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# REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

### Week ending the 26th July 1902.

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## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

Gambling in some villages in the Mymensingh district.

THE *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 15th July says that gambling is doing great harm to the people of Kasiganj and Malikbari villages in the

CHARU MIHIR,  
July 15th, 1902.

Mymensingh district.

2. The same paper says that three or four tigers have produced consternation among the inhabitants of Raonadigha, Jasarha, and other villages under the Gafargaon thana, in the Mymensingh district, by their widespread depredations. The lives of neither men nor animals are safe. In Jaistha last one tiger was killed by the villagers with sticks and hatchets, and four or five people were wounded in the act. But the tigers, which still remain uncaptured, have made life very uneasy in the place.

CHARU MIHIR.

3. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 15th July says that last year, when the prostitutes of Barisal town held a procession, this paper protested against the order which permitted it to be held, and the District Magistrate promised

BIKASH,  
July 15th, 1902.

Prostitutes' processions in Barisal town.

to see that no license was issued in future to hold such processions. But, strangely enough, the prostitutes of Barisal were again, on the 9th and 10th July last, allowed to hold processions, which did not certainly pass without leaving serious immoral effects on the minds of the thousands of youths and school-boys who witnessed them. May it be asked, who permitted such processions to be held this year again, in spite of the Magistrate's promise of last year not to permit them? The Magistrate should make such processions impossible in future.

BURDWAN  
SANJIVANI,  
July 15th, 1902.

4. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 15th July says, that though no one will deny that the appointment of a Police Commission has been for some time felt as a necessity, it would have been better if, instead of wasting money on a Commission, Government had, on its own responsibility, introduced the changes which it wished to introduce in the police administration of the country. Commissions have never been known, either in this country or in England, to produce much good. In this country Government never accepts those recommendations of a Commission which it does not like to carry out. Where, then, was the necessity of appointing a Police Commission? The people of this country have confidence in Lord Curzon, and much trouble would have been saved by His Excellency himself prescribing the changes which he wished to introduce. But it may be that His Excellency is not willing to take so great a responsibility on himself, and has therefore appointed the Commission.

The questions which the Commission will have to decide are very serious. It is said that the duty of the police is to keep the peace and to prevent crime and oppression. But the people of this country never, now-a-days, see the police bestirring itself unless crime has been actually committed. A crime must be first committed, and the police will then come out to hold a local investigation, will then proceed to the house of the man who has suffered by the commission of the crime, will take up their quarters at his house, and will live at his expense for some days. If the man can gratify the police officers, they will send up some men, caught at haphazard, as culprits. But if the householder fails to gratify the police, the latter reports the case as false, and the injured man is put to no end of trouble in extricating himself from its hands. In fact, in most cases it is the injured party who suffers most at the hands of the police. People do not, therefore, now-a-days like to report cases of theft and dacoity. They suffer in silence. It will be impossible to remedy this state of things so long as the law and the police system remain as they are.

Keeping the peace and detecting crime are two very different things. Even the Government will admit that the detection and punishment of crime go a very small way towards checking crime by holding out fears of punishment. The first and foremost duty of the police should be to prevent crime and keep the peace, and not to wait till crime has been committed and then detect and punish the criminal. But the police of this country seldom comes



forward to prevent crime. It retires from the place where a crime is about to be committed and comes out and endeavours to apprehend the offenders only when crime has been committed. It follows this course in pursuance of its own purposes. It knows well enough that prevention of crime will leave it no opportunity for making an exercise of its powers.

BARISAL HITAISHI,  
July 16th, 1902.

5. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 16th July has the following:—  
An order stopping music. Recently passes had been secured from the District Superintendent of the Backergunge Police for music, on the 25th, 26th, and 27th Asarh last, in the house of the late zamindar, Chandi Charan Roy, in Barisal on the occasion of his son's investiture with the sacred thread. On the 26th Asarh the following notice was received by the manager of the zamindar:—

From  
The Magistrate of Backergunge,

To  
Babu Basanta Kumar Sen, Manager of Babu Chandi Charan Roy,  
Barisal.

Dated Barisal, the 10th July 1902.

Complaints have been made that a public nuisance was caused by the noise of tom toming in his house at night and request that it may be stopped.

(Sd.) B. Hajra,  
Deputy Magistrate in charge.

Music is a part of the religious festivities of Hindus. But what does that matter when the zamindar's house is situated near that of a European, Mr. Buckley? Mr. Buckley had his desire, although the District Superintendent of Police had issued the pass. The music had to be stopped. What astonishes us more is that the order came with the *imprimatur* of a Hindu Deputy Magistrate. As a Hindu, he should have consulted the Manager before issuing it. However that may be, is it to be understood that no religious music can be held near the house of a European?

We fear to speak out in matters like this. Our elders bid us to remain silent. We therefore heave a sigh in secret and exclaim—Thy will be done, O Lord!

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
July 16th, 1902.

6. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 16th July strongly condemns Pandit Hara Prasad Sastri's "Exposition of *Meghduta*" as an obscene book abounding in low and coarse ideas and written in the disreputable language of boon companions frequenting haunts of vice, which should not be allowed to come anywhere near respectable society. The Pandit is advised to stop the sale and circulation of the book.

SANJIVANI,  
July 17th, 1902.

7. Referring to the appointment of the Police Commission, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th July writes as follows:—  
The Viceroy has kept his promise. But it is still doubtful whether the deliberations of the Commission will lead to any reform of the police. Looking at the duties imposed on the Commission, one cannot think that, when formulating the same, Government was either aware of the real grievance of the people or paid any heed to it.

Like many other things, this Police Commission also is quite of a piece with the general character of the Curzon policy. Lord Curzon's actions, indeed, would lead one to think that anarchy was reigning in the country, that the people were madly bent upon subverting British rule, and that it was, therefore, necessary to introduce a rigorous system of control into every branch of the administration. The policy pays no heed to the inconveniences which the people suffer from the existing system of police administration, but cares only to detect and punish crime. A glance at the list of duties imposed on the Commission has led the writer to the conclusion that the result of its deliberations will be the exclusion of all, except Europeans and Eurasians, from the rank of Police Inspectors.



8. The same paper requests the authorities of the Bagerhat subdivision of the Khulna district to enquire into the death of

SANJIVANI,  
July 17th, 1902.

A suspicious death in the Khulna district.

one Ram Behara of village Basaba which took place under suspicious circumstances. The character of Ram's wife was not good, and she had repeatedly left her husband's protection. The last time his wife left his protection, Ram went to persuade her to come back, but she refused to do so. A day or two after this, it was heard that Ram had committed suicide by taking opium. The police did not send up the dead body for *post-mortem* examination, but reported the case as one of suicide and permitted it to be burnt.

9. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 17th July does not consider the appointment of the Maharaja of Darbhanga to

BASUMATI,  
July 17th, 1902.

The Maharaja of Darbhanga as a member of the Police Commission.

represent Bengal on the Police Commission a happy one. There are many men in this province whose knowledge of its police affairs is greater than that of the Maharaja. Mr. A. M. Bose was in the Bengal Council when the Chaukidari Act was passed, and by his work in the Council he pleased the then Lieutenant-Governor and his Secretaries, while he did not fail to satisfy the native public. Mr. Bose is a learned man and deeply versed in law, especially in the criminal law of the country. He proved his thorough knowledge of the Bengal Police system on that occasion.

It is not known whether Government requested Raja Peary Mohan Mukherji to sit on the Police Commission. The Raja's experience of the police administration of Bengal was proved both in the Provincial and in the Supreme Legislature, and in many reports, minutes and resolutions of the British Indian Association.

It is true the late worthy District Superintendent of Police, Rai Jagadis Nath Rai Bahadur, is no more. But there are still many retired District Superintendents who, if appointed to the Commission, could have given Government much valuable advice. Babu Mahendra Nath Hazra is one such retired officer, who might well have been chosen.

Lord Curzon would also have given proof of highmindedness and impartiality by appointing Mr. R. C. Dutt. The appointment of Mr. Gupta, Commissioner of the Orissa Division, though an official, would have given satisfaction to the native public.

Government might also have chosen a man from among the ranks of retired Deputy Magistrates. Babu Ramakshay Chatterji's experience in police matters and his knowledge of the ways of thieves and dacoits are well known to Government and have been embodied in many books.

Everybody, in fact, must admit that there was no lack of a more competent man in Bengal than the Maharaja.

10. Referring to the case of alleged police oppression reported by the

A case of alleged police oppression in the Burdwan district.

*Pallivasi* newspaper of Kulna in the Burdwan district [Report on Native Papers for 19th July, 1902, paragraph 1], the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of

BANGAVASI,  
July 19th, 1902.

the 19th July says that it should be the first duty of the Police Commission, which Lord Curzon has appointed, to take steps for the prevention of such abuse of power by the police as was made in this case. The charge brought against the girl was an improbable one. Yet the police detained her on the strength of such an accusation! A man in possession of a currency note would not certainly leave it at the foot of a tree when climbing it, but would most assuredly secure the note in his waist cloth before climbing. Yet the police believed that the complainant had left a currency note at the foot of the tree and that the accused girl had stolen the note! The police did not also produce the girl before the Deputy Magistrate when the latter wanted to see her. But why? If the police is allowed to escape scot-free after committing such wrong things, no number of Police Commissions will be able to reform it.

11. The same paper writes as follows:—

The Police Commission.

A careful consideration of the duties imposed on the Police Commission is enough to convince one that it has been appointed with the special object of devising means to enable the police to deal effectually with offenders, to keep bad characters in

BANGAVASI.



check and to suppress and prevent crime. But the first duty of the Commission should be to enquire why the people of this country tremble with fear at the very name of the police. If the Commission cannot ascertain the cause of this fear, its deliberations will do no good. The corruption and highhandedness of the inferior police are very frequently spoken of. Here is what the *Englishman* newspaper says on the subject: "It has been stated by authorities of all kinds that the police, so far from being guardians of the oppressed, are in themselves the source of terrorism and oppression." In several instances, also, it has been proved in law courts that, failing to apprehend the real culprits, the police sent up and sought the conviction of innocent persons. It is for these reasons that the people of India hate the police and tremble at its name. Lord Curzon has not failed to draw the attention of the Commission to this subject, and the Indian public will anxiously await the result of the Commission's deliberations on this point.

But no remedy can be applied with the view of correcting this fault in the character of the police, before its cause has been ascertained. The Commission should, therefore, first address itself to discover the cause of this defect in the character of the police. No one will say that all inferior police officers use their power in a highhanded manner. Everybody will, on the contrary, admit that there are among the ranks of inferior police officers many who are just and conscientious men who have succeeded in winning the respect and admiration of the public. But the majority of inferior police officers are corrupt and highhanded, and the bad name of the police is due to them. It is, therefore, necessary first of all to ascertain what makes the majority of inferior police officers highhanded and immoral.

The reasons, so far as the writer has been able to ascertain them, are as follows:—

1. The police is the pet child of the Government and, as such, is shown great favour by it under the wrong impression that its own prestige would suffer if the police were humbled in the eyes of the public.

2. The large powers with which the inferior police is vested, and the opportunities it enjoys of abusing them. The journal which is issued from the *Englishman* office rightly says:—"To refrain from profiting by any peculiar powers in one's possession in order to get even with an enemy requires a character of a high order." And such a character cannot certainly be expected of constables on eight or ten rupees a month and Sub-Inspectors on fifty rupees a month.

Considering the duties imposed on the police, it is necessary that it should be vested with very large powers. But if, at the same time, Government employs clever detectives of good moral character to keep a sharp eye over the doings of the inferior police, not only will the inferior police have a salutary fear of being detected in wrong-doing, but its work may improve. Every abuse of power should, also, be visited with severe punishment.

The superior police officers, whether they be Europeans or Natives, should be men possessed of a full knowledge of the human character and thoroughly conversant with the ways and manners of the natives.

Unless these reforms are introduced, the appointment of a Commission or a mere amendment of rules will not make the police better.

12. The same paper says that a perusal of the judgment passed by

The police in the case of Sharbati of Banda in the United Provinces.

Mr. Justice Knox of the Allahabad High Court in the case of the woman Sharbati will show how a respectable zannana woman was harassed and disgraced in consequence of a mistake or an act of foolishness on the part of the police. Even the District Judge of Banda had easily believed the improbable story of the police and sentenced the innocent woman to a severe punishment. It is cases like this which bring the name of the police into disrepute. The police would have saved the public from the distress and alarm which were created in connection with this case, if it had investigated with it care. Are not the police officers who conducted the investigation deserving of punishment? And is the judge who, relying on such weak evidence, was on the point of ruining a respectable woman fit to remain on the bench?

BAGAVATI,  
July 19th, 1902.



## 13. The same paper says :—

Pandit Sastri's "Exposition of *Meghduta*."

We hear that Pandit Hara Prasad Sastri, as soon as the cry of obscenity was raised, stopped the sale of his "Exposition of *Meghduta*." Many people say that by stopping the sale in these days when the cry of bad taste is heard on all sides, the Pandit has acted wisely. But what of the fact that *Meghduta* is being still read and expounded in *tols* and colleges? What, again, will become of Jaydeva, Vidyapati, Shakspeare, Byron, the Ramayan, the Mahabharat and the Srimatbhagavat? The fact is, we are sorry at what has taken place.

BANGAVASI,  
July 19th, 1902.

14. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 19th July is sorry that a Uriya,

A Uriya arrested in Calcutta for drawing a car without a pass.

who was drawing a car along Nebutola Lane during the last car festival, was taken to the police-station by some municipal chaprasis. It is said that the Superintendent of that station abused him very strongly for not securing a pass. The man is also said to have been beaten. On the days of the car festival all Hindus are allowed to draw their cars without a pass. Why was the poor Uriya then arrested for drawing his car without a pass?

BHARAT MITRA,  
July 19th, 1902.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

15. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 15th July says:—

Interference with judicial independence by Magistrates.

No one will deny that District Magistrates often commit *zulm* by interfering with the judicial independence of their subordinate Magistrates. The native papers frequently bring to notice cases of such interference, but the Government refuses to admit that they are cases of such interference. An instance of such interference was, however, recently afforded in the Backergunge district. Ambika Charan Guha, an employe of Messrs. Garth, Wetherall and Company, was recently charged by his employers with embezzlement of their money. On the 22nd May last, the Deputy Magistrate of Patuakhali released the accused on bail. On the 9th June, the District Magistrate arrived at Patuakhali on tour, and wrote on the record of this case—"Why bail? Offence appears to be under section 409 of I. P. C." On that day the Deputy Magistrate sent the accused to *hajut*. The latter appealed to the District Judge, and on the 11th June, Mr. Platel, the Additional Sessions Judge, again ordered his release on bail. On the 20th June, the appeal was heard by the District Judge, who passed the following order:—

BIKASH,  
July 15th, 1902.

"Possibly the alleged offence might come under section 405 I. P. C., but it seems to me that section 409 is meant to apply to a totally different class of cases. He was not entrusted with property in the way of his business as an agent, but if entrusted at all, it was in his capacity as a servant. On thorough discussing the point further, it seems to me that the alleged offence is one of criminal misappropriation."

Without saying anything about the guilt or otherwise of the accused,—a question, which will be decided by the Court which will hear the charge against him,—may it be asked, who is to be held accountable for the unnecessary detention which the accused suffered from the 9th to the 11th June in consequence of the capricious conduct of the Magistrate? The man would not certainly have had to undergo this unnecessary punishment, if the Magistrate had not interfered with the Deputy Magistrate's action. Is this unnecessary exercise of power by District Magistrates to be characterised as administration of justice or as *zulm*?

16. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

Babu Akshay Kumar Chatterji, the Subdivisional Officer of Tangail.

16th July says that Babu Akshay Kumar Chatterji, the Subdivisional Officer of Tangail in the Mymensingh district, has for some time been suffering from shoe-phobia—a disease which had so long raged chiefly among Europeans. Our advice to Akshay Babu in this connection has evidently fallen on barren soil. The Subdivisional Officer has ruled that every accused person, however respectable he may be, must appear barefooted before him. This, he says, he has done in accordance with a circular received from the Government.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
July 16th, 1902.



On the 5th July last, Akshay Babu's shoe malady manifested itself in a singular outburst of feeling against Babu Jogendra Narayan Majumdar, a respectable zamindar, who had to appear before him as the accused person in a municipal case. Jogendra Narayan had moved the High Court for the transfer of the case to the file of some other Magistrate, and the High Court had granted a rule in the terms of the petition. But it had not reached the Subdivisional Magistrate's Court when the case was taken up on the 5th instant. Babu Jogendra Narayan's mukhtars therefore presented an application for an adjournment. The Subdivisional Magistrate ordered his *peshkar* to throw away the application, and said that the accused must personally present it from the dock. He then ordered the accused to appear in the dock without his shoes. This the accused declined to do. The six constables of the Court were one after another ordered to take off his shoes, but they all declined to do so. Those present in Court surely laughed in their sleeves at the discomfiture of the worthy Subdivisional Officer, who in his mighty rage was for some time at his wits' end to decide what to do. But his fertile genius soon brought him out of the dilemma. He asked the mukhtars for the accused to produce their client properly before the Court. On their saying that their client was there standing before the Court, he told them that they must produce him barefooted. This the mukhtars said they were not bound by law to do, so far as they understood its meaning. The Subdivisional Officer thereupon instituted proceedings requiring them to show cause why the amounts of their bail should not be forfeited. The mukhtars applied for certified copies of the proceedings, but their application was refused. About this time the sun was setting and the Court rose for the day.

Akshay Babu is a Bengali and not a *saheb*. He does not come of a low caste. He is a high-caste Brahman, born and bred up in high society, and is himself highly educated. It is therefore incomprehensible whence he has got such bad temper. Will he not, after all this, be ashamed of mixing in high society?

But more about this matter. He reported to the District Magistrate against the constables who declined to take off the shoes of Babu Jogendra Narayan, and the District Magistrate has suspended them and asked them to show cause why they should not be dismissed. Constables are certainly servants, but they cannot be compelled to serve as the meanest of menials. Many up-country high-class Brahmans become constables. Bengali Brahmans are historically descended from their ancestors. High-class Musalmans also, such as Syeds, are also seen in the service. Does Akshay Babu think that these Brahmans and Syeds should be employed to take off men's shoes? It is only foolish men whose heads are turned by the possession of power. Moreover, many people believe that a Deputy Magistrate's claim to be called a Judge is not more reasonable than a grasshopper's claim to be called a bird. However that may be, a Judge's chair in the British empire always courts respect. But it is a matter of great regret that these chairs are being daily dishonoured by the conduct of incompetent and tyrannical Deputy Magistrates.

17. Referring to the case in which Pachai Shaik, Tetel Shaik, and

The sequel of the Rajshahi  
Muharram case.

Kobad Shaik have been charged with having brought a false case, known as the Rajshahi Muharram case, against Mr. Ryan, the District

Superintendent of the Rajshahi police, the same paper writes as follows:—

The question is, whether there is a probability of justice being done in the case if it is tried in Rajshahi. The case is being tried by Babu Rajendra Chandra Guha, a Deputy Magistrate subordinate to Mr. Roe, the District Magistrate, because Mr. Roe, having investigated the case himself, could not be charged with its trial. Even European Deputy Magistrates fear to go against District Magistrates. As a matter of fact, Mr. Rattray was transferred from Rajshahi for having shown judicial independence. Is there any Bengali Deputy Magistrate who will, therefore, venture to show independence in trying the case of Pachai and others? Messrs. Ryan and Roe will have to appear as witnesses in this case. The Counsel or pleader for the defence will surely batter them with unpleasant questions, and there will be no lack of such questions in the case. What will the Bengali Deputy Magistrate do when that will be done? Will he allow questions to be put to Mr. Roe? And

SEETRI VISHNU-  
PHIYA-O-  
ANANTA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
July 16th, 1902.



is he not likely to be cowed by the fiery eyes of the District Magistrate? Rajendra Babu is not an angel. He is only a man, and a worldly man too. He will therefore have to acquiesce in everything of an unfair or improper nature which is done during the hearing of the case. Rajendra Babu knows fully well that Mr. Roe's reputation depends on the case. It cannot therefore be possible for him to try it impartially. If he acquits Pachai, his master's reputation will be lost; if he convicts the man, people will say that he convicted him for his master's sake. The case should not therefore have been placed in the hands of any Deputy Magistrate of Rajshahi. The action of the Bengal Government has taken us aback. It transferred Mr. Lee, but kept Mr. Roe in Rajshahi. What greater injustice could be done? So long as Mr. Roe remains lord of Rajshahi, justice cannot be expected to be done in the case. Rajendra Babu may desire to do justice, but many witnesses for the defence will not venture to tell the truth for fear of Mr. Roe. One of the ultimate issues of the case in question is, whether Mr. Ryan's allegations against Mr. Lee in connection with the *Muharram* case were true or false. If injustice is done in the case, the accused persons will suffer imprisonment and Mr. Lee's reputation will be sullied. Mr. Roe's transfer from Rajshahi would have set everything right. It is a wonder, therefore, that Government has adopted a contrary course of action.

Pachai is a very poor man, and the interest of the country is involved in his case. Hindu or Musalman, everyone should therefore help him according to his might. Arrangements should be made for the employment of an able barrister for the defence. It is hoped that the leaders of the Musalman community in particular will materially help the defence.

18. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 17th July says:—

The judgment in the Nandigram case.

Of the persons who were placed on their trial before the Sessions Judge of Midnapore on a charge of having caused the death of the Daroga of Nandigram, four have been sentenced to death, three to transportation for life, and the rest, with the exception of ten who have been acquitted, to various terms of imprisonment. We have not yet received a copy of the judgment in the case, and are therefore unable to acquaint our readers with its contents. But the main fact that four persons are going to suffer death for the loss of only one life is enough to make us shudder.

We have studied this case most attentively. Many have still doubts as to the guilt of the persons who have been sentenced to death. Many also question the veracity of the witnesses produced on behalf of Government. Such is the panic and unrest that has been created at Nandigram and in its neighbourhood by the vigorous proceedings of the police in connection with the case, that anybody might, with a view to the safety of his own person, property and honour, easily agree to depose against the accused, at the bidding of the police or of any other person. Nor is it a new thing for people to give false evidence from a fear of the police. It is a thing which is happening every day in the Law Courts of this country. Is there anything to show that the witnesses in this case did not do the same?

Besides, supposing the persons who have been convicted to be really guilty, is there nothing to say in extenuation of their guilt? In the first place, none of them came with a plan for murdering the Daroga ready formed in their minds. These deluded and unfortunate people had placed everything they had in the hands of the swindler, Gopal. They became frantic with rage when they found that the swindler clearly meant to cheat and ruin them. If the Daroga had then pacified them by assuring them that at least the money they had paid would be restored to them (and this could have easily been done), matters would not have ended so tragically. But instead of doing this, the Daroga arrested Gopal that very day and took him away with his books to the thana. It was not that very day that the Daroga had received from the Magistrate the warrant for the arrest of Gopal. If he was able to wait for several days before, why did he not wait for that day too?

The mob, numbering four to five thousand, saw Gopal led away with his books. They asked him for payment. He said:—"How can I pay you now? I will pay you on Wednesday." No one could place any faith in his words under the circumstances. If there had been only ten or twenty people they

*BASUMATI*,  
July 17th, 1902.



might have been expected to keep their heads cool. But how can a rabble composed of so many ignorant persons be expected to keep their heads cool with one person counselling one thing and another a quite different thing, and no one listening to anybody? The mob also suspected that it was at the Daroga's advice that Gopal was going to cheat them out of their money. It was at this juncture that the foolhardy Daroga appeared in their midst. They now thought that the Daroga, who had taken away Gopal and his books, was now come to take away their money too. They now bade adieu to their senses. They were incapable any longer of any thought or reflection. In the frantic rage of the moment they committed a most atrocious deed. If the Judge had considered these things at the time of passing sentence, he could not have, at any rate, passed capital sentence on the poor persons. Sudden provocation extenuates an offence even in the eye of the law. Are not these four unfortunate persons therefore entitled to some consideration? It is hoped that the High Court, when called upon to confirm this sentence, will take these things into its consideration.

JYOTI.  
July 17th, 1902.

19. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 17th July complains of the arbitrary conduct of Babu Jagat Narayan Sarkar, Munsif of Cox's Bazar in the Chittagong district, and makes the following allegations against him:—

(1) The Munsif allows parties to suits to visit him at his residence. A young woman, a party to a suit, recently admitted in her cross-examination that she had paid a visit to the Munsif at his residence to talk to him about the suit and had conversed with him about it.

(2) The Munsif expresses his opinion about the result of a suit before evidence has been completely gone through.

(3) The Munsif frequently asks pleaders and mukhtars to examine witnesses whose names are not included in the reports submitted by parties.

(4) The Munsif issues arrest warrants without previously giving notice to the parties, as required by the law.

(5) The Munsif does not hesitate to fine a witness Rs. 500 for non-attendance, and to at once issue warrants of distress and arrest.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
July 18th, 1902.

20. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 18th July speaks of Babu Radha Madhav Basu, Deputy Magistrate, who retired from service on the 1st July last, as an ideal Deputy Magistrate, who won the love and gratitude of the people of Burdwan by his impartial administration of justice. The Burdwan people, pleaders, mukhtars, and *amla*, and even the Maharaja Bahadur and Raja Bun Bihari Kapur, are very sorry at his retirement. No other Deputy Magistrate ever occupied an equal place in the hearts of the Burdwan people. The other day the *elite* of the Burdwan town, headed by the Maharaja Bahadur, entertained him at a farewell dinner in the Bangopal Town Hall.

Wherever Radha Madhav Babu went, during his long service of 25 years in the Executive Department, he endeared himself to the people by his ability and impartiality. He was very kind to his *amla*, who have shed tears at his retirement. As a Deputy Magistrate he served in Hooghly, Purulia, Govindapur, Hazaribagh, Faridpur, Katwa, Medinipur, Jajpur, Ranaghat, Krishnagar, Serampore, Bhabua, Bhagalpur, Mazaffarpur, Gaya, Burdwan, and other places, and everywhere he was loved and respected by the people. Besides doing his official work, he always busied himself in works of public utility, such as establishing hospitals, founding schools, &c. He used to mix with all people, high or low, and make no distinction between Hindu and Musalman in public life. When he was in Katwa he repaired an ancient *masjid* by raising subscriptions. The inhabitants of Katwa will ever sing his praise.

HITAVADI  
July 18th, 1902.

21. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th July says that according to section 388 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a Magistrate has the option of releasing a person, sentenced only to pay a fine, if he can give security or gives his own personal recognisance for the payment of the fine within a prescribed time. The Magistrate of Faridpur, however, has ordered his subordinate Magistrates not to allow any convicted person the benefit of this provision of the law, and the order has become a source of great hardship to

An order of the Magistrate of Faridpur.



persons in that district who are sentenced to pay fines. An accused person cannot know beforehand what his punishment will be, and even if he be sure of being fined, he cannot guess beforehand what the amount of his fine will be, and he cannot therefore bring it with him into court. The Legislature foresaw this, and therefore, provided for the release on bail of persons sentenced to fines. It is not clear under what authority the Magistrate of Faridpur has proposed to defeat the object of the Legislature. In truth, no Magistrate has power, without authority derived from the High Court, to issue to his subordinate Magistrates an order like the one which the Magistrate of Faridpur has issued.

Already two Honorary Magistrates of Palong were unjustifiably insulted in consequence of the above order of the District Magistrate. They had fined an accused person, and had, under the abovenamed section, given him time to deposit the amount of the fine, when another Magistrate of the same Bench appeared and tore up the petition of the accused with the order of the first two Magistrates on it. The latter felt insulted and referred the matter to the Magistrate, and it was through his intercession that the matter was settled.

The District Magistrate ought to withdraw the order referred to above.

22. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th July fails to see the force of the argument used by the Joint-Magistrate of Arrah, in the case of the Babus Doman Lal and Janaki Prasad, to the effect that the witnesses for the defence, though respectable men who would not tell lies under ordinary circumstances, did tell lies in this case in order to save the accused, who also are men of high caste, position and respectability, from a probable punishment of imprisonment. The Joint-Magistrate's logic has, indeed, astonished the writer. Praised be the man who can say without hesitation that respectable witnesses can tell lies in order to save respectable accused persons from punishment. A Joint-Magistrate, possessed of so much intelligence as the Joint-Magistrate of Arrah is, ought to be at once raised to the position of a minister of the Government.

BANGAVASI,  
July 19th, 1902.

The refusal of the District Judge of Shahabad to grant bail to the accused, though twice petitioned to do so, also seems inexplicable. The detention in *hajut* of respectable men like the accused in the present case was quite unnecessary.

As both the accused have got their acquittal after trial, it is for Lord Curzon to enquire through whose fault these innocent men had suffered so much disgrace.

23. Referring to the constitution of the Honorary Bench of Barisal, the *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 22nd July writes as follows:—

BIKASH,  
July 22nd, 1902.

Some of the Honorary Magistrates seldom hold their Courts, while the rest have to work very hard. A second class Honorary Magistrate should sit on the Bench every day. So, on account of the smallness of the number of Honorary Magistrates vested with second class powers, the few who are vested with such powers have to work very hard. There should be at least six second class Honorary Magistrates to sit on the Bench on the six week days. Babu Jnan Ranjan Goswami, a third class Honorary Magistrate, is highly spoken of everywhere. He should be given second class powers. Again, considering the University career of Babu Kali Prasanna Datta, the local Sub Registrar, he should also be vested with second class powers.

BIKASH.

Wanted a joint Sub-Registry office in Barisal.

34. Referring to the necessity of establishing a new joint-office for the Barisal Sub-Registry office on account of heavier pressure of work in the latter (see Report on Native Papers of the 12th July 1902, paragraph 10), the same paper says that precedents are not wanting to show that a new joint Sub-Registry office can be established in Barisal. Such a joint-office has existed in Khulna town for a long time, while another has recently been established in Comilla town. A new joint Sub-Registry office in Barisal will be beneficial to the people, convenient to the *amla*, and profitable to the Government. It is therefore hoped that such an office will soon be established in Barisal.



## (d)—Education.

SANJIVANI,  
July 17th, 1902.

25. Referring to the proposals which are said by the *Bengalee* newspaper to have been made by the Universities Commission, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th July, in the course of an article entitled the "Ignorance-increasing Commission," writes as follows:—

The recommendations of the majority of the Commission have produced fear and alarm in our mind. It was one of the chief glories of the British Government in India that it was instrumental in spreading education among the masses. If the Government of India accept the opinion of the Commission and take action upon it, that glory will fade away and deep ignorance will spread over the land. In spite of the efforts the Government has so long made to spread education, 80 per cent. of the population of India are still illiterate, and the adoption of the recommendations of the Commission will almost stop even this slow, tiny spread of education by making it impossible for any but the rich to avail themselves of college education. The sons of rich men seeking college education are not many. Increased difficulty of the Entrance examination will make it impossible for the sons of rich men, ease-loving as they are, to pass that test. So, want of capacity in the case of the sons of rich men, and want of money in the case of the middle and poor classes, will stand in the way of their receiving a college education. And when the rich, the middle, and the poor classes are excluded from collegiate education, most of the colleges will cease to exist for want of pupils. But would it be safe for the Government to leave so many millions of its subjects without education? The poor now receive high education in private colleges which charge fees at very low rates, and they will have to go without high education if the rates of fees are raised.

It is not at all clear why the Commission is so much dissatisfied with second grade colleges. Is the Jagannath College at Dacca in any way inferior to any first grade College? Were the results of the Brajamohan College at Barisal, when it was only a second grade College, inferior to those of any other College in Bengal, excepting the Presidency College in Calcutta? The second grade Colleges at Dacca, Comilla, Agartala, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Tangail, Pabna, Hetampur, and Monghyr are doing excellent work. Their abolition would make Calcutta the only place where high education could be had, and a very large number of poor mufassal students will have to go without such education.

The proposal to introduce another examination before the Entrance examination is calculated only to tell upon the health of boys, who have already to pass too many examinations. Is this new examination going to be introduced with the object of reducing the number of candidates at the Entrance examinations? A reduction of the number of candidates in the Entrance examination will mean a reduction in the number of College students and the consequent abolition of the private Colleges. Is it, then, the object of the Commission to abolish the private Colleges, which have been the means of spreading high education in the country?

Will Lord Curzon darken the glory of British rule in India by acting according to the recommendations of the "Ignorance increasing Commission?"

HILAVADI,  
July 18th, 1902.

26. The *Hilavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th July says that by the manner of selecting text-books and by closing the door of employment against educated natives, Government has been for a long time doing its best to discourage high education, but without success. It has therefore proposed, as its last expedient, to raise the cost of high education. If the law classes in connection with the private Colleges are abolished, the latter will have to make up their loss by raising the fees in the arts classes and high education will then certainly become hampered. It is difficult to see what benefit the country will reap from such a check upon high education.

It is cheap high education which produced in this country men like Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Haris Chandra Mukherji, Revd. Kristo Mohun Banerji, Raja Degumber Mitter, Rai Kristo Das Pal Bahadur, Babu Sambhu Nath



Pandit, Babu Dwarka Nath Mitter, Pandit Madan Mohan Tarkalankar, and Babu Bhudeb Mukherji. Would not the country have suffered heavy loss, if these men had been prevented by a prohibitive cost of education from becoming what they did become? The writer is sorry to see Government so much alarmed at the spread of high education, while the Indian public has been filled with anxiety at the prospect of that education receiving a check. There are not many who can pay a school fee of Rs. 12 a month for each of their sons, and there is no reason why the private Colleges should be found fault with so long as they can impart an education, not certainly inferior, and in many cases superior, to that imparted in many Government Colleges. It is a pity that the Universities Commission should prepose to deal a blow at high education, after such a heavy blow only recently dealt at vernacular education. Will not the people of Bengal rise from their sleep, when all the fruits of Vidyasagar's labours are going to be destroyed? The object of Government seems to be to check the education of natives in order to create wider fields of employment for Eurasian boys and girls.

27. Referring to the proposals which are said by the *Bengalee* newspaper to have been made by the Universities Commission, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 18th July writes as follows:—

The alleged recommendations of the Universities Commission.

SAMAY,  
July 18th, 1902.

One of the proposals is the abolition of the law classes attached to private colleges and the establishment of a central law college. Another is the enhancement of College fees. It is a matter of great wonder that such proposals should come with the *imprimatur* of the Law Member of His Excellency the Viceroy's Council. A consideration of the weight and bearing of the two proposals will make the cause of the people's astonishment clear. First, abolition of the law classes attached to the private Art Colleges will result in the collapse of the latter; because it is the surplus of the receipts from the law classes which supports the Arts Departments: F.A., B.A., M.A., &c. Secondly, if the proposal of a central law college is carried, pupils from all quarters of a vast province will have to come to one place for the study of law, and that will mean an expenditure of a good deal of money and the infliction of great inconvenience and hardship on many students. How many will be able to pass through these difficulties and prepare themselves for the bar? The number of native lawyers will therefore diminish and the earnings of foreign lawyers will consequently increase. As it is the native lawyers who always find fault with the Government, Government will be gratified to see their number falling off. Blinded by selfishness Government fails to see that the administration of justice will be endangered if poor but talented boys find no opportunities for cultivating and displaying their merits. It forgets that the value of lawyers, whose learning and advocacy do much to ensure the efficiency of the administration of justice in the country, will run nearer and nearer towards extinction, if the Commission's recommendation is adopted.

If the Commission's proposal of enhancing the College fees is carried out, the axe will be laid at the root of high education. Children of rich people only will be able to read in colleges. The advancement of learning has so long been the motto of the University; its future motto will be "the suppression of high education." The policy which was encouraged by Lord Macaulay, Lord William Bentinck and Lord Ripon's Education Commission, and which has been fostered by a dozen Viceroys during the last fifty years is now going to be overturned by Lord Curzon's Universities Commission. The policy which produced such men as Kristo Das Pal, Rajendra Lal Mitra, Dwarka Nath Mitra and one of the Members of the present Commission, Guru Das Banerji—men who rose from poverty to high distinction in the country—if this policy is given up in favour of the policy which is proposed by the Universities Commission, then the children of the soil will be thrown back into the darkness which engulfed them during the decline of the Muhammadan rule in India. Let the whole country raise fierce agitation against this, and convince Lord Curzon of the injurious nature of the Commission's recommendations. His Excellency will not then be able to trample upon feelings of the vast public. His Excellency will not surely do a wrong thing if he comes to know that it will be a wrong thing to give effect to these recommendations.



PRATIVASI,  
July 21st, 1902.

28. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st July writes as follows :—

The Hon'ble Justice Amir Ali's *History of the Saracens* has recently been made a text-book in History for the B.A. Examination of the Calcutta University. This has been done when the students are not finding an opportunity of reading a good History of India, the country which at one time occupied the proud position of teacher of the civilized world. These students read and digest the History of the English people from the third class upwards. Histories of Greece and Rome, which a man cannot read without being inspired with patriotism and love of duty, are slowly being driven out of the Calcutta University curriculum. But, lo! high education cannot be complete without a study of a hundred pages of the *History of the Saracens*. In his preface to the history, Mr. Amir Ali says:—"The story of the Saracens like those of many other people tells us that although each community must work out its own regeneration according to its own individual genius, yet none can afford to wrap itself in the mantle of a dead past without the fatal certainty of extinction." *Hitopadesa* and *Æsop's Fables* teach boys many such lessons and a *History of the Saracens*, with its necessarily harsh nomenclature, is not needed to teach them such lessons anew. The annals of every nation have something peculiar to teach. Those of the Musalmans teach that during Moslem rule in India no man who was not a Parsian scholar was recognised as an educated man. But things have changed, and English literature and the History of England should be the first objects of study now-a-days. Roman and Greek histories and literatures should also be studied, as they are necessary for a full understanding of the history and literature of England. If, after reading all these, time and opportunity remain, the History of the Saracens may be read. Mr. Amir Ali himself described the Saracens as "a people whose name, unlike the Romans and Greeks, has not been familiar from childhood." Why then such anxiety to teach the history of an unfamiliar people? A strange selection also has been made of the portion to be read from the *History*. The portion begins thus:—"With the rise of the Abbasidis, &c." Those who have never heard of an Abbasidi will begin their study of the *History* with an account of the Abbasidis. Such an arrangement can be made only by the Calcutta University, in which an M.A. in Mathematics can become a member of the History Board. Mr. Amir Ali's book is, however, free from bad English, which has for some years past been a sure passport for a work on history in the Calcutta University.

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

PALLIVASI,  
July 16th, 1902.

29. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 16th July has learnt from Kaviraj

The Chairman of the Kalna Municipality in the Burdwan district. Ram Lal Gupta, a Commissioner of the Kalna Municipality in the Burdwan district, that the Municipal Chairman does not submit all letters, &c., to the Commissioners. Sometimes he shows them to his favourite Commissioners. The Chairman should know that he has no right to conceal any municipal matter from the Commissioners. It is hoped that henceforth he will mind his ways.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,  
July 16th, 1902.

30. The *Barisal Hitaiishi* [Barisal] of the 16th July says :—

Prostitutes in Barisal town. A disproportionate increase of the number of brothels in Barisal is making the atmosphere in the town very immoral. The prostitutes live in prominent places and in the midst of respectable quarters of the town. In the evening they make a parade of their winning arts in the streets, and turn the heads of young boys. A time there was in Barisal when prostitutes dared not to show themselves in public. But times are altered now. Appeals to the local Municipality and zamindars not to give residential quarters to bad women have been as ineffectual as crying in the wilderness. Our appeals to the District authorities have also been ineffectual. But the Lieutenant-Governor's endeavours to regulate the evil of prostitution in Calcutta have inspired us with the hope that His Honour may do something for Barisal also.



31. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 16th July writes as follows:—

The working of the Calcutta Municipality last year.

"Very good work has been done by the Municipality. The Commissioners performed their duties creditably; able men were employed on high salaries; the establishment of District offices has greatly benefited the rate-payers; complaints were few, and received prompt notice, and grievances were speedily removed." Such is the strain in which the Calcutta Municipality has sought to sing its own praise in its last Annual Report. But the rate-payers of Calcutta are fully aware of the chaos which rules the Municipal administration of the town. Health should be the first object of care within a municipality. But the working of the Calcutta Municipality in this respect was bad throughout the year. Accumulations of refuse in streets and the stench emitted by them failed to attract the attention of the Municipality. The supply of filtered water greatly troubled the rate-payers. Sometimes in the hot season the supply would stop at 8 A.M. to the great distress of the rate-payers, and would be resumed at 3 P.M. to last for the whole night, again to be stopped on the following morning. Streets were not watered, and dust filled the houses and choked the rate-payers. All the newspapers in Calcutta can testify to the truth of these statements. Truth cannot be concealed by self-adulation.

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
July 16th, 1902.

32. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th July draws the attention of the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality to the

A complaint against a Municipal officer in Calcutta.

unjustifiable and high-handed conduct of a Eurasian employé of the Municipality, who on the 7th July last, while the Uriya residents of Nebutala Lane were holding their usual Car festival, commenced to drive away the crowd by using his whip against them, and whipped even some Uriya *pandas*. When the *pandas* protested against his conduct, he asked to be shown the public license for the processions, ignoring the fact that there is a standing order of the Police Commissioner exempting Car processions on the day of the Car festival from special sanction, provided they do not go southward of Dharamtala Street. On the *pandas* replying that it is never their practice to take out licenses for such processions, the officer abused them, kicked at a Car, and went away. Shortly after about eight or ten *chaprasis* from the District Office No. 2 appeared on the scene, and took away with them the chief *panda*, and his men. The latter were brought before the same officer, who again abused the *pandas*, and beat those among them with a cane who dared to protest against his conduct. If the Chairman does not punish this officer, the Hindu community should combine to get this man punished.

SANJIVANI,  
July 17th, 1902.

33. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th July writes as follows:—

The Calcutta Municipality.

The officers of the Calcutta Municipality do not show the same energy and zeal in removing the wants and inconveniences of native rate-payers as they do in committing oppressions upon them. They seem to think that the natives enjoy the best health in localities full of filth and refuse. Otherwise, one should not see the Calcutta *bustees* in the horribly filthy condition in which they are found. Drawing the attention of the Municipality to this state of things avails nothing. The residents of the masonry houses in the lane near 54, Colootollah Street, more than once petitioned the Municipality regarding the filthy and insanitary condition of the *bustee* in that lane, but without the least effect.

HITAVADI,  
July 18th, 1902.

Do the native rate-payers pay a lower percentage of rates than Europeans that their complaints are never attended to? If the European quarter had been in as filthy a condition as the native quarter, and Government's attention had been drawn to it, would not the Chairman of the Municipality have been himself called to account? Is it not the duty of the Health Department to look after the health of the native rate-payers as much as to look after the health of the European rate-payers? Is there no one to bring the Municipality to its senses?

34. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 19th July complains of the extremely

An unhealthy quarter in Kalighat

unhealthy condition of Sikdarpara, the portion of Kalighat through which pass Sikdarpara Road and its three branches. There are seven or eight foul tanks in the locality, and the drains are very bad. The pestilential vapours issuing from these tanks and

RANGALAYA,  
July 19th, 1902.



drains and the stench therefrom make the place extremely unhealthy and unfit for habitation.

CHINSURA  
VARTAVAHA,  
July 20th, 1902.

35. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 20th July says that although the Bansberia Municipality in the Hooghly district takes Rs. 2½ for each dead body burnt in the Triveni burning ghât, yet it does not see whether people get sufficient wood. The rule is that five maunds of wood should be given for each dead body, but the *murdaferashes* seldom give more than three or four maunds. If more wood is wanted they give such bad wood that it cannot be lighted without the help of kerosine oil. Want of water closets in the *saraïs* on the Triveni ghât causes great inconvenience to females. There is a public privy in the place. But its proximity to the prostitutes' quarter prevents respectable men and women from resorting to it.

NIHAR,  
July 22nd, 1902.

36. The Ramnagar correspondent of the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 22nd July draws attention to the inconvenience which is being caused to the public by the abolition of some of the ferry ghâts on the Orissa Coast Canal, and by the transfer of the rest from Government's own management to that of private persons. Great extortions are committed at the latter ghâts, and especially at the Paniparul ghât, at which the residents of a large number of villages have to cross the canal on their way to many hâts and bazars, and which has been made over to the management of one Taju Khan. This ghât should not be kept under private management, but ought to be managed by the Canal Department.

BIKASH-II,  
July 22nd, 1902.

37. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 22nd July says that some time ago Mr. Kisch, the Commissioner of the Dacca Division, recommended a supply of filtered water for Barisal town. It is now rumoured that Mr. Weston, the District Magistrate, has gone to Dacca with a survey map of Barisal in order to consult with the Lieutenant-Governor there on this subject. The advantages of a supply of filtered water cannot be denied. But where will the money come from? If the Barisal Municipality makes a loan, it will be impossible for poor people to live in the town. Barisal is one of the poorest towns in Bengal. What will the poor people do with filtered water if they have nothing to eat?

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

CHARU MIHIR,  
July 15th, 1902.

38. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 15th July says that two roads should be constructed within the jurisdiction of the Fulpur thana in the Mymensingh district, one from Tarakanda bazar, through Lantia, Nalchapara, Batrakanda, Nitarasi, Kendua, Baolabazar, Mahadipur, Sukharparha and Agarpur, to Andaraghat of the Cucatala bazar on the southern bank of the Kansa river, and the other from the bazar, through Whakua bazar and the Baola village, to Barikandi bazar. The Local Board and the District Board have more than once been petitioned for the construction of the first road, but to no effect. The local people suffer greatly on account of the want of these roads, although they have all along been paying the roadcess. It is hoped that the authorities will do justice to them by constructing these two roads.

KASHIPUR NIVASI,  
July 16th, 1902.

39. The *Kashipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 16th July urges the necessity of speedily taking in hand the construction of the proposed Barisal Gaurnadi tramway line in the Backergunge district. The district is without a single railway or tramway line, and the sooner a tramway is constructed, the better will it be for its people. It will be wrong, however, to take the line through the Barisal town. If the line is hereafter extended to Jalakatti, as seems very likely, there will be no necessity for taking it through the town.

HITAVADI,  
July 18th, 1902.

40. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th July thanks Lord Curzon for his kindness in taking notice of the memorial of the Indian Association, circulating it to all Railway authorities, and requesting them to remove the grievances of third class passengers set forth therein. The people of



India will remain grateful to His Excellency for his recent Railway Circular directing the opening of Hindu restaurants at the principal stations, and the discontinuance of the practice of the railway administrations of selling licenses to vendors of goods on railway platforms at exorbitant prices.

41. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 22nd July says that the projected railway from Barisal to the river Gaur will, without doubt, facilitate locomotion, but the question is whether the advantage is worth purchasing at a cost of eight lakhs of rupees. Unless the projected railway can be carried at once to Jhalakati, the trade centre of the district, and thence to Faridpur, and thus connected with the metropolis by means of the Faridpur line, it would by no means be advisable to spend so much money on the proposed railway. No assurance to the effect that such an extension will be made in the future will induce anybody to consent to the construction of the proposed line at such enormous cost. But the proposed line cannot be carried to Faridpur without the co-operation of the Faridpur District Board, and it is not at all likely that that Board, which has got their town connected with the metropolis by rail at the cost of Government, not thinking it wise to spend anything on it itself, should agree to incur any expense for the construction of a railway line to so unimportant a place as Barisal. As the railway project is to be considered by the Barisal District Board at its next meeting, it is high time that the rate-payers and the Rate-payers' Association were up and doing, and entered a strong protest against the construction of the proposed railway.

BIKASH,  
July 22nd, 1902.

(h)—General.

42. A correspondent of the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st July has heard that the Hindu Government officers of the Balia district are being very much ill-treated by the local Government. Some of them have been transferred to very distant places, and replaced by Musalman officers. The system of making appointments on the results of competitive examinations is going to be abolished, because Musalmans are unable to compete with Hindus. Sir James La Touche ought to redress all these grievances.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
July 21st, 1902.

43. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 21st July has seen in an English newspaper that Lord Curzon intends to have his term of office extended by some years more, because his projected reformation of some branches of the Indian administration still remains incomplete. If he can, however, complete all this work of reformation within his tenure of office, he will prove himself the first statesman in England. Nor does it seem likely that Lord Curzon will remain in India beyond the ordinary term of office of all Indian Viceroys.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-  
DAS HABLUL  
MATEEN,  
July 21st, 1902.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

44. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th July has the following:—

"The English are not acting wisely or well. By saddling the poor Indian tax-payer with the cost of the reception to be accorded to its Indian guests in England on the occasion of the ensuing Coronation, the British Government has offered an insult to those honourable and illustrious guests, and done an injustice to the people of this country. The Secretary of State for India is, it would seem, unable to conceive that such action has lowered the English nation in the estimation of the Indians. Nor does he seem to have any idea of the rude shock that this decision of the British Government will give to the Indian princes who have been invited to witness the Coronation. Never before did we think or could bring ourselves to believe that an official or a statesman could do anything so unwise or impolitic.

Here in India there will be a grand Durbar at Delhi in January next. Lord Curzon is dominated by a spirit of Oriental barbarism. However greatly His Excellency may pride himself on his Oxford training, and however deep may be his conviction and however frequent his remark that, not succeeding to the precious heritage of Greek and Roman culture, the Indians stand at a great distance from the lofty ideal of the civilised world, it is undeniable that

SANJIVANI,  
July 17th, 1902.



personally he is more powerfully swayed by the Oriental than by the Greek ideal. The Greeks were worshippers of the spirit of moderation and reasonableness, while our present Viceroy is inordinarily fond of external pomp and glitter, in which there is neither measure nor moderation. It seems to us that he would consider his administration of this country successful if, under his rule, the English could revive in India the wealth, splendour and luxury which were witnessed in the days of the Musalman Emperors of Delhi. It is this idea that will find expression in the approaching Durbar at Delhi, and heaps of money will be wasted on that occasion. Many do not perceive or recognise the necessity of such expenditure, especially because it has to be met by the poor Indian tax-payer. Is it not enough that the Indians are to be saddled with the cost of the Delhi Durbar?

Our opposition to the decision of the Secretary of State to make India liable for the cost of entertaining the Indian Coronation guests in England is based not merely on considerations of justice to and fair dealing with this country in the matter of public expenditure. In fact, so far as the Coronation is concerned, it would cause very little regret or evoke very little opposition if the Indian tax-payer were to pay ten or even twenty lakhs of rupees as his contribution towards the cost of the ceremony. But the question is not merely one of money, but also one which possesses a deeper import for the people of India. The matter which has caused us the deepest pain, and against which we protest, is that by its decision, requiring India to pay for the entertainment of her native princes and others now in England, the British Government has assigned to this country a lower position than she deserves among the colonies and dependencies of the British Empire. We should have had nothing to complain of if the British Government had extended to the Coronation guests from India, to her native Princes and people's representatives, the treatment that it has accorded to the invited representatives from Australia and other British Colonies. In that case, we would have cheerfully borne any cost, however heavy, that might have been thrown upon this country. But the British Government has not done that, and it is this great difference in the matter of hospitality between the Colonies on the one hand and India on the other that has grieved us and made us feel insulted. In spite of all professions to the contrary, it would be foolish to imagine that Indian Princes have not been aggrieved by such treatment.

The representatives of the Colonies are all middle class men, while the Indian Princes are rulers of Tributary and Allied States. Does not the world see that the British Government has not accorded the latter the sort of reception that it has accorded to the former? And is not the fact a sufficient cause of mortification to those illustrious guests from India? It is really difficult to conceive what has led the men who are entrusted with the government of this vast empire to give proof of such injudiciousness.

And has not this small affair had the effect of lowering the character of Englishmen in the estimation of the Indians? Ignorant people are saying: "Hospitality which is paid for by the guest is something which the English alone are capable of practising, the mystery being one of which the Orientals are ignorant." By making the people of India liable for the cost of entertaining the Indian Coronation guests in England, the British Government has brought the English character into undeserved contempt with the natives of this country.

We know that the English are the most hospitable people in the world; in fact, no other nation can approach them in the matter of hospitality. To make their guests comfortable and happy, Englishmen and English women are most unsparing in their efforts, and cheerfully spend their time and money, as is constantly testified by all who have had the privilege of partaking of English hospitality in England. But this injudicious parsimony of the British Government on the occasion of the Coronation will cast a stain on the well-known hospitality of the English people.

45. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th July has the following:—

Cigarette-smoking in India.

Without food in his stomach, without a cloth round his waist, without water to allay his thirst, and without medicine to give him relief in disease, every Indian has yet

BANGAVASI,  
July 9th, 1902



a cigarette in his mouth. He is like one naked all over the body, but with a big red *puggree* on the head.

Last year, India imported cigarettes worth twenty-one lakhs of rupees. A very small portion of this large quantity of cigarettes was consumed by Europeans. The greater portion was consumed by the natives. The Europeans and a very small number of natives smoke good cigarettes. The majority of natives smoke the bad stuff which is so cheap. Most of the six lakhs worth of cigarettes imported from America was the cheap stuff, which was consumed by low class natives. A European advises the people of India to take this cigarette trade out of the hands of foreigners by themselves manufacturing the thing. This, he says, would prevent a large amount of Indian money from going out of the country. That is true. But what of the consequences that will be produced if cigarettes sell even cheaper than they now do? Already very young children are smoking cigarettes. With a cheaper article, the cigarette mania will certainly increase.

The European who advises the manufacture of cigarettes in India has, evidently, looked only at the economic side of the question, but not at its moral side. His advice may be good for a country which enjoys quite a plenty of the necessities of life, but it is not good for this country. Every country should have the necessities of life first, and luxuries next. What India now wants is advice which will induce her to throw away the cigarette, for she will be ruined if she does not throw it away.

46. Referring to the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Dacca town, the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 20th July writes as follows :—

DACCA PRAKASH,  
July 20th, 1902.

Dacca's prayer to the Lieutenant-Governor.

Lord, if you have kindly, come to our district, try to know its real condition. Our wants are many ; our grievances innumerable. We know not what to ask of you. Give us, O! kindhearted ruler, what you think to be best for us after knowing our real wants and grievances. And then the people of Eastern Bengal ever will remember Your Honour with gratitude.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

47. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 10th July states that cholera has made its appearance in Nayabazar in the Balasore town. The Jajpur correspondent of the *Utkal dipika* [Cuttack] of the 12th July states that some of the pilgrims who visited that town and some residents of that town died of cholera. The *Utkal dipika* states that many pilgrims were seen to lie on both sides of the Grand Trunk Road, called the Jagannath Road, suffering from cholera. Their condition was helpless, as they were deserted by their friends and companions. Some of them were alive, while others were dying or dead. Many pilgrims in the Puri town were seen to suffer from that disease. About 120 cholera patients were carried to the Puri cholera hospital. The doolie bearers were constantly seen to carry such patients to the hospital. Many were seen to die. All this was due to the presence of a large number of pilgrims in different centres of pilgrimage in Orissa, and they all came to take part in the *Ratha Jatra* festival.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
July 10th, 1902.

48. The Jajpur correspondent of the *Utkal dipika* [Cuttack] of the 12th July states that a large number of pilgrims, who were bound for Puri, to see the *Snan Jatra* and *Ratha Jatra*, alighted at the Jajpur station and visited the Jajpur town, and though passes under the Lodging-Houses Act were granted for the accommodation of 800 persons, though all available houses were brought under the operation of the Act by the imposition of a cheaper rate of fee, and though the Subdivisional Officer, aided by his Health Officer, Court Sub-Inspector, and other benevolent gentlemen of the station, placed the gentlemen of the station at the disposal of the pilgrims, many were seen to lie down on the sandy bed of the Baitarni, or under trees, or on other open places, entirely at the mercy of the inclement weather, and no one who has not personally seen them, can fully realise their sufferings or the agonising cries of the women and children by whom they were accompanied. The

UTKALDIPIKA,  
July 12th, 1902.



correspondent states that the Baiturni Pandas, the servants of the Biroja and Baraha temples, the shop-keepers and house-owners, and the cartmen and doolie bearers made a little money on the occasion.

UTKALDIPKA,  
July 12th, 1902.

49. The same paper contains an article on the Puri *Ratha Jatra*, in which it is stated that on the 5th July a magisterial order was issued to the effect that the four doors of the Jagannath temple would remain closed, and that the pilgrims would not be allowed to take part in the *Navajauvan* ceremony—an interfering and injudicious order, that was resented everywhere and that produced a great deal of dissatisfaction. A similar order was issued on the *Srigundicha* or *Ratha Jatra* day, but it was happily withdrawn on a representation being made to higher authorities by the temple servants. The writer estimates the number of pilgrims to have been about one lakh, out of which about 10,000 belonged to the United Provinces, while the remainder belonged to Bengal. Though passes were issued for the accommodation of 50,000 pilgrims, all the available open spaces in the Puri town and its neighbourhood, including shops, markets, road-sides, spots under trees, gardens, and tin-covered houses, were full of pilgrims. Intermittent showers of rain increased the difficulties and sufferings of these pilgrims, which were simply indescribable. The writer concludes his article by stating that the number of pilgrims was not very large, that it was not unprecedented, and that a little more forethought, coupled with a little more able management, would have obviated the necessity of closing the temple doors for three days in an important festival like *Ratha Jatra*, whereby the income of the temple servants was affected on the one hand and the dissatisfaction of the pilgrims increased on the other.

UTKALDIPKA.

50. The same paper is sorry to notice the death of Swami Vivekananda, who had made himself famous by preaching the Hindu religion and philosophy in Europe and America.

### NEKALDIFIKA.

51. The same paper thanks His Excellency the Viceroy and the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces for their wise statesmanship in restoring the Uriya language to its proper place in the Courts of the Sambalpur district, including the Feudatory States, whence it was banished for a short time. The writer observes that they have laid the entire Uriya-speaking race under a deep obligation, which they will never forget, while their names will become household words in every Uriya home. Their wise action will be recorded in the pages of history and their fragrant memories will be transmitted from age to age.

### UTKALDIPKA.

52. Referring to the settlement of cess-rates which is going on in the Cuttack district, the same paper points out that, for Reassessment of cess-rates in the Cuttack district. cess purposes, the annual value of *bajiafti* lakhiraj and *kharija* lands should be the annual rent fixed at the settlement, and not the valuation made according to the village rate, and quotes, in support of his opinion, an appellate judgment passed by the Commissioner of the Orissa Division on a certain appeal that was recently heard by him. The writer contends that those whose interests have already been prejudicially affected by the wrong views of the Settlement authorities, should receive the benefit accruing from the decision of the Commissioner.

## УТЕЖДИТЕЛЯ.

53. The same paper regrets to notice a collision between two railway trains near the Cuttack station, which resulted in damages to the engines and rolling-stock belonging to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, the passengers being saved by good luck.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE.

*The 26th July, 1902.*

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*



# REPORT (PART II)

ON

## NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

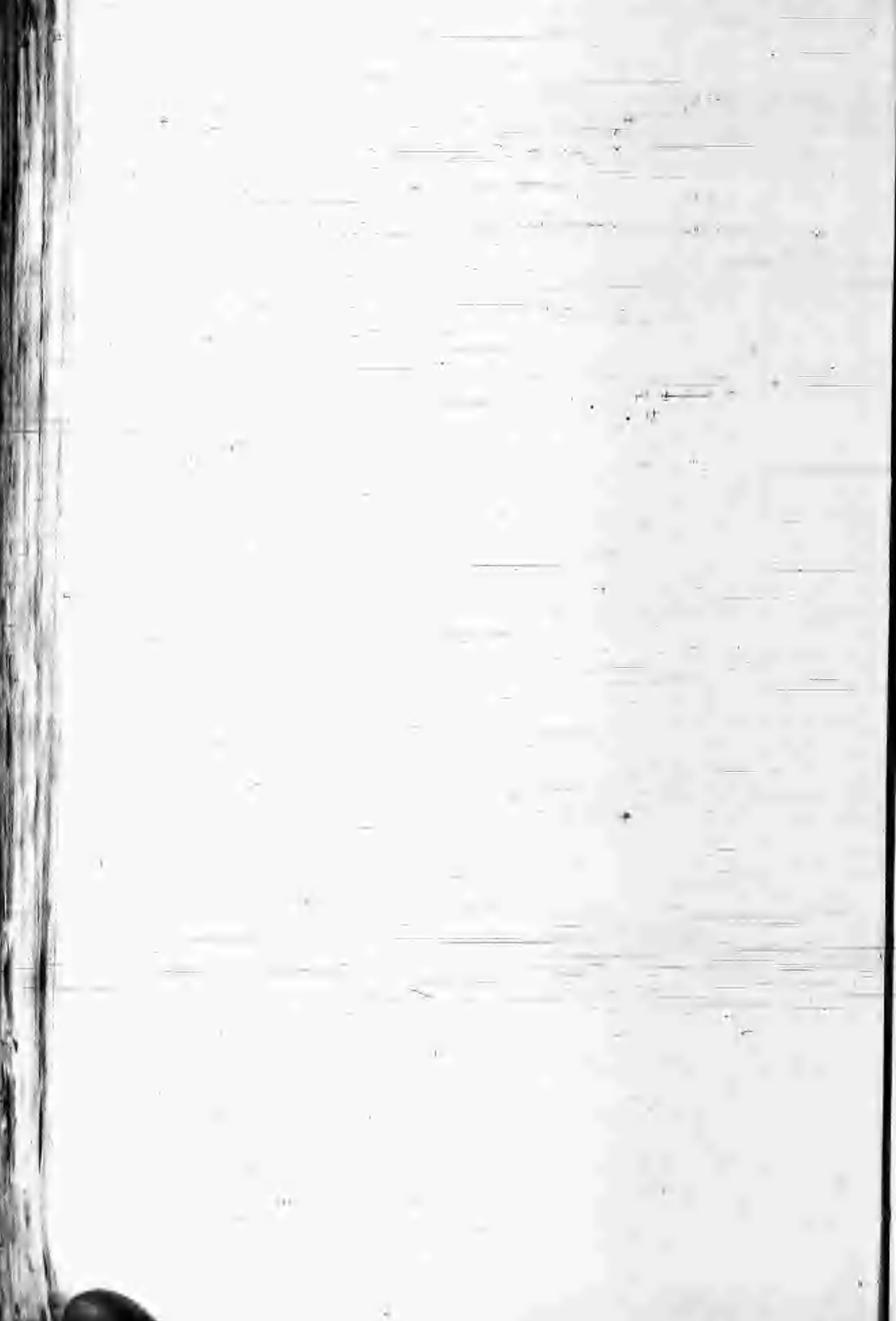
FOR THE

### Week ending Saturday, 26th July 1902.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

987. The *Indian Mirror* says that its surmise that the next great war of the world will be between England and France over Siam would appear to have not been an idle one. Each day that passes seems to deepen the jealousy between the two countries. It is a mercy that there are sober statesmen and peace-makers both in England and in France—and especially in France. But the tide of circumstances may prove too strong for the most strenuous peace-making swimmers. It almost looks that this will be the case in this Siam business.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
24th July 1902.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

988. The following paragraph is taken from the *Bengalee*:—

BENGALÉE,  
14th July 1902.

The Police Commission.

We have a profound distrust of all Commissions. They do little or no good. Sometimes they are positively mischievous, as the Universities Commission bids fair to be. We have no reason to believe that the Police Commission will be much better or much worse than have been other Commissions in the past. Mr. Fraser, the President, is a man who is honoured and respected by all who know him. But what can he do? He will be bound by his instructions and will be fettered by the dominating policy of the Government. As to the personnel of the Indian members of the Commission, we have to express our sense of disappointment. As the *Indian Mirror* puts it, those who ought to be on the Commission are not there, and those who have been appointed members have not shown any special aptitude for dealing with the problems which will be placed before them. But after all, what can the Indian members do? They will probably write a note of dissent, more or less forcible, which will be read with admiration but which will be carefully ignored.

989. Commenting on the Resolution of the Governor-General appointing a Police Commission, the *Indian Nation* says:—

INDIAN NATION,  
14th July 1902.

*Ibid.*

A great honour is to be done to non-official natives of India. Their views are to be ascertained by the Local Committees. At the same time it is declared that the Committees need not record any formal evidence. The views of non-official natives of India, therefore, may not be recorded, may not go before the Commission, or before the Government of India. They will be so summed up as to appear unintelligible and worthless. A Committee, constituted as above, is not likely to attach the slightest value to non-official native opinion. Under the circumstances, the ascertaining of the views of non-official natives will be one more farce that will give an aspect of fairness and catholicity to the proceedings, but will in no way tend to give anything like effect to non-official native opinion.

990. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that section 7 of the Resolution appointing the Police Commission, which directs enquiry into the proper stamp of men to be employed in the police, consistently with the recognized measure of European control in district charges, has created consternation all over the country.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
16th July 1902.

*Ibid.*

"What," it asks, "may the meaning be of the 'recognized measure of European control in district charges?' Does it mean, as the *Englishman* asks, that the charge of a district should always be in the hands of a European officer or that the District Superintendent of Police should always be a European, or it means both? If it means both, then adieu to all future hopes of the educated men of the country in the matter of entering the higher grades in the Executive department. If it means that the charge of a district should no longer be placed in the hands of an Indian, or that a native of India should not aspire to be at the head of the district police, it is equally a calamity of a stupendous character. Indeed this is the first time that, in a Resolution, the Government has boldly asserted the principle that European control is essential in district charges."



BEHAR TIMES,  
18th July 1902.

991. The *Behar Times* expresses its satisfaction at the appointment of a Police Commission and approves of the *personnel* of the Commission. Especially is it pleased with the Maharaja of Darbhanga's appointment.

It remarks that if ever the British Government in India comes to grief, it will be the result of police *zulum*. It therefore hopes that the results of this Commission will be beneficial.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
24th July 1902.

992. Continuing its articles on administrative reform, the *Hindoo Patriot* does not feel encouraged in reading the Government Resolution appointing the Police Commission.

First of all the scope allowed to the Commission is not commensurate with the details it is required to report on, and native popular opinion regarding the larger employment of that element to the higher ranks of the police service from the educated classes has not been considered. It is obvious, continues the *Patriot*, that District Superintendents thus recruited would exercise a greater check over their subordinates with whose language and life they are conversant than is now the case under European officers.

As regards the *personnel* of the Commission, the journal regrets that Assam and Burma have not been represented, and suggests the appointment of a native Judge of the High Court and a non-official member for Bombay.

In conclusion, the *Hindoo Patriot* hopes that the appointment of the Commission may result in the introduction of the desired reforms so urgently needed for the better Government of the country.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
17th July 1902.

993. The following observations on the attitude of the people towards the police are taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—

We said that the Government quarters, at the request of imbecile Magistrates, punitive police forces in tracts which, according to the latter, are in a disturbed state. Now expand the idea—but for disturbed tracts the whole of India—and for the punitive police the entire police force—and you will form an idea of the state of affairs in India. The Government has, as it were, quartered a punitive police force in India at the cost of the people, which, however, unlike other punitive forces, is not to be removed after a fixed period, but is stationed permanently.

The Indians are not the slaves of South Carolina; nor are they like the patriots of Ireland, ceaselessly fighting with their rulers; but are, on the other hand, subjects of His Majesty, who are proverbially gentle, submissive and loyal. Why should they be treated in this cruel manner? What is their offence? How have they deserved this treatment? Why should they have to live in trembling and fear all the days of their lives? Why should they lose all their manliness? What do the authorities gain by adopting methods, which simply emasculate the people?

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
19th July 1902.

994. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* expresses the opinion that it is impossible on the following grounds, for the Government to reform the police:—

- (1) They will not allow of the separation of the executive and judicial functions in the District Magistrate.
- (2) Europeans not being conversant with the manners, customs, instincts and language of the people do not make successful District Superintendents of Police.
- (3) The Government will not utilize Indians in this capacity, because it is not in accordance with their policy to do so.

It suggests the creation of Divisional Police Superintendencies for Europeans who should have charge of several districts, everyone of which should be placed in charge of an Indian Superintendent.

BENGALIAN,  
24th July 1902.

995. The *Bengalee* complains that the experience of Mr. T. Palit who laid stress in his evidence in a case in the Police Court upon the insolent behaviour of the mounted policemen, is not unique. Gentlemen of position and respectability have often been subjected to the same treatment at the hands of the police, especially of the mounted corps.

It asks the Commissioner of Police to impress on his men the necessity of being courteous to all.



## (b)—Working of the Courts.

996. Echoing the opinion of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, *Power and Guardian* regards the punishment meted out to Mr. Ryan as nominal, as the paper believes that he had not

POWER AND GUARDIAN,  
13th July 1902.

The Rajshahi cases. the remotest prospect of promotion for the next six months. In view of these circumstances it is "entitled to say that the Government of Sir John Woodburn is not seen at its best in the Rajshahi cases. If officials are to be treated in this milk-and-water fashion, there can hardly be any doubt that the administration of the country will suffer and get weak and weaker day by day."

997. Commenting on the Rajshahi cases, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the High Court should have stood by Mr. Lee, the Sessions Judge, and not caused his humiliation.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA,  
18th July 1902.

*Ibid.* Aggression is the function of the executive and protection the watchword of the judicial. But, alas, the Hon'ble Judges are giving up their privileges, and the former are lording it over the latter!

998. The same paper refers to the action of the District Magistrate of Rajshahi in hurrying on the cases against Shah Johorrul Husain and Pochal on the ground

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA,  
22nd July 1902.

*Ibid.* that Mr. Ryan's state of health necessitated his immediate departure for England, and sincerely trusts that the Rajshahi scandal having already assumed gigantic proportions, it will not be further increased by allowing Mr. Ryan to leave the country at the critical moment.

999. In the next day's issue, it continues severely to criticise the Magistrate of Rajshahi in his conduct of these cases, remarking that he has been guilty of betraying an

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA,  
23rd July 1902.

*Ibid.* excessive amount of feeling in underlining words in sentences in a judicial proceeding. His summoning Joharrul Husain to appear before him at an earlier date than that stated in his own order merely to accommodate Mr. Ryan, is characterized as most arbitrary. As regards the charge of perjury brought against Joharrul Husain, the journal thinks it highly improbable that "a poor native" will "severely" burn himself, implicate a District Superintendent of Police and get an Honorary Magistrate to perjure himself. It accordingly supports Mr. Lee, the Sessions Judge, in his opinion that the allegation is groundless and thinks that such biased conduct on the part of a Magistrate is improper.

1000. Reverting to the case of the two pleaders of Arrah who were sentenced to fifteen months' rigorous imprisonment by the Joint-Magistrate of Arrah and who were refused bail by the Sessions Judge and were in

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA  
15th July 1902.

The case of the pleaders of Arrah. consequence kept in confinement until the High Court ordered their release on bail, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks:—

The Government of Bengal came down upon Mr. Lee and humiliated him because he had meddled with some police-sent-up cases. Nay, the rumour is, there was a talk of degrading him if the High Court could be won over. May we enquire if the same Government is going to move in this matter, though two highly respectable pleaders of Arrah were put to all this trouble by the officials of that district? Surely, the Government cannot have clean forgotten that if its duty is to support its subordinate, its higher duty is to protect the people from the high-handedness of the latter.

1001. The *Indian Empire* comments as follows on the reasons which led the Joint-Magistrate of Arrah to refuse to believe the witnesses cited by the two pleaders, whom he

INDIAN EMPIRE,  
22nd July 1902.

*Ibid.* sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment:—

If this is not excellent fooling we do not know what else can it be. Certainly it cannot be the argument of a sensible man conscious of his responsibility. He would have believed the witnesses if the accused, instead of being respectable men as they are, were men of no substance. So, the only warrant he has of condemning the witnesses as perjurers is in the fact that the accused are respectable members of society. Not even Aristotle could have a more vigorous and convincing power of reasoning than this shining light of Arrah. He has no hesitation from the safe position of a Judicial officer to libel even men of the



position of a Munsif and a Government pleader as perjurers. Such is the training of most of our young Magistrates.

It is needless to add that in appeal this precious judgment has been set aside, the witnesses believed and the accused honourably acquitted.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
22nd July 1902.

1002. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* relates that an accused was charged before the Subdivisional Officer of Patuakhali with embezzling money and was let out on bail. Some days later, the District Magistrate visited the subdivision, read the records of the case and remarked that the man should not have been released on bail. On this, the Subdivisional Officer cancelled his order and the accused was sent to *hajut*, but on appealing to the District Judge, the man was released on bail. So, comments the *Patrika*, according to the District Judge, the Deputy Magistrate was right and the District Magistrate wrong in determining the alleged offence of the accused. And yet for this mistake on the part of the District Magistrate, the poor man had to rot in *hajut* unnecessarily from 9th to 11th July. The matter is surely one which deserves the notice of the Government, more so as the action of the Magistrate is a distinct violation of an express order of the Secretary of State.

(c)—Jails.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
18th July 1902.

1003. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* can only attribute the high death-rate in the Jubbulpore Jail, which, it understands, is endowed with the latest sanitary arrangements, to the abnormally rigorous punishment inflicted on convicts by the "discipline-mad" jail authorities.

The *Patrika* does not doubt that some of them are compassionate; but a keen sense of duty prevails, and whether a man is strong enough or not, he receives the wages of his offence, which, in a large number of cases, result in death.

If the authorities mean to lower the death-rate which is unparalleled in India, they must maintain a more normal standard of punishments.

(d)—Education.

BENGALIEE,  
14th July 1902.

1004. The *Bengalee*, noticing another recommendation of the Universities Commission, viz., the institution of a Final School Examination which students will be required to pass first before being permitted to appear at the Entrance Examination, says that this process of weeding will sensibly diminish the revenue of the University and seriously cripple its financial resources. With the raising of the college fees, the abolition of the unaided colleges, the closing of the 2nd grade colleges and the reduction of the number of candidates for the Entrance Examination, high education will, it says, have ceased to be an institution of the land and will have become the privilege of the few.

INDIAN NATION,  
14th July 1902.

1005. The *Indian Nation* says that it had long been apprehending the changes contemplated by the Universities Commission and is so used to dangers that no prospect, however serious, gives it a shock of surprise.

A blow dealt to high education and to legal education will, it says, be the crowning disaster, but one entirely in keeping with the recent traditions of Government.

BENGALIEE,  
16th July 1902.

1006. Contrasting the cheapness of education in Scotland which has stimulated the progress of Scotchmen, and contributed to their unique success among the nations of the earth, with the recommendation of the Universities Commission in India, to make education more costly than ever among a people whose poverty is the theme of the most serious Government concern, the *Bengalee* says that a "more illogical, a more preposterous piece of advice has never been offered to a responsible Government by a body of men charged with a high commission."



1007. Reverting to the "dismal tale which it is its duty to tell," viz., the recommendations of the Universities Commission, the *Bengalee* animadvertes upon the proposal that the school and college departments must not be in the same building nor must they be under the same management. This, it says, will have the effect of closing all such schools, and is, indeed, reform with a vengeance.

BENGALÉE,  
20th July 1902.

1008. The Shillong correspondent of the *Weekly Chronicle* complains of the inefficiency of the office establishment of the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, and the favouritism practised in it in the matter of filling vacancies. He remarks that the present Director is "incapable of reforming it, for he has not the grit to do it as evidenced by his mania for cancelling orders." It is, he adds, a pity that a "strong, considerate and tenacious man is not at the head of the department at the present period."

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,  
15th July 1902.

1009. Referring to the series of leading articles published by the *Bengalee*, on the subject of the Universities Commission's recommendations, the *Indian Mirror* writes that, although it would prefer to wait till the report of the Commission is published, the picture drawn by its contemporary of the future of higher education in India has filled the whole country with profound alarm, in that it is universally feared that Lord Curzon, with all his professions to the contrary, is no genuine friend of the cause of higher education in India.

BENGALÉE,  
18th July 1902.

1010. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* likens Mr. Mondy, the Principal of the Dacca College, who, because "a few naughty students inked three or four chairs," has fined the whole college for the offence, to the incompetent Magistrate who caused innocent people to maintain a punitive police force for the rascalities of a few undetected *badmashes*.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
19th July 1902.

This, at least, says the *Patrika*, is excusable in an executive officer who has more to do with muscles than brains, but not in the head of an educational institution who teaches logic and morality.

(1) - Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

1011. The *Bengalee* complains that whereas, originally, four Commissioners represented the villages of Garulia and Napara, which constitute the Garulia Municipality and five Commissioners were nominated by the local mills, the village element has gradually been eliminated and now only one Commissioner represents the villages, the rest being gentlemen connected with the mills. Also it is represented that taxes are levied by the Municipality according to the valuation of the holdings and, in some cases, they have been enhanced three or four times. In particular, it draws attention to the high rate of the holding and latrine taxes which are higher than what people in Calcutta pay, and that although nearly 150 applications have been made to the Chairman protesting against the assessments, not a single application has, up to date, been laid before the Appeal Committee and disposed of. The situation, it says, is serious and the rate payers' grievances should be looked into and redressed.

BENGALÉE,  
19th July 1902.

1012. The *Hindoo Patriot* remarks that the Government has kept the secret relating to the city improvement scheme "far too well," but that in its opinion the public should be given an opportunity of commenting on it before it goes up to the Secretary of State. Its silence betrays a want of confidence in the Corporation as well as in the people, which has led to great irritation.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
19th July 1902.

1013. The *Bengalee*, referring to the numerous complaints it has received of the interference of the Magistrate-Chairman of the Dacca Municipality, begs His Honour to spare no pains to improve matters.

BENGALÉE,  
20th July 1902.



(h)—General.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,  
12th July 1902.

1014. The *Moslem Chronicle* is thoroughly in accord with the suggestion of Mr. C. W. Whish that the elaborate multiplication of rules to guide the operations of the

Agricultural Banks.

Agricultural Banks should be done away with; that the present rate of interest at 9 per cent. should be reduced, and that the operations of the Banks should be extended to such classes as weavers and artisans. But it is decidedly against lending money for social functions and festivities.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,  
13th July 1902.

1015. *Power and Guardian* is indignant that the Joint-Magistrate of

Complaint against the Joint-Magistrate of Sirajganj.

Sirajganj should have compelled two men to take *chira* and *dahi* from the hands of women whom they had treated as out-castes, and insists

on the officer being told "in precise and unmistakable terms that questions of Hindu social polity are beyond his province and constitute a sacred preserve where his poaching will not be tolerated for a minute."

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
15th July 1902.

1016. Referring to the closing of the temple in Puri on the occasion

The Car festival in Puri.

of the *Rath Jatra* festival, the *Hindoo Patriot* describes the sufferings entailed on the five hundred

thousand pilgrims assembled who were deprived of the *Mohaprasad* obtainable from the temple, which is the only food they are permitted to partake of during the pilgrimage. That such physical suffering, spiritual despair and police goading did not lead to riots, which no police or military could check is a matter for thankfulness. The scene is such as the *Patriot* should have liked Dr. Weldon to have witnessed. It would have cooled his proselytising zeal.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
18th July 1902.

1017. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:—

Arrest of the Raja of Puri.

The following disquieting news comes from

Puri:—

PURI,

The 16th July 1902.

A warrant of arrest with a bail of Rs. 1,000 was issued against the Rajah of Puri, for his non-attendance before the Magistrate on the 14th instant, to produce evidence supporting his telegram to the Local Government and the Divisional Commissioner against the Magistrate's order stopping the ascension of Jagannath to the Car on the *Rath Jatra* night. The Police Inspector arrested the Rajah yesterday in the zenana mahal. The Raja was released on bail. Magistrate examined the Rajah in Court yesterday and discharged him. The Magistrate's proceedings have caused the greatest alarm and excitement. This has also wounded Hindu religious feelings, as the Rajah of Puri is looked upon as "moving Bishnu."

Needless to say that the telegram will produce the greatest sensation possible among the Hindus in all parts of India.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
23rd July 1902.

1018. In connection with the arrest of the Raja, the same paper enquires whether there is any truth in the allegations that the doors of the Raja's zenana were broken open

*Ibid.*

and the Raja himself abused.

From the nature of the information communicated by its special reporter, the *Patrika* thinks that serious consequences are likely to ensue from the high-handedness of the local authorities.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
15th July 1902.

1019. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* regrets to notice a revival of anti-

Hindus versus Muhammadans.

Hindu feeling in different parts of India, such as it says existed in the time of Lords Lansdowne

and Elgin, and in support of its statement refers to the stoppage of the Car festival by the officials in Puri; the stoppage of music near mosques during the *Rath Jatra* festival at Ghazipur; the defilement of the temple at Benares the wholesale transfer of Hindu officials from Ballia and the appointment of Muhammadans in their places; and, finally, the appointment of Muhammadans as Naib Tahsildars and Tahsildars by the Board of Revenue of the United Provinces far in excess of their share.



1020. The Habiganj correspondent of the *Weekly Chronicle* complains that the Sub-Registrar of Habiganj exceeds his orders and insists upon the attendance at his office of women arriving in boats for the purpose of registering documents. There being an order exempting these persons from attendance and requiring their examination in their boats, the correspondent hopes the attention of the authorities will be drawn to the breach of the rule on the Sub-Registrar's part.

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,  
15th July 1902.

1021. While congratulating the planting community of Assam on their attitude towards the excise system as worked in Assam, the *Weekly Chronicle* nevertheless blames the planters, many of whom are themselves owners of grog-shops, for encouraging the taste for strong drinks among their coolies. At the same time it complains that as it is at present worked, there is far too little supervision of the excise shops and a disposition of the authorities to applaud those officers who have done their best in increasing revenue—a position which is hardly consistent with the professed anxiety of Government for the moral welfare of the people. As so important a body as the tea-planters of Assam have taken up the cudgels, the *Chronicle* hopes that Government will spare no pains to remove the evils complained of.

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,  
15th July 1902.

1022. The *Weekly Chronicle* draws attention to the mistake made in the Assam Civil List of showing the names of Honorary Magistrates in four out of the five subdivisions of Sylhet, who have either been removed by order of Government or have rendered themselves liable to removal owing to their continued absence. These latter, it urges, ought to be removed from their position. Others, too, are recommended for removal on account of their lack of education and whose private lives do not inspire the public with confidence.

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,  
15th July 1902.

1023. The *Hindoo Patriot* invites the Viceroy's attention to the Resolution issued by the Bombay Government on the question of the remission of land revenue in that Presidency, which is diametrically opposed to the spirit of the declarations of the Viceroy himself, and the Home and Finance Members made at the last Budget Debate—that all famine arrear revenue, either recoverable or not recoverable, was to be remitted.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
17th July 1902.

It exhorts His Excellency to bring pressure to bear upon the Bombay Government to carry loyally into effect the behests of his Government.

1024. The *Bengalee* advocates the claim of the gardeners of His Excellency the Viceroy's Park at Barrackpore to a pension which their predecessors have enjoyed, instead of being granted an honorarium, and hopes that His Excellency will take the case of the men into his merciful consideration. At least, it asks, that the rule might not be enforced in the case of men who took up service before it was passed.

BENGALIEE,  
22nd July 1902.

1025. The *Bengalee* condemns as un-English the action of the Magistrate of Backergunge in stopping local Government offices from giving any printing work to the *Hitaishi* Press and the *Bikash* Press, two out of the five presses in Barisal, and calls His Honor's attention to the order of the Magistrate.

BENGALIEE,  
22nd July 1902.

1026. The *Hindoo Patriot* enumerates the following measures which call for reform, and cites the opinion of the National Congress leaders, His Excellency the Viceroy and his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the importance of improving the Police:—

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
23rd July 1902.

- (1) Reform of the Police;
- (2) Separation of the judicial from executive functions;
- (3) Reconstruction of the Legislative Councils on a more liberal and extended scale for allowing a voice to the elective element;
- (4) Wider employment of the natives of India in the public service on a footing of equality with British-born subjects as regards their pay and prospects;
- (5) Endowment of a permanent fund for mitigation and prevention of famine;



- (6) Official support for development of the ancient arts and industries of India;
- (7) Abolition of that unpopular and universally condemned impost, *i.e.*, the income-tax;
- (8) Holding of the Civil Service examinations in England and India at the same time;
- (9) Substantial reduction of Home and Military charges;
- (10) Necessary reduction of Court-fee stamps;
- (11) Improvement of high education;
- (12) Widespread diffusion of mass education;
- (13) Improvement of scientific education and training;
- (14) Improvement of technical education;
- (15) Agricultural improvements;
- (16) Lightening of the public burdens;
- (17) Miscellaneous projects.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
23rd July 1902.

1027. From the speech of the Managing Director of the "India Development Company, Limited, England," which is quoted, the *Indian Mirror* says that virtually the Government of India has become a Company Promoter in this particular business, which has for its object the helping of Bihar planters and the Indian Government professedly and the shareholders of course primarily.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
24th July 1902.

10 8. The following comments on Lord Curzon appear in a leader in the *Indian Mirror*:—We have nothing to urge against Lord Curzon himself personally. "By your acts will you be known." We are grieved to say that Lord Curzon's acts have been mostly in the nature of abortive or mischievous Commissions and Committees in one direction, and interminable tours, and pageantry, processions and firing of salutes, which he himself deprecated at the threshold of his administration, in another. He said then, that 'the salvation of India is his duty.' The conception was correct enough, but the execution has been almost always wrong and misdirected. Were Lord Curzon a less clever man, he would be less self-opinionated. He should then not send Commissions and Committees flying about the country—not to collect and digest independent non-official opinion, but to merely carry out a certain programme which he had already thought out in his own mind to achieve a certain end in a particular manner. Lord Curzon will brook no contradiction and no denial. He must have servants obedient to his will, and the Great Mogul himself could not have been more slavishly served. Take the two latest Commissions. The Universities' Commission had certain definite instructions issued to them, and beyond them they could not go. And it is very likely to happen that educational retrogression, instead of educational progress, will ensue. Again the Police Commission cannot take up Police abuses, such as have all but shattered the belief in the purity of the Police administration. Of one thing we feel almost certain, that posterity will know the Viceroy as "Commission Curzon."

Lord Curzon.

1029. The *Behar Herald* inveighs against the practice of administering corporal punishment either to adults or children, averring that the system of flogging has not proved successful. "Can," it asks, "the wisest course of weaning people from brutality be to commence their punishment by a manner of treatment which involves at the same time moral humiliation and physical torture? Absurd!"

BEHAR HERALD,  
23rd July 1902.

1030. The *Bengalee* draws the attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the status to which the junior assistants in the Bengal Secretariat have been reduced by the abolition of the graded system in those offices, and by the grant of extension of service to men who have completed 55 years of age and are therefore required by the rules to retire.

BENGALKEE,  
25th July 1902.

A spirit of discontent, it says, at present prevails in the lower ranks of the clerical staff, and it is no wonder that this should be the case, inasmuch as some of the assistants have got no promotion at all for the last 10 or 12 years.



Under these circumstances the grant of extension after extension to men who have earned their pension is to deal a death-blow to the prospects of the junior clerks.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

1031. The following is taken from the *Indian Empire*:—

The treatment of Indian Princes. Our readers are aware that a party was given in London by the London Indian Society in honour of the Coronation. The Indian Princes at present residing in London were invited to grace the function with their presence. But unfortunately those Indian Chiefs did not join the party at all. The cause of this absence must be highly regretted, if any reliance is to be placed upon the statement appearing in the columns of *India*. Our contemporary says that a quasi-official hint had been conveyed to the Indian Princes and Chiefs to the effect that their absence "would be more palatable to the India Office and more conducive to their interests than their presence." In other words, official pressure was brought to bear upon these Princes to hold themselves aloof from a gathering where educated Indian gentlemen under the presidency of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji met. If *India* has been correctly informed, we do not find words sufficiently strong to condemn the action of the India Office authorities. The entire absence of the Indian Princes from the party given in their honour by the London Indian Society, no doubt in a manner confirms the statement published above. The lot of the Indian Princes is sad in the extreme. Why make it sadder by placing humiliating and insulting checks upon their movements?

INDIAN EMPIRE,  
22nd July 1902.

1032. The *Indian Mirror* has the following:—

European traders and Native Chiefs. Certain ruling Chiefs in India are in a state of chronic indebtedness. Why should that be so? Plague and famine will not account for the indebtedness, neither will low tastes and riotous living. There are several other contributory causes. One of them is notorious. Many years ago, a strange tale was revealed of the repudiation by a great Chief of a great debt for the alleged sale to him of a great jewel. The matter formed the subject of a sensational criminal trial in a certain High Court. Quite recently there was a Civil Court trial in which the names of two other Chiefs figured prominently. We only care to ask a very little question—cannot European traders, itinerant and others, be prevented from paying visits to Rajahs and Maharajahs?

INDIAN MIRROR,  
23rd July 1902.

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

1033. The following paragraph appears in *Power and Guardian*:—

The Landlord and tenant in Pabna. The reader cannot have forgotten the triumphal progress of the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division through the district of Pabna and the attitude he took up in respect of the raiyats. We feared at the time that the illiterate masses would not realise their true position but would assume a defiant attitude towards the zamindars. What we feared has come to pass. The Criminal Courts find themselves suddenly face to face with a plentiful crop of frivolous cases, too heavy to cope with them; the raiyats are withholding rents on this pretext and that; the zamindars are being harassed and humiliated in every conceivable manner; and litigation is increasing with railway speed. We believe the Government will have, by this time, found out their mistake.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,  
13th July 1902.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1034. The *Indian Nation* "regards the recent little ebullitions of Mahratta

Mahratta loyalty. feeling in a corner here and a corner there as probably occasioned by some of the teachings of a book published a few months ago on this side of the country." That they represent no abiding or universal sentiment will appear from the attitude of the leader of the Mahrattas, Maharaja Scindia, whose speech (which the *Nation* quotes) at the Royal Asiatic Society's Coronation Banquet gave expression to sentiments very different from journalistic discontent.

INDIAN NATION,  
14th July 1902.



BEHAR HERALD,  
23rd July 1902.

1035. Referring to the success that attended the celebration of the Sivaji festival in Calcutta which showed "how the tremor of awakening national life is slowly but surely pulsating through the people and welding Indians of conflicting castes and creeds into a homogeneous whole," the *Behar Herald* offers the following suggestion:—

The Sivaji festival.

We very much wish that our countrymen could make out a list of our great men and hold commemoration meetings every year throughout the land. The value of such solemn gatherings can hardly be overestimated. England is great because she remembers and worships her great men. Let Indians too do the same if they really wish to rise high in the scale of nations. Hero-worship affords a common ground where all may meet and shake hands in sympathy and fellowship. It is the best harmoniser of discordant elements—far better than many of our vaunted political associations.

INDIAN NATION,  
14th July 1902.

1036. The following paragraph is taken from the *Indian Nation*:—

An incident in Calcutta during the Rath Jatra.

The local incident which a contemporary describes under the heading "Alleged High-handedness" has a moral. A European or Eurasian interfered with the pulling of a Jagannath car on the day of the *Rath Jatra*, dispersed the crowd, committed sacrilege by kicking at the car and having it removed by some Muhammadans, and committed assault and battery right and left on a number of persons who had done nothing to provoke him. What hope is there, what hope ever *was* there, of a people amongst whom a single white-skinned individual can thus treat a large number of men with impunity? Were these the men to be redeemed into freedom even by Mahratta valour? We wonder why our contemporary calls this unknown person, whose acts were ruffianly and criminal, "a Eurasian gentleman." One little fact our contemporary is not apprised of. It was a Muhammadan who, alone and unaided, out-bullied the breaker of the public peace, answered threat with threat and compelled him to retire. Then the Bengalees and Uriyas began to talk big and even to be humorous. Without the help of that plucky follower of Islam, the Hindus might have fared even worse. If it is true that 8 or 12 chaprasis from District Office No. 2 acted under the orders of the European, it should not be difficult to trace him and bring him to book. The chaprasis themselves have an account to render.

INDIAN NATION,  
14th July 1902.

1037. The *Indian Nation* comments as follows on the proposal to make India pay for the Coronation Reception at the India Office:—

India and the Coronation Reception at the India Office.

The utter absence of justice and generosity from the arrangement is made all the more glaring by a certain contrast. India has to pay not only the cost of the reception, but the expenses of the Indian guests, that is, their travelling expenses and hotel bills. England, however, will bear the expenses of the colonial guests. The distinction appears to us indefensible. "I am to invite and you are to pay" is a principle unfair enough in all conscience, and we have not even the melancholy satisfaction of being favoured with that justice which consists in an equality of unfairness to all. Fairness is specially reserved for the colonies; that is all the more woe to us. India was ready to fight in South Africa. If the offer was refused, she should be taken to have rendered the same service as any country whose assistance was accepted.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
19th July 1902.

1038. Every Englishman, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, approved of

The Coronation and England's Indian guests.

India's invitation to the Coronation, but not all of them from the same motive. It is certain that there were some who sought to strengthen the bonds of friendship, but the majority wanted to impress Indians with their power and greatness. Of this, the India Office entertainment affords ample proof. Then again, the journal continues, India alone has had to pay the expenses connected with the entertainment of her celebrities. Under such humiliating circumstances, asks the *Patrika*, would any Indian have cared to attend the Coronation of King Edward VII?

INDIAN EMPIRE,  
2nd July 1902.

1039. The *Indian Empire*, quoting Mr. Fawcett, says that England's behaviour towards India in the matter of saddling her with the cost of the Coronation Reception at

*Ibid.*



the India Office, is the "master-piece of meanness." Perhaps, it says, it may be argued that there is no meanness in doing the meanest of acts towards a people who, in Lord George Hamilton's opinion, are savage and voiceless, helpless serfs.

1040. With reference to the payment by India of the cost of entertaining the Indian Chiefs at the India Office, the

A significant suggestion.

*Bengalee* draws attention to the letter of "Anglo-Indian" in the *Madras Mail*, suggesting that, sooner than have the charge made upon India, every Englishman now in this country or at home, who has during his stay in India received hospitality from native rulers or wealthy citizens, for which he has been unable to make any sort of return, should subscribe to a fund for the purpose of bearing some part of the cost of the Coronation expenditure, and so save his *amour propre*.

BENGALÉE,  
23rd July 1902.

1041. Adverting to the postponement of the Parliamentary debate on the Indian budget till the autumn, the *Bengalee* says that the discussion having hitherto been more or less a farce, it matters little to India whether it comes off in the summer session or in the autumn session or does not come off at all.

BENGALÉE,  
23rd July 1902.

1042. The *Bengalee* writes that the verdict of accidental death of the

BENGALÉE,  
24th July 1902.

Coroner's Jury in the case of Babu Monmotha Dhar De, who was run over by an electric car, has not given public satisfaction, and that, in consequence, a suit will be filed in the High Court against the Tramway Company. The journal's advice to the Company is to settle the matter out of Court.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL  
OF POLICE, L. P.,  
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,  
The 26th July 1902.

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



