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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 27th August 1904.

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ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

BHARAT MITRA,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

COMMENTING on the action of Russia in sinking a British ship, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 20th August says that it is specially injurious to British trade, because Russia takes no notice of the German merchant ships which are freely going to the Eastern seas with German goods, while England has stopped sending her ships to those waters. The Germans would say, "This is the result of England's friendship with Japan." It seems something is yet brewing somewhere secretly.

2. The same paper has the following:—

BHARAT MITRA.

The Tibet Mission. The European nations will leave nothing undiscovered. The combined Powers of Europe have made the discovery regarding the secrets of Peking, the capital of China, so as to turn that town topsy-turvy. Now through the kindness of Lord Curzon the secrets of Lhasa, the famous seat of the Lamas have been made known. The Mission is making itself merry at Lhasa and forcing the people by threats to give food supplies. But we see it is not the secrets of Lhasa alone but of Nepal too that the British Government is anxious to know. The following passage occurs in the letter of a correspondent of the *Englishman* of the 16th August:—

"The secret of Lhasa is on the very verge of being given up, and Tibet will soon be formally annexed to the list of known countries. There is another country nearer to India than Tibet, however, about which our information is almost as scanty as about the kingdom of the Grand Lama. It is a country with which we have had some difficulty in the past, yet with which our relations are moderately satisfactory to-day."

So Nepal will also soon find a place in the list of known countries, although it is now a friendly ally of the English Government and rendering material help to the Tibet Mission. One's head has become dizzy to read the letter in the *Englishman*.

HITAVARTA.
Aug. 21st, 1904.

3. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 21st August laughs to see that the English merchants have already commenced forming trade companies for exploiting the country no sooner the Mission has reached Lhasa, but fears that they may be successful one day. There is hardly anything which Englishmen may not do for trade.

4. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August writes as follows:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
Aug. 23rd, 1904.

The Tibet Mission. The attitude of the Tibet Mission has, from the very beginning, been imperious and overbearing. The spirit of conquest rather than of peace has everywhere marked its progress. If Colonel Younghusband had been a firm, strong-minded and generous statesman, if, instead of being blinded by imperialism, he had calmly tried to accomplish his real object, the Peace Mission would not have given rise to so much trouble or led to the shedding of so much innocent blood. As matters stand now, the Tibetans have no doubt had a bitter experience of the strength and prowess of the British Government, but has it taught them to love and respect it? There is a world of difference between a treaty obtained by love and a treaty extorted by force. Overawed by the British troops, the Tibetans may enter into a treaty with the British Government, but whether it will last long after the troops have been withdrawn from Tibet is very doubtful. The Dalai Lama's flight from Lhasa confirms this doubt. As a matter of fact, the common people of Tibet are not so eager to make a treaty as the Lamas are. Who can therefore say that the moment the British troops will retire from Tibet, the Tibetans will not break the treaty?

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

5. A correspondent of the *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 16th August complains of the oppressions that are being committed by *budmashes* in the Pathair village of the Tippera district. On the 25th *Sravan* last, a

TRIPURA
HITAISHI,
Aug. 16th, 1904.

gentleman while going by boat to the Hajganj railway station, was waylaid and severely beaten and his boat was sunk, his only offence being that he had threatened to bring the misdeeds of the *budmashes* to the notice of the police. It is to be hoped the District Magistrate will take steps to put down the ruffians.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Aug. 17th, 1904.

6. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 17th August observes that thefts have been constantly occurring for some time past in the villages under the jurisdiction of the Khargpur and Naraingarh thanas. The police have arrested many people on suspicion, and these men

are now rotting in prison, but the number of thefts has not at all diminished in consequence. In July last a serious dacoity was committed in *Khakurda chati* (serai) which is situated on the Contai Road, under Naraingarh thana, and more recently another dacoity was committed in the village of *Khelar* in Khargpur thana. The public impression is that the police have not yet been able to get hold of the real culprits. A specially selected officer should be sent to this place to cope with these growing outrages.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 18th, 1904.

7. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th August says that the Kalus of Kedarpur, a village in the Mymensingh district, are committing the worst outrages upon the villagers. They have plundered the *hat* and are damaging the crops of the cultivators by grazing

cattle on their fields. They ravished a young widow named *Dinamani*, and two other young married women named *Sarada* and *Barada*, and thus ruined them for ever. A few days ago the panchayet, *Babu Kalinarayan Ray*, while travelling by boat, was attacked and severely hurt by the Kalus, who decamped with the purse containing collections of the *chaukidari-tax*. Next day *Kali Babu* went to the *Nagarpur* outpost and wanted to submit a written statement of the occurrence, but the writer constable refused to accept it. Since the 14th *Sravan* last, the day of the occurrence, the villagers have been in great consternation. It is to be hoped that the authorities will save them from these atrocities.

BHARAT MITRA,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

8. Referring to the case in which one *Gouri Sankar Bania* was charged with having killed a *Marwari* boy, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 20th August observes that such a nefarious crime has never been perpetrated in this town before. There is no doubt there are wicked men and scoundrels in this town whom the police do not reach; but the story told of this murder is simply shocking.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

AL PUNCH,
Aug. 6th, 1904.

9. *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 6th August is sorry that one of the Judges of the Calcutta High Court lost his temper on seeing a pleader speaking something to his *peshkar*. Such conduct does not appear to be worthy of a Judge of the Calcutta High Court. The pleaders of the High Court ought to bring the matter to the notice of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice.

AL PUNCH.

10. The same paper is glad at the sense of justice displayed by the Magistrate of *Dinapur* in dismissing the case in which a native lad was charged by a European with having stolen the lantern of his bicycle. The Magistrate found on evidence that the European was detected with a European lady behind a bush by this lad, and thus saw through the whole case.

AL PUNCH.

11. The same paper says that if the charge of abduction brought against the Special Sub-Registrar of *Darbhangha* be true, there is just cause for indignation on the part of the public. The case is being enquired into by the police.

ARYAVARTA,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

12. Referring to the light punishment awarded by the Magistrate of *Darjeeling* to two European soldiers for rash driving, the *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 20th August observes that if the whites are punished so lightly even in such cases, how can their vagaries be checked?

13. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 22nd August publishes the following in English:—

DACCA GAZETTE,
Aug. 22nd, 1904.

Outrage on female modesty.

Mymensingh had hitherto enjoyed the unenviable notoriety of being the district most infested by *budmashes* committing inhuman outrages on female modesty. Dacca claimed complete immunity from this class of rascally crime. But, it seems, we are living in a fool's paradise. The case of rape, in which a young woman was brutally outraged by seven Muhammadans, that has just been tried at the Dacca Sessions Court, will go to confirm our statement. After four days' protracted trial the accused have been found guilty by the Judge and the jury and they have been sentenced to 10 years' transportation. The conviction of the ruffians, whose brutal conduct naturally shocks humanity, has given entire satisfaction to the public, and it is hoped that this will serve as a severe lesson to others who may be similarly inclined.

(d)—Education.

14. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th August observes that hitherto, when granting aid to the primary schools, Government used to be guided by the results of each school at the examinations. This rule has recently been changed. Under the new system, Government will take as its guide the report to be made by the Sub-Inspectors of Schools after a personal inspection in each case. These Sub-Inspectors will thus henceforth become the controllers of the destinies of the *patshalas*, and the *gurumohasays* will have to conduct their teaching only with an eye to the satisfaction of the Sub-Inspector. If they are by any means unfortunate enough to incur the displeasure of that officer, their means of livelihood would be taken away from them. What guarantee is there that under these circumstances the *gurus* will not use any and every means to gain the good-will of this arbitrator of their destinies? Who shall say that these Sub-Inspectors with their poor pay will not forget themselves under this strong temptation? Neither will it be possible for the Sub-Inspector to inspect all the schools each year. It is not desirable that officers engaged in such sacred work as teaching should be placed within reach of any such temptation.

CHARU MIHIR,
Aug. 16th, 1904.

The new rules for grants-in-aid to primary schools.

15. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 19th August points out certain abuses which are said to prevail in connection with the Madrassa examinations:—

SOLTAN,
Aug. 19th, 1904.

Complaints relating to the Mad-rassah examinations.

(1) The first relates to the question of appointment of guards in the examination halls. In the case of many Madrassahs only teachers are appointed to act as guards when the examinations are held. It is too much to expect that they will aid in detecting their own students in unfair practices. The rumour is all the other way, viz., that they actually offer unfair assistance to them if they find a suitable opportunity. Some outsiders are indeed now and then taken in, but as they are usually utterly ignorant of Arabic or Persian, they are quite unable to check such undue favouritism.

(2) The second point relates to the question of appointment of examiners. At present the number of examiners selected from the Calcutta Madrassah alone is about half the number of examiners selected from other Madrassahs and from outsiders. This is apt to raise grave doubts in the public mind as to the fairness of the results of the examinations. There is no doubt that examiners may be obtained from the mufassal Madrassahs as well qualified as those now selected from the Calcutta Madrassah. For instance, there is Maulvi Obaidul Huq, the Superintendent of the Sitakund Madrassah. There must be some secret influence at work to keep out men like these from examinerships.

16. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th August condemns the language of *Vijnan Path*, by Babus Ramendra Sandar Trivedi, M.A., and Isan Chandra Ghose, M.A., which is a text-book for Standards I and II of vernacular schools. Instances are quoted to show faults of idiom and inappropriate collocation and unhappy choice of words.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 19th, 1904.

A vernacular text-book.

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The authors classify 'bamboo' as a species of 'ঘাস,' following the English botanical classification of 'bamboo' as a species of what is technically called 'grass.' But the colloquial Bengali word 'ঘাস' has not the same wide significance that the English word 'grass' has in its botanic sense, though it would have been correct to say that 'bamboo' and 'দুৰ্কা' both belong to the botanic class 'তৃণ.'

The authors give the following definition of 'ঘাস':—

'যে সকল উদ্ভিদের শিকড়গুলি সরু সরু সূতার মত, বাহাদের কাণ্ড কতক গুলি পার্শ্বের সমষ্টি, বাহাদের পাবগুলি কাঁপা, বাহাদের পাতাগুলি লম্বা লম্বা, সরু সরু ও দুই পাশে ধারাল, তাহাদিগকে ঘাস বলে। ধান গাছ এক প্রকার ঘাস।'

(Plants having fine thread-like roots, stems which are a collection of hollow joints, and leaves which are long, narrow, and sharp on both edges are called 'ঘাস.' Paddy plants are a kind of 'ঘাস'.?)

This is a 'Science Reader,' indeed! Potato, *kachu*, and onion are, according to the authors, not the 'roots' but the 'stems' of plants.

ARYAVARTA,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

17. Having heard that the Howrah Engineering College, the Presidency College, and the seat of the Calcutta University are to be removed to Ranchi, the *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 20th August says that if this be a fact the place should be connected with a railway, so that it may be easily accessible to the students who may like to join these colleges. Commenting on the remarks of the *Bangavasi* regarding the inconvenience to which the boys are likely to be put by the change, the same paper further says that if students feel no inconvenience in going beyond the seas to prosecute their studies, there is no reason why going to Ranchi would be specially inconvenient.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

18. The *Howrah Hituishi* [Howrah] of the 20th August calls the attention of the District Magistrate of Howrah to a nuisance which is said to prevail in the neighbourhood of the Salkea School at Chhatoo Babu's Ghat. Certain persons of the Bonformala caste have recently taken up their residence in a lane (the Panjaripara Lane) near the school building. These people, male and female, young and old, are constantly engaged in a particular form of gambling (known as *Chipoo*), and quarrelling in obscene language. They have also secured for their music parties the use of the tiled hut of one Shib Chundra Datta in the same locality. Here merry-making and carousals go on up to a late hour of the night. These are standing temptations to the young lads of the school, and some of them have already gone astray from these causes.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Aug. 2nd, 1904.

19. Referring to the rumoured abolition of the Agartala College, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August observes:—

The rumoured abolition of the Agartala College. We knew that the day on which Lord Curzon's favourite Universities Act was passed was the day of doom for high education in India. High education has enabled natives to agitate for equal rights with Europeans as regards appointments to the public service; it has enabled them to go to Europe to compete at, and even to secure the highest place in, the Covenanted Civil Service examinations. Natives no longer accept without criticism any and every assertion of the officials. They have rather begun to find fault with their ways, and to expose their misdeeds to the public in England; they have begun to aspire to seats in Parliament; and through the National Congress they have begun to sow the first seeds of national unity all over India. The officials, fond of unrestrained power, cannot tolerate all this. A crafty politician like Lord Curzon diagnosed the true cause of the disease and proceeded to apply the remedy in the shape of the Universities Act. He argued that without the aid of high education the natives could not have caused all this annoyance. It is high education which has led them to aspire for equality with the Europeans. Let therefore high education be restricted, and the annoyance will diminish.

The officials already find their hands full in coping with the educated natives in British territory. If to add to their troubles the Native States were

is undoubted that education in this case, furnished by the establishment of colleges, will not only afford superior education. The subjects of these establishments should be trained in the sciences, in the arts, in the languages, and the subjects which are necessary in these times in the future. And it is not undoubted that the subjects of these establishments should be trained in the sciences, in the arts, in the languages, and the subjects which are necessary in these times in the future.

As a consequence of the foregoing principles, the Government of the Agency College. The Government has been in the habit of making every step in the development of the Agency College. The Government has been in the habit of making every step in the development of the Agency College. The Government has been in the habit of making every step in the development of the Agency College.

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Among the Government's various efforts to improve the Agency College, the Government has been in the habit of making every step in the development of the Agency College. The Government has been in the habit of making every step in the development of the Agency College. The Government has been in the habit of making every step in the development of the Agency College.

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It is the policy of the Government to improve the Agency College. The Government has been in the habit of making every step in the development of the Agency College. The Government has been in the habit of making every step in the development of the Agency College.

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We have no objection to the Government's efforts to improve the Agency College. The Government has been in the habit of making every step in the development of the Agency College. The Government has been in the habit of making every step in the development of the Agency College.

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Private Secretary is vague and misleading. There is a rumour that the Bengal Government objected to the admission of West Bengal students in the college. It behoves the Lieutenant-Governor to inform the public as to how matters really stand in relation to the Agartala College.

SWADESI,
Aug. 23rd, 1904.

22. A correspondent of the *Swadesi* [Barisal] of the 23rd August writes eulogistically of the services of Maulvi Ahsanulla, the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Backergunge, who will soon leave his present post for a higher one elsewhere. It is universally admitted that during his seven years' tenure of office he has done much to inaugurate the new scheme of education in the district. By his polite manners he won the love of everybody in these parts. It is doubtful if any of his predecessors in office was ever so popular. His success in the cause of the improvement of Muhammadan education also may be claimed to be beyond expectation. The local public regret his departure from their midst, although they cannot but thank Government for having recognised his merit and removed him to a sphere of greater influence.

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

MALDAH
SAMACHAR,
Aug. 3rd, 1904.

23. The *Maldah Samachar* [Malda] of the 3rd August draws attention to the wretched condition of the municipal pound at English Bazar. The rains have converted the ground into a quagmire, so that the feet of the horses and cows sink into it. The excreta of these animals are allowed to lie on the ground and give off an offensive smell. There do not seem to be any proper arrangements for the supply of pure drinking-water. Provision should be made for the proper drainage of the grounds of the pound. Another point which requires consideration is the practice on the part of the pound-keeper to pay an anna for each head of cattle brought in. Habitual opium-smokers, when in need of a few pice to satisfy their craving for the drug, seize hold of cattle unfairly and bring them to the pound in hopes of this reward. It may be asked if this reward is also paid when cattle are brought to the pound from the jail or other Government institutions.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Aug. 17th, 1904.

24. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 17th August observes:—
The question of the septic tanks. We understand that the Septic Tanks Committee inspected some of the mills and examined Raja Peary Mohan Mukerjee (Uttarpara), Rai Abinash Chandra Banerji Bahadur (Bally), Babu Ran Lal Banerji (Rishra), Babu Nalin Behari Sarkar, C.I.E., Babu Nagendra Nath Sen, and the Hon'ble Dr. Asutosh Mukerji. We have all along been pointing out that, in addition to the places already visited, there are septic tanks in the mills at Syamnagar, Telinipara, and Titaghar also, and that these tanks are likely to prove more dangerous to the Calcutta people. But, unfortunately, no witnesses from these places were examined. This clearly shows what the report of the Committee may be expected to be. It was for this reason that only European members were selected to serve on it. We hope the Lieutenant-Governor will yet do justice.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 19th, 1904.

25. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th August says that the Septic Tanks Commission is not working satisfactorily. Its members have not even enquired as to whether or no the sewage drained into the Hooghly by the septic tanks in the mills at Titagarh and other riparian places pollutes the river-water. It is rumoured that the sewage of the septic tank in the Rishra Mill is again being drained into the Hooghly. The authorities are requested to pay greater attention to the matter for the sake of public health and convenience.

BHARAT MITRA,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

26. Referring to the suit filed in the Calcutta High Court by Babu Monmotha Nath Bose against the Calcutta Municipality for damages sustained by him on account of his carriage having capsized by getting over a heap of rubbish in the street, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 20th August observes that Monmotha Babu has done good in instituting this suit against the Municipality which will rouse it to its senses. The municipal authorities do not care to listen to the voice of the poor people. They do not think it worth their

while to remove filth from the streets of the northern division of the town. There is no knowing how many other carriages have met with the same fate as that of Monmotha Babu, but their owners have kept silent. This case will teach the Calcutta Municipality a good lesson.

27. The *Hindī Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August says that the Lieutenant-Governor has not sanctioned the proposal of the Calcutta Municipality to borrow 19 lakhs of rupees and has advised it to give up its expensive habits. It is to be regretted that in spite of its extravagance it cannot keep the town in a good sanitary condition. The supply of pure water is not sufficient. Streets are dirty and become impracticable after a slight shower, and give out a stink which makes standing on the road simply intolerable.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Aug. 22nd, 1904.

28. The *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 20th August complains of the insanitary condition of the local Municipality resulting in the ill-health of its people. This is, it says, due to the kindness of that Municipality.

ARYAVARTA,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

29. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th August publishes complaints of water-scarcity from the following places:—
Complaints of water-scarcity. Madharpasaa, Garangal, and Kankhali, in Backergunge; Bukshnagar, Nawabganj, in Dacca; and Rajnagram, Kutwa, in Burdwan.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

30. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 20th August writes as follows:—
Malaria is the scourge of Khulna. It makes its appearance in every village and in every household at the commencement of the rains.

KHULNAVASI,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

It was the silting-up of the Bhairab river which first gave rise to malaria in the Jessore district. Quite recently the silting-up of the Alaipur khal has greatly increased the virulence of the disease in Fakirhat and the neighbouring villages. Careful observation extending over a number of years in the villages of the Khulna district shows that the virulence of malaria depends on the heaviness of the rains, and that the disease increases with the growing deficiency of drainage. Surrounded on almost all sides by stagnant water which is blackened by the putrefaction of all sorts of unhealthy matter, the villages present a horrible appearance to the eye. Proper drainage is, in our opinion, the best preventive of malaria. Every village Union should consider it its first duty to provide for proper drainage within its jurisdiction, because, compared with this work, all other work is of minor importance. If the work requires a large outlay of money, the Union has the power of assessment in its hands to raise the requisite sum. The ignorant public may oppose the Union in this, but the remedy must be forced on them just as children are forced to take medicine. The Union has another opponent to fear in the matter, and that is the Local Board, which refuses to deviate an inch from the beaten path. The want of educated and influential Chairmen is another difficulty in village Unions. There are villagers who would move heaven and earth for preventing an inch of ground from falling into the hands of a Union which requires it for the purpose of drainage, but if the Chairman of the Union is an influential man he can easily settle such disputes. These are evils which are inevitable in the infancy of local self-government in our country. The District Magistrate should therefore constantly help the Union and the Local Boards with his advice. His word is law in the mufassal, and before him all obstacles vanish.

31. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd August appeals for an increase in the number of the Commissioners of the Bankura Municipality. As at present constituted, this Municipality, with a population of 20,664, consists of 12 Commissioners, 8 of whom are elected by the rate-payers and 4 nominated by Government. The Municipality of Soori, with a population of 8,692, has 16 Commissioners, and the Municipality of Kalna, with 8,127 inhabitants, boasts of 15 Commissioners. Apart from these inequalities, another ground for the change proposed is found in the fact that at present the competition between rival candidates at the election is so very keen that many deserving men are left out for no fault of their own. The existing number of Commissioners should therefore be increased to 15, 10 of whom might be representative members and 5 nominated.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Aug. 23rd, 1904.

Another point which calls for redress is the allotting of the proper number of seats to each ward. At present Ward No. I, with 162 rate-payers, returns two members, while Ward III, with 173 rate-payers, returns only one member.

BANKURA DARPAN.

32. The same paper complains of the inconvenience of the ferry arrangements at Dwarkessur Nad Ghat on the Bankura-Vishunpur Road. Formerly a boat used to ply here, but this has since been changed for a canoe. The special inconvenience of a canoe is that neither carriages nor *palkis* can be ferried over by it.

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

MALDAH
SAMAOKAR,
Aug. 3rd, 1904.

33. The *Maldaha Samachar* [Malda] of the 3rd August points out the need of deepening the channel of the river Mahananda. The depth of this stream is daily diminishing. In some places *churs* have formed, making it unsafe for steamers and even for the big *Patnai* boats to pass up and down the river. As an instance of the loss caused by the forming of these *churs*, it is stated that formerly there was a large river-borne trade between the town of Malda and places to the north and east of it. This trade is dwindling, as the water in the Mahananda is no longer deep enough to allow of the boats passing and repassing.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Aug. 16th, 1904.

34. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 16th August observes that the culverts under the railway line west of Burdwan station have recently been dammed up. Earth has been piled up on the northern face of the culverts. No arrangements have been made for the drainage of the water of the surrounding fields. The water has consequently begun to stagnate, to the detriment both of the public health and the crops. It is to be hoped that the attention of the District Magistrate will be called to this evil.

ULUBERIA DARPAN,
Aug. 17th, 1904.

35. The *Uluberia Darpan* [Uluberia] of the 17th August complains of a case of attempted extortion by a railway official. A party of fish-sellers, both male and female, were travelling by the No. 9 down (Machada local) train on the 7th August last. When the train reached Andul some of the party alighted. One fisherwoman was in the act of taking away her basket of fish, when one of the brakesmen took out a fish from it. She protested, and appealed to the Station Master, who however refused to interfere. At this point an overseer of the line interfered, and the poor woman got back her fish. Babu Raj Kumar Ghosal, the well-known pleader of Uluberia, Babu Bhutnath Sarkar, a contractor of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and Babu Nibaran Chandra Mukerji (the overseer above mentioned) were witnesses of this occurrence.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 19th, 1904.

36. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th August says that lately some bales of cloth were lost in transit on the Loop Line of the East Indian Railway. After a prolonged enquiry Babu Benode Bihari Sarkar, the Sub-Inspector of the Nalhati thana, has recovered a portion of the stolen property and arrested some of the offenders. The enquiry shows that the bales were removed when the trains in which they were being carried were shunting in the northern part of the Nalhati station.

HITAVARTA,
Aug. 21st, 1904.

37. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 21st August says that the Asansol station of the East Indian Railway has become a hot-bed of cases of outrage on female modesty, and notices a complaint to the effect that on the 8th instant while a female passenger was travelling alone by the No. 23 Howrah-Barakar train, at the Asansol railway station a Eurasian ticket-collector tried to take her down and detain her for the night, no one could say why. He had a scuffle with a native ticket-collector who tried to rescue her. It is hoped the case will attract the attention of the authorities.

38. Writing in the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August, Babu Prafulla Chandra Mukharji, 52-1 Basak's 1st Lane, Sova-bazar, says that recently on a Sunday the

DAILY HITAVADI,
Aug. 23rd, 1904.

A railway complaint.

booking-clerk of the Beliaghata station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway took from him 2 annas in excess of the price for four inter-class tickets to Baruipur. The matter having been brought to the notice of the Station Master, he asked the correspondent to see him on his return from Baruipur when he (the correspondent) might be informed whether there had been an excess in the cash or not. In the evening, when the correspondent returned, the Station Master could not be found, but the booking-clerk informed him that there had been an excess of 2 annas in the cash and that it had been deposited in the office. There is hardly any doubt that the booking-clerk is in the habit of taking such excesses from passengers, most of whom have neither the time nor the desire to fight out their cause.

39. A correspondent of the *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 20th August calls attention to a case of incivility on the part of a steamer official, the young European clerk of

NAVAYUG,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

A steamer complaint.

the steamer *Rajput* of the India General Steam Navigation Company's Goalundo-Pabna service. On the 3rd August last, the correspondent intended to embark on the steamer at Bangari station. Considering that he had ladies and children travelling with him, he made a request that the steamer ladder should be firmly fixed before they passed over it. At this simple request the clerk lost his temper, abused the correspondent and prevented him from embarking on board the steamer.

(h)—General.

40. Referring to the abolition of competitive examinations for appointments to the Executive Branch of the Provincial and Subordinate Civil Services, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th August observes:—

CHARU MIHIR,
Aug. 16th, 1904.

The abolition of competitive examinations.

The abolition of competitive examinations was in a manner indicated by Lord Curzon about six months ago. Government of course knows with how many applications for Deputy Magistrateships it has since then been besieged, from the sons of Deputy Magistrates and Sub-Judges, and the hangers on of rich and influential zamindars. Among these favoured ones, what chance has the poor candidate who has brains, but no other influence to back his claims? We remain eager to know the promised rules for the regulation of the nomination system. But whatever they may be, the abolition of competition is sure to open up a steady stream of favour and flattery, which will ultimately sap our manhood, our independence and self-reliance. Even now there are many educated men who turn out traitors to their country out of considerations of self-interest. But when every act of Government will depend on the complete discretion of individual officials, how many will be left who will be too proud to beg favours at the hands of their masters? The coils of subjection would be wound so tight around us that we should not be able even to breathe.

41. Referring to the abolition of the competitive examinations, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th August writes as follows:—

The abolition of the competitive examination system.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 19th, 1904.

Considering the retrograde policy of the Administration at the present time, it is no wonder that it is sought to reform the Executive Branch of the Provincial and Subordinate Civil Services by abolishing the competitive examinations. As a matter of fact, we had obtained ominous hints of this innovation in Mr. Risley's Resolution on the subject of education and in one of Sir Andrew Fraser's speeches.

Frame the rules, under which appointments will be made, as you may, the nomination system is sure to fill the service with unworthy men, who will manage to enter it by means of recommendation and illegal gratification. The claims of many a worthy candidate will be disregarded by reason of his poverty and the want of influence to back him. The memory of the scandalous Crawford Case of Bombay is still fresh in men's minds. A Deputy Collector had once actually procured a Deputy Magistrateship for his son by proving useful in connection with the amours of a District

Magistrate. All this took place when the competitive examination system was in force. How much greater scandal will follow the abolition of that system and the introduction of nomination in its place, is therefore easily conceivable. In spite of Lord Curzon's boast that he is the friend of the poor, he has made education too dear for them. The Executive Branch of the Provincial and Subordinate Civil Services is also going to be closed to them. Henceforward, third-class graduates, if they have money and influence to back them, will become Deputy Magistrates by means of recommendations. All officials cannot be expected to be saints, so as to be able to withstand the temptations of flattery, recommendation and bribery. The competitive examination system obtains both in England and in Japan. But in India it is going to be abolished after a trial of 20 years. If the authorities have found it defective, why do they not say so? As a matter of fact, its abolition is another instance of the spirit of arbitrariness which governs our rulers nowadays. The introduction of the nomination system will have the effect of depreciating the worth of graduates in public estimation.

ARYAVARTA,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

42. The *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 20th August says that in future no one will be a Deputy Magistrate by dint of ability. Competent men will not be able to secure appointments, while incompetent men will secure them by joining their hands before the authorities. Some may have to pay bribes for obtaining appointments.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

43. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th August writes:—
The seed which was sown by Lord Curzon in his Resolution on the Education Policy of Government has borne fruit in a recent issue of the *Calcutta Gazette*. The Government of Bengal has notified the abolition of competitive examinations and the substitution of the nomination system for the appointment of candidates for the Executive Service. The candidates to be nominated must be graduates, and detailed rules regulating nominations will be soon framed and published. Let us see what these rules will be. It is Lord Curzon's idea that the nomination system is better suited to the peculiar circumstances of this country than the competitive system. But the popular idea is exactly the reverse. The public are now complaining that this scheme was hatched in darkness; that they were not previously given even a hint of the coming change. Government wills that the existing system is to be changed for a new; and at once there is an order published in the *Gazette* to that effect. This reminds one of the passage in the *Bible*, which says, "Let there be light, and there was light." The public naturally feel aggrieved at this state of things. Government acted in a similar way at the time of passing the "Vernacular Press Act." People are expressing their regret and calling protest meetings. Government has done what it meant to do, whether the people appreciate its action or not.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Aug. 22nd, 1904.

44. Referring to the circular abolishing the competitive examination for the Provincial Civil Services, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August observes that the people are loudly protesting against the order, with which they say they are not satisfied. The Government has done what it wanted to do; let the people ponder over it.

PALLIVASI,
Aug. 24th, 1904.

45. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 24th August writes as follows:—
We have always maintained that in making appointments to the public services the University test may be regarded as sufficient, and that no separate examinations need be held for that purpose. Can it be said that competitive examinations are harder than higher University examinations? Does it necessarily follow that because some among the candidates occupy the highest places in any competitive examination, therefore they are the ablest men? Is an M. A., B. L. of the University unable to do the duties of a Deputy Magistrate? If persons who have passed the highest University examinations are nominated from among the candidates according to their merits, their social rank, and their abilities, the best men can be secured. It is a mistake to suppose that really competent men can be selected by means of competitive examinations which merely test the strength of the memory.

We do not see why there should be so much opposition to the preference which Government proposes to give to the University test. The agitators ought to know that indiscriminate opposition to all actions of Government must give offence and must fail to draw its attention even to legitimate protests. There ought to be no opposition to Government's nomination of candidates to appointments in the public service according to the results of the University examinations. But if conflicting interests are to be attended to, that is to say, if favours are to be shown to particular races, then indeed the matter becomes very serious. Such a proposal must be strongly opposed. If merit is ignored and favour shown from considerations of race, the best officers will never be available. Such considerations ought not to be allowed to interfere in the appointment of officers from whom all sections of the community will expect justice.

We think the minimum age-limit ought to be abolished along with the competitive examinations. Proficiency can never be expected from younger men. It may be that the age-limit serves to keep away too many candidates, but the same purpose may be equally well served by insisting upon what may be termed the qualification-limit. It is this latter limit which ought to be definitely fixed.

May we enquire whether an able, wise, learned and clever statesman like Lord Curzon was found out with the help of a competitive examination? There are no means to discover such great men in India. They are obliged to pass their days in obscurity. Government ought to see that the merits of such men receive proper recognition.

46. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 17th August takes exception to one or two statements in His Honour's reply to the addresses presented to him during his recent visit to Murshidabad. The construction of

The Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Murshidabad.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Aug. 17th, 1904.

the railway might be supposed to have made the improvement of the Bhagirathi unnecessary from the point of view of trade, but certainly not from the point of view of public health. Again, His Honour is reported to have said that as the District Boards of Bengal between them return only one member to the local Legislative Council, there cannot be anything wrong if the franchise of the Municipalities of Bengal was also similarly restricted to one member. This statement requires some explanation, for it is a direct contradiction of the facts, and His Honour must be aware of it. There are two members (Babus Ambika Charan Mazumdar and Kali Pada Ghose) now sitting in the Council, who were returned by the District Boards. There may have been some mistake made by the reporters.

The paper also complains of the unsatisfactory arrangements made for issuing invitations and regulating precedence at the darbar which was held on the same occasion. Examples are given below :—

- (1) Babu Paran Chand Nahar (son of Rai Bahadur Sitab Chand Nahar), and Babu Sripat Singh (son of Babu Chhatrapat Singh, who was himself not a darbari at all) were invited, but the sons of Rajas and Maharajas were excluded.
- (2) Kumar Banwari Mukund Deb and Kumar Debendranath Roy are of more ancient and honourable lineage than Babu Bijai Singh Dudhuria, but took rank below the latter.
- (3) Babu Janakinath Pande, who is only the Naib Dewan of the Nawab Bahadur, took precedence of the zamindars of Jemo and the Sen family of zamindars of Berhampur.
- (4) Babu Haradhan Nag, who is a High Court vakil, was invited, but Babus Chandra Kumar Ray and Ram Chander Mazumdar, who are also High Court vakils, were left out in the cold shade of neglect. And of these two latter, Chander Babu is the Government Pleader of the place; and he was excluded probably because he was not in the good graces of Mr. Carey, the late Magistrate.
- (5) Babu Kamakhya Prasad Ganguly was invited, but men of equal position and importance, for instance, Babu Nafar Das Roy, the zamindar of Kanchantalao, and the zamindar of Bhagirathpur were excluded.
- (6) Why were Rai Bahadur Bagalananda and Rai Bahadur Ganapat Singh not invited?

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Aug. 17th, 1904.

47. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 17th August observes:—

Mr. Brodrick's Budget speech in Parliament.

In introducing the Indian Budget into Parliament, Mr. Brodrick said that the pecuniary condition of the people of India was daily improving, and that signs of prosperity were more and more visible amidst the surrounding poverty. Needless to say, this is merely an exact repetition of the old and high-sounding words of Sir Edward Law, the Indian Finance Minister. Men who are acquainted with the real condition of the people in this country may say whatever they like to Government about the poverty of the masses; still Government will never cease to proclaim that the country is daily growing richer. The utmost we can do is simply to bring to the notice of Government facts about the real condition of the people. We have no power to influence their preconceived ideas and beliefs. But the truth can never be hidden for ever. The terrible visitations of famine drive away these visions of prosperity and bring out the truth in all its nakedness. The authorities are then hard put to it to organise measures for saving the lives of the people. And the desolate condition of the country on these occasions inspires real alarm and anxiety in their minds. The reason is that no man, so long as he retains the feelings of a man, can possibly look unconcerned on these scenes of horror. Famines are now a daily occurrence in India. In every hearth and home the pinch of hunger is felt; affluence is nowhere to be found. There is no exaggeration in this statement; no hint of falsehood; it is but the bare truth.

But the officials are not prepared to accept this view of the case, and there are some reasons for it. The first is that they are the rulers of the country, and this talk of misery among the ruled, reflects discredit on their system of rule. The second is that unless the country is made out to be in a flourishing condition, it becomes hard to justify increased taxation. The third is that it has now become necessary to station a large number of troops in this country, for, in the opinion of the English officials, India has now become the pivot of Asiatic politics. And if more troops are to be stationed in India, they must also be paid for by India. And the country must therefore be made out to be prosperous, and therefore fit to bear the heavy burden of additional military charges.

As regards the question of the cost of the Tibet Expedition, Mr. Brodrick is of opinion that India will pay the expenses, as India will benefit by the trade which will be opened up with Tibet as a result of this expedition. We do not yet see any possible opening for trade between the two countries. However, the English merchants can find out some new article of merchandise which the Tibetans may be in need of, but as that would benefit only English merchants, it is only just that they and not India should be saddled with the cost of this expedition.

Referring to the educational policy of Government, Mr. Brodrick claimed that Government was very much in favour of high education, that any statement by Government as to the need of extending primary education was misinterpreted by the natives to mean an intention on the part of Government to deal a death-blow at high education. This impression of the Indians was wrong.

We do not wish to say much in reply to this statement. Lord Curzon's educational policy will be judged by the public after an examination of its results. We shall be very glad if primary education is extended, but we cannot support Government if it curtails its expenditure on high education on the plea of increased expenditure on primary education.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

48. Referring to Mr. Brodrick's speech introducing the Indian Budget into Parliament, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th August observes:—

Mr. Brodrick's Budget speech in Parliament.

Every year this story of India's increasing prosperity is repeated in Parliament, but we do not think that the question has been really decided yet. The official party rely for proof of their favourite theory on the statistics which show an increase in the proceeds of the taxes, and also in the import and export trade of the country. Their opponents say that they do not profess to understand these statistics, but know for a fact that they are suffering from chronic hunger, from famine and from the plague.

Though the question thus still remains really undecided, Mr. Brodrick is fully convinced of the truth of the official view; and taking this as his justification, he announced heavy additions to the existing military charges. These charges are incurred on the plea of better protection of the country from foreign invasion. Any objections we might make to expenditure for such an object would probably pass unheeded. But we Indians regret all the same that Government forgets that this country is already strongly defended by the loyalty of the subject people. We can never justify the enormous expenditure which will be incurred merely from fear of such mad schemes of invasion like that planned by General Kuropatkin. However, all these are questions of high policy, and in these matters we must accept without demur what our rulers do and say.

Then as to the cost of the Tibet Mission. If it be really a fact that Russia attempted to establish her influence in Tibet, then England was bound to try and prevent it for the future safety of her own dominions. If this was what the Tibet Mission was intended to accomplish, no valid objection can be made to its being sent; nor in that case, can there be any question as to the proper party to be saddled with the cost of the expedition. For then England will be bound to pay both morally and legally.

If the Indians could by any means afford to pay these additional charges, their deep sense of loyalty would not allow them to express to Government the difficulty of their position, even by so much as a sign. But the condition of the people of India is not such that they can put up with extra burdens. Whatever Mr. Brodrick or Lord Curzon may say to the contrary, the people are not well-off, for various reasons. In truth, Nature herself has turned against us. Else why should there be these repeated visitations of famine, or why should the people suffer from hunger, in spite of the well-ordered and well-intentioned government of the British? It is therefore that we conclude with a piteous appeal to our Emperor that he should take our real circumstances into his consideration, and do us justice in the matter of the cost of the Tibet Mission. Let no fresh burdens be laid on our shoulders.

49. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 21st August has the following:—

HITAVARTA,
Aug. 21st, 1904.

The Indian Budget in Parliament.

When the Indian Budget was put on the table of the House of Commons, the Secretary of State for India pointed out that India was a prosperous country. He also reminded the House of the last Delhi Darbar. The military expenses of India have considerably increased. Sir Henry Fowler protested against the injustice of making India pay for the expenses of the Tibet war. Mr. Brodrick said in reply to Mr. Mancherjee Bhownagri that the expedition had been undertaken in the interest of Indian trade and commerce with which England had nothing to do. We think Mr. Brodrick has forgotten what the Prime Minister, Mr. Balfour, had said about the cause of the expedition, or else he would have to admit that he had knowingly concealed the real fact and, in order to secure the favour of the English people, had unjustly made India pay the sail expenses. Mr. Balfour in the House of Commons on the night of the 31st July said, "Great Britain cannot allow the countries between India and Russia to be eaten up." Is this an imperial policy, or one affecting only a particular country or people? Has not this expedition been undertaken in furtherance of this policy? Mr. Brodrick may admit or deny this, but we and other right-thinking men will say that it was simply in accordance with the policy of Mr. Balfour that the expedition was undertaken; and its cost therefore ought to be borne by the Imperial Exchequer, otherwise Government may do what it likes. We shall, of course, bear it. What else can we do?

50. The same paper is sorry that though Government promised to

HITAVARTA.

Technical education in India. give the Indians commercial education, it has not yet fulfilled that promise. The commercial class which was opened last year in the Presidency College, Calcutta, is not in a very satisfactory condition. It had only nine students during the last two years. This means that it (a she-goat) was in pains for six months, but brought forth a single kid.

51. The same paper says:—Emperor Edward VII promised to give the people of the Transvaal power to elect members for their Legislative Council, but it is to be regretted

The Emperor Edward VII.

HITAVARTA.

that even the word 'India' did not come to his lips. This shows that for India the English Government is the same from head to foot.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 19th, 1904.

52. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th August says that Mr. Sanderson, the Superintendent of the Rangoon Government Press, is so audacious that in forwarding a memorial of his compositors to Government, he made the observation that "the administration of a semi-commercial office like that of the Government Press cannot be let into the hands of those at the Government House, Maymyo, or at the Viceregal Lodge, Simla." Mr. Reynolds's successor in the Press has become such a great favourite with Mr. Sanderson within the short time that Mr. Reynolds has been on leave that many a poor clerk is being obliged to resign and make room for the relations of the acting officer. A newly-appointed clerk on Rs. 30 has been obliged to resign, because he was ordered to do in three days an amount of work which could not be done in less than a month. A typist on Rs. 40 has also resigned, because he was first causelessly degraded to a post on Rs. 30, and then degraded to a post on Rs. 15, because, owing to pressure of work, he could not in due time submit the usual account of stamps for two days. Mr. Desai, the new accountant of the Press, has been working in it for two and-a-half months with the help of two able clerks, whilst his predecessors used to do the same work without any such help. Besides this, he has not been able, within these two and-a-half months, to submit to Government his explanations as to the three or four paragraphs of the audit note which were due on the 1st June last. Mr. Sanderson had the Press latrine fitted with water-pipes by the Engineer of the Press. The Public Works Department took him to task for this, because under the Public Works Code their sanction was necessary for the work. Mr. Sanderson has, however, again disregarded the provisions of the Public Works Code by having a wooden wall constructed in the privy without the order of the Public Works Department. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the matter.

The Superintendent of the
Rangoon Government Press.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

53. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th August observes that Mr. Hamilton, the District Judge of Rangpur, has recently ruled that henceforth the responsibility for supplying *rasad* in that district to Government officials will lie, not with the zamindars, but with the police. Mr. Hamilton's motive was no doubt good, and he deserves the thanks of the zamindars for relieving them of an unjustifiable burden. But there is the chance of as much harm as good being done by this change. For here is one more opportunity afforded to the corrupt officials of the police to oppress the ignorant villagers. They would probably take things, and either pay nothing for them, or pay insufficiently. It is to be hoped that Mr. Hamilton will frame the rules, so that such things might not occur.

The police as suppliers of *rasad*
in Rangpur.

NIHAR,
Aug. 23rd, 1904.

54. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 23rd August points out the inconvenience caused by the present name of the Raghunathpur post-office under Ramnagar thana in the Midnapore district. This post-office is situated in the compound of the Ramnagar thana, and there is a registry office hard by, known as the Ramnagar registry office. One cannot imagine therefore how the post-office came to be called by a name different from those of the thana and the registry office. A special inconvenience of this arrangement is that there is another Raghunathpur post-office in another part of the district, and letters meant for one are often missent to the other. All this risk of confusion could be avoided by calling the Raghunathpur post-office the Ramnagar post-office.

A change proposed in the name
of a post-office.

III.—LEGISLATION.

CHARU MIHIR,
Aug. 16th, 1904.

55. Referring to the proposed amendment of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th August observes:—

The proposed amendment of the
Bengal Local Self-Government
Act.

Government intends to amend the law relating to Local Self-Government. By this amendment Government has threatened us with a new tax. The elected members of the District Boards do not at present possess much influence; and even the little of it they now have is being threatened with further encroachment. We should

not be at all sorry if the work of Local Self-Government is carried out by a *khas* Government department.

56. Referring to the withdrawal by the Government of Sir John Woodburn of the power originally conferred on the Bengal municipalities of electing two Members to the Bengal Legislative Council and to the arrangement subsequently sanctioned under which, of the two, the Municipalities were authorised to elect one member and the zamindars as a body the other to the Council, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th August says that it is far better not to grant any privileges at all than to withdraw what has already been granted. It is undeniable that the zamindars ought to possess the power to nominate members to the Bengal Legislative Council. But is it just to rob Peter in order to pay Paul? Government might easily and safely have granted to the zamindars the privilege of electing a member, for it always commands a great majority of official members in the Council. It is to be regretted that Sir Andrew Fraser, instead of redressing the wrong done by Sir John Woodburn, supported it by his refusal to reconsider the matter in the course of his reply to the address of the Berhampur Municipality.

SANJIVANI
Aug. 18th, 1904.

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

57. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 16th August calls attention to the havoc wrought by the overflowing of the Damodar in the villages on the south side of that river. The inhabitants of these villages have a right to know for what fault they have lost their claim for protection on the benign British Government. The English ruler who endangers the very lives of loyal subjects merely for the maintenance of the trade of foreign merchants (which is bound up with the maintenance of the railway) casts unmerited disgrace on the British name and on his own high office. It is to be hoped that Sir Andrew Fraser will take the pains to learn the real facts for himself, instead of depending on his advisers. He should also consider whether Mr. Inglis, the Divisional Commissioner, does not deserve censure for neglect of duty, for he did not visit the places affected and report to Government the distress that prevails there.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Aug. 16th 1904.

58. The *Uluberia Darpan* [Uluberia] of the 17th August reports that on the 13th August last, the villages about Uluberia were overtaken by a flood. The river rose to a height it never before attained; the water, helped by a strong easterly wind, overflowed the embankments and entered into the villages. Many houses are in ruins, including some in the town of Uluberia itself. The embankment on the riverside has been breached in several places. Except the Cuttack Road, all the other roads made by the Local Board are under water and damaged here and there. All this damage might have been prevented if the riverside embankment had been kept sufficiently strong. Mr. Scotland, while he was Engineer in charge of the Cossye Division, moved Government to strengthen this embankment, but at that time the zamindars offered each to protect the part of the embankment which adjoined his own land. Government declined to take any steps in the matter. But the zamindars did nothing to redeem their promise, and that is why the poor cultivator to-day has to bewail the loss of his home and of his crops.

ULUBERIA DARPAN,
Aug. 17th, 1904.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

59. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 16th August has the following:—
No sovereign of any country has ever suffered his dignity as a ruler to be lowered by debasing the coinage of his own realm. In India, the ancient Hindu rulers looked on this means of fleecing the people as a sin, because it threatened the trade of the country, and thereby added to the poverty of their subjects. The Buddhist, Pathan and Mogal rulers, who came after the Hindus, were similarly above reproach in this respect. The few Hindu or Badshahi *mohars* which are still found are of far greater intrinsic

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Aug. 16th, 1904.

worth, and contain a far less percentage of alloy than the *mohars* coined in the English mints at the present time. People still buy Akbari or Alamgiri *mohars*, though they have to pay about four to eight annas in the rupee extra for them. The goldsmiths buy them at very high prices, to make ornaments with.

All the sources of the production of gold and silver in India have come under the control of the English. Even the diamond mines of Golconda are now in the possession of the British Government. Aniseed, salt, iron, cinnamon, cardamom or mace, the trade in none of these articles is left to the natives. So the ways of making money are being gradually closed to the native of the soil. English merchants are acquiring control of the trade in all the spices generally in different parts of the country. Sandalwood, Bahaduri sal. teak and ebony, these are now Government monopolies. There is some cotton grown in the Tippera State, and European merchants are the lessees of this produce. The trade in oranges is falling into the same hands. A portion of the Nizam's dominions (Berar) produced a large supply of cotton, and this country has recently come permanently under British control.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
Aug. 16th, 1904.

60. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 16th August has the following:—

The British and Russian Governments contrasted.

The British and Russian Governments bear no resemblance to each other. The British Sovereign is Emperor only in name, but really His Majesty is a mere figurehead, the English people possessing the supreme authority. The subject in the British Empire may be classified according to their status as follows:—

- I.—The English and the Scotch.
- II.—The Colonists.
- III.—The Irish.
- IV.—The Indians.

In spite of all the misgovernment and oppression in the Russian Empire there is no classification among the people. The Emperor and his Ministers are the heads of Government and all the subjects, whether rich or poor, humble or respectable, are, as it were, strung with the same thread. The Indian people have not that consolation which the Russians have. Any Russian subject, no matter what part of the Empire he comes from, is eligible for high posts, if only he is found competent. But the Indian subject, whatever his qualifications may be, can never be a Lieutenant-Governor or a general in the Army. In the Russian Empire there is no disqualification in this respect by reason of a difference in race. Even a Muhammadan subject, if competent, may be given a high appointment. Colonel Alikhanoff, a Muhammadan, is an illustration. There is therefore no similarity between the Russians and the Indians as regards their prospect of improvement. The former are progressive while the latter must move within fixed limits. But in judicial and executive matters the Russians and the Indians are on the same footing. Where is the difference in the treatment of those who are suspected as seditious? Was not the imprisonment of the Natu brothers without a trial of a piece with the Russian system? Is not the Russian method followed in criminal cases in which a native happens to be the complainant and an Englishman the accused? But we hate the Russian Government, the half-civilized Russians, and their methods of administration. We hope and expect that we shall gradually rise from the fourth and lowest class to the second class, that is to say, we expect to gain from the civilized British people the same privileges as are enjoyed by the British colonists. The English are unwilling to grant us these blessings. Do they mean to keep us in the lowest class for ever? Those who try to debase others only debase themselves. We hope Government will listen to our prayers.

61. The *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 20th August, under the heading noted in the margin, observes:—

ARYAVARTA,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

Might is right.

Now that the Mission has arrived at Lhasa a treaty will be concluded with the Lama. The Indians will now get opportunities to visit Lhasa. The voice of the missionaries will sanctify the temples of Buddha? The seed of Western civilization will be sown in Tibet, but we fail to understand the benefit derived by molesting the *Sadhus* (ascetics). There is glory if a lion beats a lion, but what glory is there in trying one's hand on a jackal?

62. The same paper is sorry that the apology tendered by the editor of the *Ahluwalia* sedition case. the *Ahluwalia Gazette* was not accepted, and remarks that native papers should take a lesson from it. Times are hard. To edit a paper in these days is to dance on the edge of a sword.

ARTAVARTA.

63. In reproducing the substance of an article in the *Amrita Basar Patrika* of the 6th May, which contains a dialogue supposed to have taken place between an Indian and a Government officer on the re-appointment of Lord Curzon as Viceroy of India, the same paper observes that the Indians both on the eve of Lord Curzon's departure from India as well as on his arrival in England have plainly declared that they have had enough of His Lordship and that there is no need of his coming back to India. But taking no notice of what the Indians are saying, India is uppermost in his lips. If the people do not praise Lord Curzon, His Lordship is indulging in his own praise.

BHARAT MITRA,
Aug. 20th, 1904.

His Lordship has spoken several times on India, but three of his speeches are important. They seem to show that Lord Curzon thinks of India more than any other Englishman. He has tried to persuade the people and specially the authorities to see India in the light in which he would show it to them. In short, His Lordship has said many things which would carry away his hearers, but the Indians are not going to be duped by his wily utterances. The authorities in England might have considered the necessity of sending him to India, but the Indians do not see the least necessity of it.

The paper concludes that when His Lordship is coming here again as the representative of the Sovereign after five and-a-half years' rule, there is no alternative but to welcome him. Although during his Lordship's presence in India there was no rain for three years, while we are having good rain when he is no longer here, we still welcome him. Last Tuesday was the serpent's day (*Nag panchami*). If Lord Curzon had been present, he would have seen with his own eyes how the Hindu women offered up their *pūja* with milk to the *nag* (serpent), the representative of the god Krishna. Cannot India, which worships even a serpent as the representative of God and expects good from him, expect anything at the hands of an able Viceroy like Lord Curzon? For this reason also we welcome him.

URIYA PAPERS.

64. The Jagatsingpur correspondent of the *Utkal dipika* [Cuttack] of the 13th August states that there has been as yet no rain in that place, though the end of *Śrāvan* is drawing nigh. The inhabitants do not get canal-water regularly, though they executed *kabuliyats* for its supply; consequently the crops are in danger. The authorities were applied to, but to no effect. The Puri correspondent of the same paper also complains of want of water.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 13th, 1904.

65. The Puri correspondent of the same paper thanks the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, for having raised the monthly stipend of each *guru* in the Puri Training School from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5. This will bring great relief to the *gurus*, who found it difficult to manage with Rs. 3 a month in Puri, where living is generally dear.

UTKALDIPIKA.

66. The same paper states that a junk laden with articles of merchandise sank under the railway bridge on the Kathjuri by colliding against one of its piers, the accident causing the death of a passenger who was drowned and totally wrecking the vessel.

UTKALDIPIKA.

67. Referring to the Government notification intimating that no competitive examination will be held next year for recruiting candidates for the Executive Branch of the Provincial Civil Service and the Subordinate Civil Service, the same paper observes that it is difficult to pronounce an opinion as to the wisdom of the measure without going through the rules that are promised to be notified shortly.

UTKALDIPIKA.

UTKALDIPKA.

68. Referring to the recent Government notification in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 10th August directing that the Court of Session for the Sessions division of Cuttack shall hold its sittings either at Cuttack, Balasore or Puri, the same paper points out that this will prove convenient to the parties concerned in criminal cases sent up from the Puri district, who under the existing arrangement are required to proceed to Cuttack at great expense and trouble.

UTKALDIPKA.

69. The same paper is glad to learn that the Executive Committee, appointed by the Indian National Congress that sat at Madras last year, has set apart Rs. 5,000 out of the savings effected there for the erection of a suitable memorial in honour of Lord Ripon, the late Viceroy, than whom a more popular and sympathetic Governor never graced the Viceregal throne in India. The Committee hopes that if a part of the savings of each Congress meeting be utilised in this way, a decent sum will be available for the undertaking in question. The Committee as representing the interests of the Indians is ashamed to acknowledge that a Viceroy like Lord Ripon, who loved the Indians and who was loved by them in return, has been allowed to leave this country without the honour of a fitting memorial to perpetuate his memory among the succeeding generations of Indians, and is resolved to see that the wrong, thus committed, is righted at an early date.

UTKALDIPKA.

70. Referring to Mr. Gokhale's speech delivered at the Paichappa College in Madras, the same paper observes that the speech is an excellent one and must commend itself to the notice of the student community in India.

Mr. Gokhale's speech at the Paichappa College, Madras.

UTKALDIPKA.

71. Referring to the inspection of Balasore offices by Mr. Growse, the Commissioner of the Orissa Division, the same paper says that the inspection proceedings passed off in a quiet and unostentatious manner. As this was his first visit to Balasore, it was expected that flags, festoons, fire-works and other outward emblems of devotion would mark the streets through which he was to pass. But although all these were wanting, the Balasore people were no less devoted to his person or no less loyal to his policy. It is a mistake to suppose that sterling merit requires for its recognition outward shows and pompous proceedings. Mr. Growse's presence in two prize distribution meetings was sufficiently encouraging, and the meetings were attended by many respectable persons, including a large number of students, male and female. The Commissioner's speech delivered in the Balasore Zilla School was admirable, because he laid stress on the formation of the moral character of the students.

UTKALDIPKA.

72. The same paper thanks Sir Andrew Fraser for his desire to utilise the services of Municipal Commissioners and members of Local and District Boards in Bengal in the inspection of roads, pounds, schools, and *pathshalas* in their jurisdictions and for his proposal to require them to submit their inspection notes to their Chairmen at regular intervals. This will no doubt be a great help to the Chairmen of Municipalities and Boards, who had so long to remain contented with mere dry official reports, and had no opportunity of knowing what the representatives of the people had to say on any subject of importance.

UTKALDIPKA.

73. Referring to the results of the last competitive examination for the Provincial and Subordinate Executive Services and the distribution of public patronage in accordance with those results, the same paper regrets to find that a distinction is made between genuine Uriyas and Bengali-speaking Uriyas settled in Orissa, which is against the declared policy of Government. This is borne out by the figures of the last few years, which tend to show that while out of 22 Uriya-speaking Uriyas who presented themselves for examination, 13 were nominated as Deputy and Sub-Deputy Collectors, not one was nominated out of the 9 Bengali-speaking Uriya candidates during the same period. This unfair distinction reached its climax in the current official year, when a Bengali-speaking Uriya M.A. was passed over

in silence and preference given to a Uriya-speaking Uriya B.L. It may be that the latter gained higher marks, but as the marks obtained by each candidate are not published, the public have no means of forming a correct judgment. The policy adopted by Government in its dealings with the two classes of Uriyas, however, leads to the conclusion that the Uriya-speaking Uriyas are favoured more than the Bengali-speaking Uriyas. The writer draws the attention of the Divisional Commissioner to the subject and hopes that he will hold the balance even.

74. The same paper reports the proceedings of a grand meeting of the Puri branch of the Utkal Union Samiti that was presided over by Mahanta Bhagaban Ramanuja Das and that was attended by a large number of men. The meeting resolved to encourage the use of articles of local manufacture to the best of its power. The representatives of the Marwaris trading in the Puri district and of students reading in local educational institutions supported the resolution.

75. Referring to the proposed transfer of the Civil Engineering College from Sibpur to Ranchi, the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 10th August suggests that a college for Indian princes and sons of the Indian nobility may also be established there.

76. The same paper supports its contemporary of the *Utkaldipika* in the latter's proposal that it would be better to transfer the Aul thana from the jurisdiction of the Kendrapara Munsif to that of Jaipur than to compel the latter to proceed to Kendrapara to work there for one week every month.

77. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 11th August states that good showers of rain fell in the last week in the Balasore district, and that all will be well if it rains regularly for the next two months.

78. According to the same paper, the state of the standing crop is good in all places except those affected by floods.

79. The same paper regrets to learn that paddy plants were destroyed by the flood of the Suvarnarekha and its branch, the Chitai, in the villages standing on and near their banks in the Baliapal thana, and hopes that Government will be good enough to repair the embankments, which were designed to protect the aforesaid villages against the floods. It is stated that paddy plants in some villages in the Basta and Jaleswar thanas fare no better.

80. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 13th August states that although rain is reported to have fallen in all the Garjat States, the districts of Balasore and Cuttack are said to be suffering from want of rain. This shows that the rainfall is not uniform in the Orissa Division.

81. The same paper learns from its contemporary of the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] that the *Pans* of Angul, known to be a criminal tribe, who are required to sleep in village quarters, reserved for the purpose, under police guard at night, very often escape from the guard-rooms and commit thefts in the neighbouring villages. Such thefts are not generally investigated, as the police often decline to receive information regarding petty thefts. The complainants also do not dare give information through fear of police extortion. This state of things prevails in mauzas Bagdia, Dangpal, Nuapara, Brahman and other villages in thana Chendapada and in the neighbouring mauzas of the Bamra State. The District Superintendent of Police, Angul, is requested to enquire into the truth or otherwise of the above statements and take proper steps to remove the complaint.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 27th August, 1904.

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UTKALDIPIKA.

A meeting of the Puri Branch of the Utkal Union Samiti.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD, Aug. 10th, 1904.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

The proposed change in the jurisdiction of the Aul thana in the Cuttack district.

SAMVAD VAHIKA, Aug. 11th, 1904.

The rainfall in the Balasore district.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

The prospect of the crops.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

Wanted the repair of certain embankments.

GARJATBASINI, Aug. 13th, 1904.

GARJATBASINI.

Inefficient police surveillance over the *Pans* in Angul.



REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 27th August 1904.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

7018. The *Bengalee* writes that failing to oppose the progress of the Mission by force of arms, the Tibetans are offering

BENGALIEE,
21st August 1904.

The Tibet Expedition.

a sort of passive resistance which is the moral protest of the weak against the strong. The Tibetans, continues the journal, in view of the slaughter of 2,000 of their countrymen and the recent devastation of their homes, have refused to be captivated by mere professions of love and kindness. They are convinced of the superiority of British arms; but so far, no proof has been given them of British magnanimity. It is a regrettable fact that the British political officers have hopelessly blundered in the conduct of negotiations, and no one more so than Colonel Younghusband himself. If he had been gifted with the tact and suavity of an accomplished diplomat; if he had been sympathetic and more tolerant of the ideas and prejudices of the Tibetans; if he had been conversant with their manners and customs, and lastly, if he had been less imperialistic in his demeanour, there would have, concludes the *Bengalee*, been fewer complications and no bloodshed; but, on the contrary, the British name would have been loved and honoured throughout the empire. Colonel Younghusband, however, may yet recover lost ground by displaying a conciliatory spirit and so bringing negotiations to a satisfactory termination.

7019. The *Bengalee's* London correspondent writes that there is one aspect of the Tibetan question which seems to have

BENGALIEE,
24th August 1904.

Nipal's dilemma.

escaped notice, and that is, its relation to the neighbouring State of Nipal. These two independent provinces are bound by treaty to assist each other; but misled by the assurances of the Indian Government that their policy in Tibet aimed merely at arranging a trade treaty through their "peaceful" Mission, the Prime Minister of Nipal was induced not only to advise the Grand Lama to come to a peaceful settlement with the British, but also to help the latter with transport. Time, however, has revealed that the trade treaty was a myth and that the "Mission" was the nucleus of a large army which is at present threatening the independence of Tibet. The Prime Minister of Nipal did not quite bargain for this, and he is now experiencing rather a trying time in keeping down the restless and spirited Gurkhas, who think that they should have gone to the assistance of their neighbours, no matter what the consequences were.

Nowhere, concludes the correspondent, would a speedy termination of the Tibetan question be hailed with greater delight than in a country bound to the Tibetans by all the ties of blood and alliance; and the consciousness that the high-spirited and martial Nipalese are straining at the leash, restrained only by the politic guidance of one astute man, should surely be an additional reason for speedily terminating hostilities?

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

7020. The *Weekly Chronicle* writes that a short time ago, some prisoners from the Karimganj thana were sent down to

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,
16th August 1904.

The Karimganj Police.

Sylhet in two boats; but before they got to their destination, one of the boats collided with a log of timber lying close to the bank and capsized with the result that one of the prisoners was found to be missing. The constables in charge immediately returned to Karimganj and gave information at the thana, whereupon the police took up the enquiry under section 224, Indian Penal Code, although from the facts of the case it was more probable that the missing prisoner instead of escaping from police custody, had been translated to a world beyond the pale of police jurisdiction. During the course of the enquiry, however, the prisoner surrendered himself to the Subdivisional Officer. The overzealous police nevertheless persisted in submitting the case in A Form, and when it came on for hearing, the accused was at once discharged on his own statement to the effect that he was thrown into the river by the boat upsetting and on gaining the bank found himself separated from the rest of the party and accordingly surrendered himself the following morning. In these circumstances, was there the remotest necessity for instituting the section 224 case, asks the journal? Indeed, it is this irresponsible overaction rather than inaction that has made the police a curse.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
15th August 1904.

7021. The Hazaribagh case, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, is a notable instance of how the Criminal Bench are injuring the prestige of the High Court by a feeble administration of justice. It appears that the Gaya zamindars moved the High Court on the 15th June to be released from *hajut*, where they had been consigned by Mr. Foster, the Deputy Commissioner, in an alleged section 107 case without a trial. The Hon'ble Judges issued a Rule, and in return received a petulant explanation from Mr. Foster, in which he seriously resented what he termed the intervention of the High Court, as it was detrimental to a "District Magistrate's prestige and likely to open an avenue to future lawlessness." This brought down upon him the censure of the Criminal Bench which made the Deputy Commissioner all the more obdurate; for on the 28th July, the petitioners again appeared before the Hon'ble Judges and complained that in spite of their order, they have been rotting in jail for two and a-half months!

Mr. Justice Pratt, continues the journal, was fully aware that the order of the High Court was disobeyed not once, but three times; yet His Lordship did not deem it proper to bring the conduct of the Deputy Commissioner to the notice of Government. It is the duty of every Judge to jealously maintain the prestige of the High Court and to protect the public from the "ill-advised action of the powerful executive;" but was this done in the present case when the orders of the highest tribunal in the land were openly ignored and the Judges thereby publicly humiliated, to say nothing of the terrible and illegal sufferings to which the petitioners were subjected by Mr. Foster?

The *Patrika* thinks that it is high time that the Chief Justice looked into the matter and constituted the Criminal Bench in such a way as to make it a real blessing to the people and a faithful defender of the authority of the High Court.

BENGALIEE,
20th August 1904.

7022. The *Bengalee* characterises the Darjeeling bogus telegram case as one of the most daring frauds attempted in recent times, and insists that the result of the trial cannot be regarded as satisfactory, as there are strong grounds for suspicion that the real authors of the plot have not been brought to justice.

The journal accordingly urges that in deference to the strong public opinion that prevails, a Commission should be appointed to unravel the mystery, more especially as the trying Judge observed that he was not sure whether the accused Elliot had attempted to commit the fraud "on his own initiative or at the instigation of others."

BENGALIEE,
21st August 1904.

7023. Considering the seriousness of the offence and the clear evidence of the guilt of the accused, the *Bengalee* does not think that the sentences of one year and eight months passed on Elliot and Thomas, respectively, err on the side of severity.

Not the least remarkable feature of the case, continues the journal, is that the evidence does not disclose any adequate motive for the commission of the offence. The theory of the prosecution that the telegram was intended to disturb the equilibrium of the money-market is, however, apparently sound, but to what extent, if any, Elliot himself was likely to be benefited did not at all transpire in the course of the trial. Nevertheless, it is impossible to believe that he could have gone out of his way to spend so much ingenuity and also some money in the execution of a project which was not connected with sure gain or actual payment. Whether he had accomplices or not, or whether he was working for a band of speculators, is entirely a matter of conjecture, and all that can be said is that the actual truth remains a mystery.

BENGALIEE,
20th August 1904.

7024. The *Bengalee* writes that while Mr. Bonnaud, the second Presidency Magistrate, has been a complete success in the Calcutta Police Court, the third Magistrate, Maulvi Bazul Karim, has turned out a failure.

Mr. Bonnaud, continues the journal, has made himself thoroughly popular. Pleaders are grateful to him for his unfailing courtesy and patience, while his independence and sense of justice have inspired all parties with confidence.

The *Bengalee* considers it a pity that, with such a model before him, the third Magistrate could not have turned out better.

7025. A correspondent writing to the *Bengalee* says that it is a mystery to the public why Maulvi Bazlul Karim was ever brought to Calcutta. "To say that he had thoroughly scandalised the administration of justice at Sealdah is saying too little. What was not said of him in the papers? That he indulged in favouritism to a scandalous extent; that he had converted himself into an automatic machine for convicting in police cases; that he first made up his requisite percentage of convictions and then distributed the balance—the acquittals—between his favourites; that a certain pleader of Howrah, whose fee was Rs. 4 in his own Court, used to charge a fee of Rs. 100 *per diem* in cases before the Maulvi and found no lack of clients. Graver accusations were made and he was challenged to take up the gauntlet, but he was a prudent man and clung to the golden maxim that discretion was the better part of valour." Government, continues the correspondent, could not very well turn a deaf ear to these complaints, so the Maulvi was superseded and secretly assured that it would not harm him in the long run. Surely this state of affairs will not be tolerated by the present Lieutenant-Governor? Sir Andrew Fraser has been good enough to rid Calcutta of one or two of Sir James Bourdillon's gifts and may His Honour also rid Calcutta of this one.

BENGALÉE,
24th August 1904.

(c)—Jails.

7026. *New India* is glad that the Lieutenant-Governor's attention has been drawn to the way in which the Reformatory Schools in Bengal are being managed at present. The increase in the number of admissions, continues the journal, has been observed by Government and, as a result of instructions issued to the Magistracy, a large number of boys were discharged and made over to their parents and guardians during the year. This action no doubt is commendable enough, but the real grievance is that the schools themselves continue to be little better than jails and in order to remedy matters, Sir Andrew Fraser has decided that he whole question of management will be enquired into by a Committee which will be appointed for the purpose. *New India* hopes that this Committee will enter upon its work with a full knowledge of the education of the criminal classes, for without this requisite knowledge it will find it impossible to suggest any noteworthy reforms.

NEW INDIA,
20th August 1904.

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

7027. The *Bengalee* writes that some time ago it was intimated to the residents of Bhowanipore that Russa Road would be widened and therefore no buildings would be sanctioned inside the proposed alignments. It now appears that the Acting Chairman proposes to flag the footpaths of Russa Road, North, between Elgin and Jeliapara Roads with Chunar stone. Is it then the intention of the Corporation, asks the journal, to have the footpaths flagged at a heavy cost and to have them dug up again when the road is to be widened? This, says the *Bengalee*, is another instance of wasteful expenditure to which the attention of the Local Government might well be called. The proposal is one which lacks administrative foresight and knowledge of details for which, however, the Officiating Chairman may not be to blame, as he was probably ignorant of the project to widen the road in question. His highly-paid Secretary should no doubt bring such divergent proposals to his notice, and point out their effect on the finances of the Corporation.

BENGALÉE,
24th August 1904.

7028. The *Bengalee* cannot believe that the pollution of the sacred Hooghly can be regarded with equanimity by any Indian, even if expert opinion *did* go to show that the effluent from septic tanks was chemically pure and bacteriologically innocuous. But the question is whether the Committee are convinced that the effluent is

BENGALÉE,
24th August 1904.

perfectly harmless? The Royal Commission appointed by Parliament in 1896, has been investigating this identical question for the past eight years without having arrived at any definite conclusion, and in the absence of precise knowledge on so important a subject, it would be presuming too much to say that the passage into the Hooghly of the septic tanks' effluent would not pollute the river. Although rivers are capable of a certain amount of self-purification, it is impossible to say how long the flow must continue before this is effected. Nor can the pollution of the river-water by the shipping, etc., be regarded as an extenuation of the harm which is sure to be caused through the operation of septic tanks, as one wrong cannot justify another and it would be preposterous to augment a necessary evil by an unnecessary one!

In conclusion, the *Bengalee* writes that on all grounds, the discharge into the river of the effluent from septic tanks would constitute a grievous outrage on the sentiments and religious feelings of the Indian community and be highly objectionable for hygienic reasons

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

BENGALÉE,
21st August 1904.

7029. The *Bengalee* writes that while Mr. Bignell was Commissioner of Police, he insisted on electric cars being driven at a reasonable speed, and even the Managing

The speed of electric cars. Agent of the Tramway Company is himself most anxious that cars should wend their way carefully through thoroughfares in the city, as every accident renders the Company liable for damages. But the motormen are incorrigible and will not be dissuaded from rash and negligent driving. The other morning, for instance, continues the journal, at about 5 o'clock, a car took a crossing at full speed, with the result that it ran off the rails, smashed an iron postal pillar, tore across the footpath, and dashed against a house. The inmates were startled out of bed by a terrible report, but fortunately no one was killed or hurt.

The *Bengalee* thinks that the Agent should have drivers secretly watched, and punish them severely if they are guilty of driving their cars at an inordinate speed.

(h)—*General.*

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA
15th August 1904.

7030. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that never have the people been

The abolition of the competitive test. so contemptuously treated as in the matter of the introduction of the nomination system. This change of policy, continues the journal, is drastic enough, but the rude way in which it has been thrust upon the country has increased its bitterness a hundredfold. It was open to Government to heed or disregard the voice of the people; but surely the Empire would not have been endangered if public opinion had, out of courtesy, been invited on the subject. There is such a thing as vanity, and even the criminal condemned to die sometimes prays for a silken cord.

Regarding the measure actually introduced by Sir Andrew Fraser, the *Patrika* is of opinion that it is much better than was anticipated by reading Lord Curzon's Resolution on Education. In fact, if the terms of the Government of Bengal's notification are faithfully carried out, the people will have absolutely no cause for complaint. What is feared, however, is that in the name of "conflicting interests" it would be possible for a ruler to deviate from the principles which have been laid down.

INDIAN NATION,
22nd August 1904.

7031. The *Indian Nation* writes that while the language of the seditious

The Amritsar sedition case. article regarding the Universities Act is intolerable, it is at the same time silly. The journal, however, considers that it would be interesting to know what the writer's ideas are regarding the measure itself and its effect on the country. What is the great *zulum* which demands maunds of blood from the country?

III.—LEGISLATION.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
22nd August 1904.

7032. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the history of legislation in

The Local Self-Government Amendment Bill. India has been a remarkable one. Excepting Sir Richard Temple's Calcutta Municipal Bill and Lord Ripon's Local Self-Government Bill, there has not

been a single measure introduced which has not either curtailed the liberty of the Indian people, imposed fresh taxation, or armed the executive with greater powers. Hence, continues the journal, the children of the soil have always been compelled to view the introduction of every Bill with dissatisfaction, and the Local Self-Government Amendment Bill has not proved an exception. In the first place, this measure threatens to impose a cess on the valuation of land which has already been permanently settled. Then again, considering that the funds at the disposal of District Boards are derived from the road-cess alone, they should, on no account, be empowered to construct railways and tramways which require a large capital. Besides, it was solemnly pledged by the rulers of the land that the road-cess would not be devoted to any objects other than those for which it was originally imposed. If the Government wish to saddle Boards with additional public works, it should obviously provide the necessary funds instead of crushing the miserable masses by means of further taxation.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

7033. The *Bengalee* writes that a certain Calcutta contemporary, who "has all along acted the rôle of a violent partisan of the Raja of Hill Tippera," has published a version of the circumstances connected with the expulsion of the Bara Thakur which is not only incorrect but positively misleading. In the first place, it is said that on the present Raja nominating one of his sons as Jubaraj, "the Bara Thakur claimed the Jubarajship for himself and thereby disputed the authority of the Raja who is the head of his house and his elder brother and sovereign." Thus, continues the journal, the writer altogether ignores the fact that the present Raja had no right to appoint his son as Jubaraj in supersession of the incontestable claims of the Bara Thakur. If the head of a house robs a younger brother of his patrimony, is not the latter entitled to protest? Most certainly, and every impartial judge will agree that the conduct of the Raja in overlooking the Bara Thakur was "an audacious setting at naught of an ancient and time-honoured custom" and therefore merits the strongest censure.

Regarding the observation of its contemporary that the matter of the expulsion of the Bara Thakur is a "semi-private" one and has not aroused any interest, the *Bengalee* writes that almost the entire native Press has strongly condemned the conduct of the Raja and censured the British Government for supporting him.

7034. The *Bengalee* congratulates His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda on the appointment of Mr. R. C. Dutt as a member of his State Council, and considers that His Highness' worthy selection affords an example to some Indian princes and big zamindars who are never so happy as when they employ European managers to look after their estates. It is true, continues the journal, that Government have, in some cases, enforced these appointments, but nevertheless there is a distinct tendency on the part of rich Indians, to overlook the worth and interests of their countrymen. Lord Curzon has said that a European employé in a Native State is an interloper, but strangely enough a very large number of Europeans have been employed by Native States, at the instance of the Foreign Office, during His Lordship's administration! The appointment of Mr. Dutt, however, is a good example, and the *Bengalee* hopes that Indian princes and zamindars will follow it.

BENGALÉE,
23rd August 1904.

BENGALÉE,
23rd August 1904.

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

7035. The *Bengalee* writes that great loss of life is feared owing to the disastrous floods caused by the breaching of the bund. The district to the north of the river is flooded and the Collector is reported to have had a narrow escape from drowning. The Beguserai subdivision is also under water, and hundreds of houses are said to have collapsed. It has been deemed necessary, concludes the journal, to despatch European volunteers in boats from Monghyr to rescue the people whose condition is critical.

BENGALÉE,
21st August 1904.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
24th August 1904.

7036. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Uluberia correspondent fears that if the water is not drained away from the flooded areas and the breaches in the river embankment closed without delay, there will not only be a failure of the crops in the subdivision, but the people will be rendered destitute and homeless, should the water rise any higher, as it is generally supposed it will, during the coming *Bhadro katal*. The writer complains that the present prospect is most alarming, and might have been avoided if the embankment, which is the property of the zamindar of Andul, were kept in proper repair.

In conclusion, the correspondent appeals to Government to repair the embankment in question, and to drain the water from the paddy-fields, realizing the expenditure incurred from the dilatory zamindar. Thus the poor raiyats would be saved from the jaws of a threatening famine, and the further loss of property and danger to human life would be averted.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BENGALÉE,
21st August 1904.

7037. If the battles of England were fought on the play-grounds of Eton and Harrow, writes the *Bengalée*, the future of Bengal is being decided on the Calcutta Maidan,

particularly on the football grounds. The journal does not mean the game itself, but the minor incidents connected with it. Enormous crowds are attracted to witness the games, but the treatment they receive is revolting. Lookers-on are whipped by soldiers without cause or reason, and kicked and hustled by the referees if in their excitement they press over the boundary line, while the players themselves squirt mouthfuls of soda-water in the faces of natives who crowd round them with admiring curiosity. These are common occurrences, and the question is, how long are they going to be allowed to take place?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
23rd August 1904.

7038. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is glad to find that the Commander-in-Chief's order of the 19th June 1903, intended to put a check on military aggression, has had the

desired effect, and that there has since been a marked decrease in the number of assaults on Indians by British soldiers. In these circumstances, continues the journal, the Commander-in-Chief has cancelled the order in question and expressed the hope that all ranks will continue to maintain that harmony between themselves and the subject races which is so essential to their mutual well-being. The *Patrika* writes that these noble sentiments do credit to His Excellency, and considers that it is a matter of surprise that there should be any other than kindly feelings existing.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 27th August 1904.

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