.

173. With reference to the appeal of Rakhal Chandra Ghose, who was dismissed from the post of an assessor of income-tax in 1888 on the suspicion of being corrupt, the *Bengalee* hopes that the Viceroy will call for the papers of the case, and if His Excellency is convinced that the man deserves some reparation, he will not withhold it because the appeal happens to be such a belated one.

BENGALUR,
19th Jan. 1904.

An appeal to Lord Curzon.

174. The *Bengalee* condemns the action of the District Magistrate of Moradabad in refusing to allow a widow-marriage procession the other day, which action has led many a supporter of widow-marriage all over India to suspect that the present rulers are not in favour of the movement. If the Magistrate takes shelter behind the plea that he feared a breach of the peace, the plea will not hold water for a moment. It is the Magistrate's duty to prevent such a breach, to punish those who commit it, and not to restrain peaceful men from exercising their undoubted right of using the public thoroughfares. The weakness of the Magistrate has placed a premium upon lawlessness and mortified the feelings of law-abiding people.

BENGALUR,
20th Jan. 1904.

Is the Government opposed to the remarriage of Hindu widows?

Is the Government opposed to the remarriage of Hindu widows?

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
20th Jan. 1904.

175. *The People and Pratibashi* writes in praise of the Medical College Hospital and the General Hospital, Calcutta, and of the doctors, sisters, and nurses employed in both the institutions, with the exception of the former, where there is, or was until lately, a doctor who is described as a "bully," a "blusterer," and a "bungler." The food at the Medical College, it says, is ample and excellent, quite the opposite of what it is in the General Hospital, but at both it is spoiled by bad cooking. Bread and milk at both institutions are pronounced good, although the milk looks watery.

The writer condemns the practice now in vogue of compelling all in-coming patients to have a cold-water bath, and of disturbing sleeping patients at 4 A.M. to take their temperature.

BENGALIEE,
21st Jan. 1904.

176. *The Bengalee*, referring to the eulogium bestowed upon the Sikhs by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab at the inauguration of the Saraghari Memorial, writes that

The Sikh.

the Sikh is profoundly grateful to Government for thus commemorating the services of his departed countrymen, but his gratitude would be all the keener if those services received an adequate recognition in the shape of satisfactory improvement in the position and prospects of native officers in the Indian army. To restrict the advancement of the Indian soldier within such circumscribed limits, to deny him the pay and rank which are the legitimate rewards of his services and soldierly qualities, and then to raise cloud-capped towers to perpetuate those services which had been so inadequately rewarded, is a proceeding that strikes the oriental as being curious.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
15th Jan. 1904.

177. Adverting to Mr. Streatfeild's circular letter to the subordinate officials and leading people of Barisal, inviting

The Collector of Barisal and the
partition of Bengal.

their opinion on the proposed transfer of East Bengal to Assam, the *People and Pratibashi* says that while the District Magistrate has accurately gauged the feeling which the scheme has evoked, the only ground that he has advanced for the change, viz., that Bengal is too large for a single administration, is nothing but arrant nonsense. "He might as well tell us that India is too large for one Governor-General, or that the British Empire is too large for one King."

BENGALIEE,
16th Jan. 1904.

178. *The Bengalee* anticipates nothing but good from the Viceroy's visit to Eastern Bengal. But in order to touch the pulse

The Viceroy's visit to Eastern
Bengal.

of public opinion, His Excellency must consult the real leaders of the people. *The Bengalee* is constrained to sound this note of warning, as the foremost nobleman in Eastern Bengal is said to have taken up an attitude in reference to the partition question, which is somewhat equivocal.

BENGALIEE,
19th Jan. 1904.

179. There is as much agitation in Madras as in Bengal, says the *Indian Mirror*, regarding the territorial redistribution of

The proposed territorial redis-
tribution.

those provinces. Public opinion in both provinces is in a state of white heat over the question. The *Mirror* does not remember any other Viceroy who ever threw the country into such restlessness, commotion, and uproar as Lord Curzon has done.

INDIAN MIRROR,
19th Jan. 1904.

180. *The Indian Mirror* is glad that the British Indian Association has at last thought of holding a Conference of leading men

Proposed Conference in Calcutta
to consider the question of the
partition of Bengal.

and Associations to discuss the question of the proposed partition of Bengal. If all the leading Associations could be persuaded to work together and cordially co-operate in connection with this all-important question, they would prove a veritable blessing to the people.

BEHAR TIMES,
16th Jan. 1904.

181. *The Behar Times* gives prominent insertion to a letter containing a suggestion that, instead of transferring some districts to Assam and some to the Central Pro-

Partition of Bengal.

vinces, the Government should make Bengal wieldy for one Lieutenant-Governor by separating the old province of Bihar, which is altogether distinct from her sister province in nationality, character, and language. To attain this end, the writer suggests that all Biharis and the Bihar Landholders' Association should agitate.

182. The *Bengalee* publishes telegraphic accounts of meetings held at the following places to protest against the partition of Bengal:—Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Subarnakhali, Jamalpur, Bajitpur, Nagerpur, Gourpur, Kathalia, Jamurki, in the Mymensingh district; Chandpur and Brahmanbaria in the Tippera district; Baider Bazar in Dacca and Barisal in Backergunge.

BENGALÉE,
16th Jan. 1904.

183. The *Behar Herald* considers it quite natural that the people of Bengal should be convulsed at the threatened amputation of their province. There can be no greater mistake than to treat Dacca and Mymensingh as unhealthy excrescences rather than vital parts of the living organism of Bengal, which have contributed more to the prosperity of the province than any other part thereof. While Mr. Risley has, in the opinion of the writer, made out no case for the introduction of this radical change, the people of Dacca and Mymensingh have brought forward cogent arguments against it which cannot be dismissed off-hand.

BEHAR HERALD,
16th Jan. 1904.

"Will Bihar calmly look on while the sister province undergoes such a dangerous amputation?"

184. The *Indian Nation* recommends those who are agitating against the partition of Bengal to abstain from acrimony and the indulgence of reckless imputation of motives.

INDIAN NATION,
18th Jan. 1903.

Ibid. It suggests that all scattered agitation ought to lead ultimately to a great representative demonstration, followed by a monster petition signed by the inhabitants of Bengal. The journal sees no reason why the attack should be directed against Mr. Risley in particular. The scheme is not his, but one of the Government itself, and displays the essential weakness of a foreign administration. If Bengal has become too large for one local Governor, let there be two Lieutenant-Governors or let there be an Assistant Lieutenant-Governor, instead of amalgamating one portion of Bengal with Assam.

185. The Mymensingh correspondent of the *Bengalee* wires that the local protest meeting was attended by about forty thousand persons of different classes and occupations, coming from all parts of the district. There were 110 speakers representing different interests and communities of the district, and altogether eleven resolutions adopted.

BENGALÉE,
19th Jan. 1904.

186. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, reverting to the dismemberment question, points out how the districts proposed to be transferred are likely to fare by referring to the effect produced on Sylhet from a similar change. It quotes the opinion of Mr. R. H. Greaves, District and Sessions Judge of Sylhet, who shortly before retirement furnished, in a report called for by the High Court, important information on the judicial agency of the district, which until 1874 formed part of the administration of Bengal. Mr. Greaves materially contradicted Mr. Risley's statement that the objections to the absorption of Sylhet and Cachar in Assam have proved unfounded. Since its severance from Bengal, Sylhet has sunk into obscurity and the fiscal and executive administration has undergone considerable deterioration. Mr. Greaves proves beyond doubt that according to him the proposal of transferring Chittagong to Assam is fraught with most harmful possibilities.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
20th Jan. 1904.

There will scarcely be found a good officer willing to serve in a province in which, besides an unhealthy and cheerless climate, the salaries of the higher appointments are less than in Bengal.

The practice of appointing military men as judicial officers in Assam is also strongly deprecated, as they often show defects arising from want of experience.

187. The *Indian Mirror* asks Mr. Risley and the Viceroy if they have noted the results of the proposal to partition Bengal. The results are an unrest and an agitation

INDIAN MIRROR,
24th Jan. 1904.

Ibid. unparalleled not only in the history of Bengal, but also of the whole country. Government, either Imperial or Local, may lay little store by the Press opposition, and may prefer to believe that the accounts published of recent protest meetings are exaggerated, or it will believe just as much as it cares to and not more. But even Government cannot ignore the two latest demonstrations,

one at Faridpur and the other at Mymensingh. But this is only the beginning of the agitation, and Calcutta will also probably be holding a great protest meeting of its own. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce, which is known to be against the proposal, is playing a waiting game, and will make its plans known as soon the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and the British Indian Association have openly declared themselves.

BENGALER,
20th Jan. 1904.

188. The *Bengalee* trusts that the monster meeting held at Mymensingh recently has opened the eyes of the Government to the genuine sense of alarm and consternation which the proposal to dismember Bengal has created in the district concerned. Forty thousand educated men are not to be found in the district of Mymensingh. The movement therefore that brought this number together has indeed penetrated the masses and infected classes of the community generally profoundly apathetic in regard to public questions, such as the great landed aristocracy which holds itself aloof from public movements, and European planters and missionaries, as in Ranchi. A Government which converts peaceful citizens into active agitators can scarcely be congratulated on the wisdom of its statesmanship. The Government should take note of the intensity of the feeling aroused and should hasten to abandon the project. There is no alternative except the conversion of Bengal into a Presidency Government, with an English statesman at the head and an Executive Council to assist him.

BENGALER,
21st Jan. 1904.

189. Adverting to the consternation caused by the proposal to dismember Bengal, the *Bengalee* says Government does not venture to say a word as to the proposals submitted by the people, but it is tenaciously sticking to its own fad. In the name of fairness, asks the writer, what does this mean? "We are often taken to task for misinterpreting the views of Government, but can any person find fault either with the public or the Press if in this matter at all events they are forced to the belief that one of the real objects, if not the sole object, of the policy which underlies the proposal must be to divide and break up the great Bengali-speaking community?"

INDIAN MIRROR,
21st Jan. 1904.

190. The *Indian Mirror* says that the protest against the sequestration of Bengal would be absolutely unanimous, but for the wavering, shifting attitude of about half-a-dozen *ap-ke-wastes*, short-sighted creatures who not only barter away their birth-right, but in the end find themselves sold by their tempters. These are the "certain residents" of Dacca and Mymensingh referred to by the Chief Secretary in his letter to the British Indian Association, who are in favour either of the transfer of the whole of the Dacca Division or its retention in Bengal. There can, however, be no mistake as to the character of the reply which this Association will give. Maharaja Sir Jotendra Mohan Tagore, who is the premier figure of the British Indian Association, has been congratulated by the Mymensingh Association on his attitude in the matter. Government will not have failed to notice that the noblemen and gentlemen who have presided at the meetings in Mymensingh, and who never before joined any political agitation, are the leaders and the life and soul of the present agitation.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
21st Jan. 1904.

191. The *Hindoo Patriot* does not think Mr. Risley's assurance, that the alteration of territory will not of itself affect the law in force, is of any practical consequence. Under the Statute of 1854, 17 and 18 Victoria, Chap. 77, no law or regulation in force in the territory transferred can be altered or repealed except by law or regulation made by the Governor-General in Council. His Excellency is always empowered to alter or repeal the law in his Legislative Council if in his executive capacity he is unable to do so. Every one knows how Legislative Acts are passed in this country. In effect the mandate of the Governor-General in his executive capacity and a Legislative Act of the Governor-General is one and the same thing. It may therefore be found necessary at any time, for administrative convenience, to assimilate the law in force at present in the eastern districts with the law of Assam, and the mandate of the Governor-General will be enough to effect the change. Hence the apprehensions with which the proposals are received.

III.—LEGISLATION.

192. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* appeals to the Viceroy to exempt the Press from the operations of the Indian Official Secrets Act as journalists are exempted under the same Act in England. It also craves for the deletion from the Bill of the word "office" with its explanatory note, so that one of the principal stings of the measure may be removed.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
16th Jan. 1904.

193. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* expresses the opinion that the Official Secrets Bill shows the love of power entertained by the rulers, otherwise it is impossible to understand why secrets relating to the civil administration should be protected in the manner proposed. There are, unfortunately, superior officers who interfere with the judicial independence of their subordinates, whose wrong-doing the fear of exposure alone now holds in check. This is the class of officials to whom the Bill will afford additional protection, and on whose account the helpless people of this country will be reduced to further helplessness. Had they a Parliament they could have managed to right their wrongs in some other way, but in the absence of such an institution the Press takes its place. The writer laments the demoralising effect on the officials themselves which such a measure will produce. Compared with the sturdy empire-builders of olden days, who were respected for the grit and resourcefulness they possessed, the present officials, protected by fences of iron, are day by day growing more emasculated and unworthy of the respect enjoyed by their predecessors. For the sake of these officials, therefore, it is not sound policy to loosen all the bonds that keep them strong and straight.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
19th Jan. 1904.

194. The *Bengalee* echoes the note of warning sounded by the *Englishman* that unless the Official Secrets Bill is modified in the directions demanded by public opinion, there will be a renewal of the agitation, which will not flag until victory has been won.

BENGALUR.
20th Jan. 1904.

195. Quoting the opinion of the *Englishman* on the subject of the Official Secrets Bill, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* finds that the amendments proposed in the Select Committee will leave the case practically as bad as it originally was. If the words "Civil affairs" are not expunged, or defined in a reasonable way, the real sting remains, that is to say, the divulgence of civil secrets or documents is made penal. The measure will thus continue to terrorize the innocent and be subjected to relentless criticism. Lord Curzon, in view of his promise that the Select Committee would place on the Statute Book "a satisfactory measure which need not strike terror into the heart of a single person," cannot support the Bill.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
20th Jan. 1904.

The journal also considers that no provision should be made by which the Press may be gagged in regard to matters relating to the Indian States, for the people there need greater help from the Press than those in British India.

196. Commenting on the general features of the Universities Bill, the *Indian Mirror* acknowledges that the Government has been sound in its purposes and principles, though it has erred in many matters of detail. It has erred because it has scorned to avail itself of such information and advice as could have come from properly qualified representatives of the people. If it is impossible under the proposed law to have a cheap system of high education, the largest proportion of the students will be shut out. The writer deems section 21 in the Bill most objectionable, particularly the conditions under which a college may be affiliated, which are all new, most rigorous, and some of them prohibitory. There is no objection to Government assuming some control over the University and colleges, which may prove salutary if properly exercised, but what is regretted is that while Government claims an extension of its powers, it has in no way enlarged its responsibility by the establishment of educational institutions or teachers.

INDIAN NATION,
18th Jan. 1904.

BENGALIAN,
21st Jan. 1904.

197. The *Bengalee* points out that the next meeting of the Viceregal Council has been fixed for Friday—the Saraswati Puja day, on which Hindus are prohibited from touching pen and ink.

This has doubtless been done in ignorance of the peculiar character of this festival, and His Excellency the Viceroy, will doubtless recognise the propriety of postponing the meeting.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

KAYASTHA
MESSENGER,
16th Jan. 1904.

198. The *Kayastha Messenger* is disappointed that so few of the New Year's decorations fell to Bengal, and suggests that there should be a regular scale fixed for each

Presidency and Province, regard being had to caste, creed, and profession. It regrets that Babu Baldeo Lal Nakphopha, one of the chief Gayawals of Gaya, whose liberality is well known, has not been recognised. "We have a great project of drainage and water-works of Gaya lying before us as a dead letter for want of sufficient funds. The time has come that these urgent sanitary measures be taken in hand, and the way to meet these heavy expenses is to encourage some of the deserving gentlemen by grant of honours."

BENGALIAN,
17th Jan. 1904.

199. The *Bengalee*, by way of reforming not harming him, for which reason it suppresses his name, writes that a young Vagaries of a Deputy Magistrate. Bengali Deputy Magistrate, in the district of Bardwan, is so puffed up with a sense of his own importance that he expects every one he meets in his walks to *salaam* him, and visits every breach of this unwritten law with corporal punishment. It is also alleged that he seldom attends Court before 5 o'clock in the afternoon and does not leave it before 8 or 8-30 P.M., to the inconvenience of everybody.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 23rd January 1904.

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