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REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 29th April 1911.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

[As it stood on the 1st January 1911.]

No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	Circulation.
BENGALI.					
1	"Bangabandhu"	Calcutta	Weekly	Barendra Lal Mukerjee, Brahmin, age 38.	1,000
2	"Bangaratna"	Ranaghat	Do.	Kanai Lal Das, Karmokar, age 30	The paper is not widely circulated.
3	"Bangavasi"	Calcutta	Do.	Behary Lal Sarkar, Kayastha, age 53	15,000
4	"Bankura Darpan"	Bankura	Do.	Ram Nath Mukherji, V.L.M.S., Brahmin, age 49.	800
5	"Basudeva"	Calcutta	Do.	Kedar Nath Bharati, Brahmin, age 35	1,000
6	"Basumati"	Ditto	Do.	.....	.....
7	"Birbhum Hitaishi"	Suri	Do.	Bibhuti Bhushan Paitandi, Mukhtear.	300
8	"Birbhum Varta"	Do.	Do.	Debendra Nath Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 37.	800
9	"Burdwan Sanjivani"	Burdwan	Do.	Prabodha Nanda Sarkar, Kayastha	900 to 1,000
10	"Chinsura Vartavaha"	Chinsura	Do.	Dina Nath Mukherji, Brahmin, age 42	350
11	"Daily Hitavadi"	Calcutta	Daily	Panchcowri Banerji, Brahmin	5,000
12	"Dainik Chandrika"	Ditto	Do.	Hari Dass Dutt, Kayastha, age 39	400
13	"Dharma-o-Karma"	Ditto	Monthly	.....	.....
14	"Education Gazette"	Chinsura	Weekly	Shibnarain Bannerji, M.A., B.L., Brahmin.	1,500
15	"Hitavadi"	Ditto	Do.	Panchcowri Banerji, Brahmin	30,000
16	"Hindusthan"	Ditto	Do.	Hari Das Dutt, Kayastha, age 39	1,000
17	"Jagaran"	Bagerhat	Do.	Behary Lal Roy	600
18	"Jasohar"	Jessore	Do.	Ananda Charan Chaudhury, Kayastha, age 35; Surendra Nath Mitra, Kayastha.	500
19	"Kalyani"	Magura	Do.	Biseswar Mukherjee, age 45, Brahmin; and Tarak Brahma Sikdar, Kayastha.	1,200
20	"Khulnavasi"	Khulna	Do.	.....	.....
21	"Manbhum"	Purulia	Do.	Bagola Chandra Ghose, Kayastha, age 37.	About 300
22	"Matribhumi"	Chandernagore	Do.	Surendra Nath Sen, age 32, Hindu	500
23	"Muhammadi"	Calcutta	Do.	.....	.....
24	"Murshidabad Hitaishi"	Saidabad	Do.	Bonwari Lal Goswami, Brahmin, age 45.	Small.
25	"Navajivani-o-Swadeshi Christian."	Calcutta	Do.	Rev. Lall Behari Shah, Native Christian, age 34.	300
26	"Nayak"	Ditto	Daily	Priya Nath Guha, Kayastha, age 37...	3,000
27	"Nihar"	Contai	Weekly	Madhusudhan Jana, age 50	200
28	"Pallivarta"	Bongong	Do.	Charu Chandra Roy, Kayastha, age 36	400
29	"Pallivasi"	Kalna	Do.	Sosi Bhushan Banerji, Brahmin, age 44	600
30	"Prachar"	Calcutta	Monthly	.....	.....
31	"Prasun"	Katwa	Weekly	Purna Chandra Chatterji, Brahmin, age 45; Banku Behari Ghose, Goals, age 39.	500
32	"Pratiker"	Berhampore	Do.	Kamakhyia Prosad Ganguli, Brahmin, age 61.	Post.
33	"Purulia Darpan"	Purulia	Do.	Amulya Ratan Chatterjee, Brahmin, age 38.	About 300
34	"Ratnakar"	Asansol	Do.	Rakhal Chandra Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 27; Gopal Chandra Mitra, Kayastha, age 62.	500
35	"Samaj"	Calcutta	Do.	Behary Lal Roy	.....
36	"Samay"	Ditto	Do.	Ganendra Nath Das, M.A., B.L., Brahmo, age 56.	300
37	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	Daily	Purna Chandra Ghattak, Brahmin, age 45.	50
38	"Sanjivani"	Ditto	Weekly	Shiva Nath Sastri, M.A.; Ramananda Chatterjee, M.A.	7,000
39	"Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Basar Patrika."	Calcutta	Do.	Mrinal Kanti Ghose, Kayastha, age 39	2,000
40	"Surbanabanik"	Do.	Do.	.....	.....
41	"Twenty-four Parganas Vartavaha"	Bhawanipur	Do.	Hem Chandra Nag, B.A., Kayastha, age 27.	1,000
HINDI.					
42	"Bharat Mitra"	Ditto	Weekly	Mahabir Prasad, Vaisya, age 36; and Amrita Lal Chakravarti, Brahmin, age 47.	2,200

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS—concluded.

No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	Circulation.
HINDI—concl.					
43	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipore ...	Weekly ...	Ram Kishore Singh, Ondhia Kurma, age 30, ...	500
44	"Bir Bharat" ...	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	Prantosh Dutta, Kayastha, age 36 ...	1,000
45	"Ghar Bandhu" ...	Ranchi ...	Do. ...	Rev. Dr. A. Nottrott ...	1,000
46	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Hari Kissen Joahar, Khettri, age 31 ...	8,000
47	"Hitvarta" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Rao Purandkar, Mahratta, Brahmin, age 28. ...	3,000
48	"Marwari" ...	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	S. K. Tebrevala, Hindu, age 35 ...	500
49	"Sattya Sanatan Dharm" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Radha Mohan Gokulji, Vaisya, age 40 ...	300
50	"Sri Sanatan Dharm" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Ambika Prasad Bajpa ...	200
51	"Shiksha" ...	Arrah ...	Do. ...	Shukul Narain Panday, Brahmin, age 35. ...	250
52	"Tirhut Samachar" ...	Muzaffarpur ...	Do. ...	Pandit Jaganand ...	142
53	"Bara Bazar Gazette" ...	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	.....	.....
54	"Lakshmi" ...	Gya ...	Monthly ...	Lala Bhagwan Din ...	Not known.
PERSIAN.					
55	"Namai Muqaddas Hablni Matin." ...	Calcutta ...	Weekly ...	Sayyid Jalaluddin, Shiah, age 59 ...	1,000
URDU.					
56	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipore ...	Weekly ...	Syed Husain, Muhammadan, age 36... ..	250
57	"Darus Sultanat" ...	Calcutta ...	Do. ...	Quazi Abdul Latif, Muhammadan, age 36. ...	400
58	"Star of India" ...	Arrah ...	Do. ...	Munshi Muhammad Zaharul Haq, Muhammadan, age 40. ...	350
URIYA.					
59	"Garjatbasini" ...	Talcher ...	Weekly ...	Bhagiratti Misra, Brahmin, age 41 ...	.....
60	"Nilachal Samachar" ...	Puri ...	Do. ...	Baidya Nath Singh, Sikh, age 32 ...	700
61	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra ...	Do. ...	Dinabandhu Garhnaik, Chasa, age 35. ...	.....
62	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	Do. ...	Harish Chandra Sarkar, Sadgope, age 53. ...	500
63	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Cuttack ...	Do. ...	Ram Tarak Sen, Tamuli, age 48 ...	500
64	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	Do. ...	Gauri Sankar Roy, age 76 ...	1,000
65	"Utkal Varta" ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Moni Lal Moherana, Karmokar, ...	500

Additions to, and alterations in, the list of Vernacular Newspapers as it stood on the 1st January 1911.

No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	Circulation.
1	"Daily Hitavadi"	Calcutta ...	Daily	Panettowri Banerji, Brahmin	Defunct.
2	"Hindi Biharee"	Bankipur	Weekly	.....	.....
3	"The Business Man"	Calcutta ...	Monthly	.....	.....
4	"Mithila Mihir"	Durbhanga	Weekly	.....	.....



I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Nama-i-Muqaddas Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 17th April says that the question of the Baghdad Railway, which is really the question of life and death for

The Baghdad Railway.

Persia, is the cause of all the blows which the Persians have received or may in future receive at the hands of their neighbours. If the Persians do not take the work of the construction of this railway, which has now become indispensable for their country, into their own hands, the rival Powers are sure to interfere in a manner which will give a death blow to their sovereign power. It is therefore high time for them to take it up and thus save themselves from the foreigners.

The paper is astonished to see that the question is being discussed by all foreign papers and Parliaments, but the Persians to whom it so vitally concerns look at it with such indifference. Some Persian papers, however, translate articles (on this question) appearing in foreign journals, but without any comment of their own. This shows the ignorance of Persian ministers and members of Parliament in the politics of the world.

Has not the time come for the constitutional Government of Persia to start an official paper, the voice of which in matters relating to Persian politics and economics may carry some weight?

It is hoped the present ministers and the national papers would take up the question seriously, and let the world know what their own opinion is about it.

2. The *Nama-i-Muqaddas Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 17th April has the following re the *fatwa* of the *Shaikh-ul-Islam* of Constantinople legalising the utilisation of the wealth of *Karbala* and *Najaf* shrines for schools

A poisoned arrow for the unity of Islam.

and hospitals as wired by Reuter:—

It is not improbable that, in wiring this information, Reuter has some political end in view considering the alarm created among the Christian Powers by the Pan-Islamic doctrines.

Another fact worthy of consideration is that the Turks have always been oppressive to the Persians. During the last five years when Persia was suffering from internal dissensions, Turkey once more took up the already settled question about the frontiers and by her encroachments there set an example to the Russians and the English to follow in its wake.

It was hoped that Turkish troubles would cease with the end of Hamidi Government (Sultan Abdul Hamid's rule) and the new Government of the Young Turks would do its utmost to unite the two peoples, but alas! we are disappointed in this too. The present Government in spite of preaching unity has proved to be even more troublesome to us.

The immense wealth of *Najaf* and *Karbala* which has excited the greed of the Turks has not been contributed by them as about 85 per cent. of it has come from the Persians, 5 per cent. from the people of Turkistan and *Kafkas*, and 10 per cent. from the people of India. This usurpation by the Turks will cause one hundred million *Shias* to hate them. Even the infidel Kings have regard for and protect endowments and Islamic relics but it is a wonder that a Moslem King should want to rob them. The Turks taking advantage of the present weakness of Persia want to profit by that wealth, but they should know that greedy people are seldom successful. Why does not the *Shaikh-ul-Islam* permit the utilization of the wealth of the sacred shrines of *Shaikh Abdul Qader* and *Imam Azam* (saints of the *Sunnis*) or of the temple of Jerusalem which is in the Turkish territory? Our weakness has made them bold, but we advise them not to create dissension among the *Muhammadans* by such proceedings otherwise they themselves will be the losers.

3. The *Nama-i-Muqaddas Hablul Matin* [Calcutta] of the 17th April publishes an article, from its Moscow correspondent referring to the present spirit of anarchism in Russia which the writer says had originated from the students of colleges but

Disordered state of Russia.

*NAMA-I-MUQADDAS
HABUL MATIN,
April 17th, 1911.*

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has now spread, owing to the tyranny of the Russians, not only in the army and the navy, but also among the ignorant masses. It appears that the despotic government of the country does not know how to face this critical situation. The court-martial, however, is trying to dispose of the anarchist cases by inflicting punishments such as imprisonment, banishment or crucifixion. Many innocent persons have in this way suffered the extreme penalty of the law but it has not been able to cool the ardour of the lovers of liberty. Political prisoners, with whom jails have been filled, are being ill-treated and ill-fed and consequently dying in great numbers.

There is a general strike among both boy and girl pupils. The schools and colleges of St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kaffa, Warsaw and Odessa have all been deserted. The newspapers are also writing against the Government.

The article then refers to the action of the Government in closing the Islamic Madrassa of Boobi and other places, imprisoning the teachers, causing house searches of some leading Muhammadan inhabitants, etc., etc., and says that had such things occurred in an Islamic country the whole world would have taken up their cudgels against the Government in the name of kindness and justice, but when Russia is destroying so many Islamic Maktabas and madrassas no one cares to take any notice of them.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

NAYAK,
April 21st, 1911.

4. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says that the day on which the High Court passed judgment in the Howrah Gang Case the Court police searched the persons

of all people who went to hear the judgment. For whose safety was this done? For the safety of the persons who are saving the honour and guarding the freedom of the people? Is there any such miscreant in the country as can entertain a feeling of enmity towards the High Court or its judges? Far from entertaining any such feeling, the prisoners who were released on that day came down from the dock, loudly proclaiming the glory of the British Raj and the High Court. We, concludes the writer, earnestly pray to Lord Hardinge to see that no one can disturb the water that has now settled and make it muddy again. The work of establishing peace in the country is going on very well. It is now necessary to guard against disturbing elements.

SAMAJ,
April 21st, 1911.

5. The *Samaj* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says that not a week passes in which a case of dacoity is not heard of, so that dacoity is undoubtedly going on increasing. The

news of cases of highway robbery have, continues the writer, made us particularly afraid. We hope that the authorities are taking adequate steps for guarding the weak, unarmed people against dacoities.

NAYAK,
April 21st, 1911.

6. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 21st April writes as follows:—

Fresh dacoities in the country. Reports of dacoity are again coming from all directions. The cry has, however, not yet been raised that boys of respectable families are concerned in these cases. We advise the boys who are being acquitted in dacoity and political cases to ask the Government to be permitted to work as detectives in these new cases. It is the duty of every person to serve the country, so that it will not be unbecoming of them to engage themselves in this work. To the Government we say that if all these boys take to the work heartily, the real culprits will not long be able to hide their heads. And then it will be known who are dacoits and who are honest men.

SAMAJ,
April 23rd, 1911.

7. *Anent* the above the *Samaj* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April writes:—

Abnormal increase of dacoities in the two Bengals. The question arises, why has this criminal propensity suddenly developed in the country? Are the police responsible for it? Professional dacoits have found it very advantageous to commit dacoities, seeing that the police are still placing implicit faith in the theory that sons of respectable persons are implicated in these crimes.

8. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 26th April writes:—

NAYAK,
April 26th, 1911.

Dacoities in Bengal. What is to be done? Let Lord Hardinge devise some means to prevent these cases. The people being weak and disarmed, and the villages being full of forests, dacoity is an easy trade in Bengal. The young men who sometimes commit these crimes are actuated not only by political but also by mere selfish motives. They commit dacoities because they cannot secure service, cannot earn a livelihood.

9. Noticing the frequency of thefts and robbery in Kumbakonum (Madras) and the telegram sent by the people to the Local Government praying for protection, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April also prays that the Government would do their best to prevent the reoccurrence in future of such slackness in performing the duty of protecting the lives and property of its subjects.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 22nd, 1911

10. Referring to the fact that there are 74,000 women of ill fame in Calcutta, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says that with its innumerable wine-shops, dens of cocaine-eaters and rendezvous of smokers of *ganja*, *guli*, *opium*, *charas*, *chandu*, etc., and haunts of *gundas*, over and above such a vast number of public women, Calcutta presents the aspect of a veritable hell. Innumerable fallen women presenting themselves to view in the two rows of buildings on either side of Chitpur Road are a source of constant danger to the morals of the inhabitants of the city. Even school boys often fall victims to their charms. The writer next relates a few cases of these fallen women actually trying to entice people into their houses.

SAMAY,
April 21st, 1911.

Is there no remedy for this? On Government lies the responsibility of guarding the morals of the people. Cannot the law which prohibits open prostitution in London streets be enforced in Calcutta? Human nature is naturally weak and should not be exposed to temptation. Women of ill fame should not be allowed to live in public streets and ply their trade publicly. A corner of the city may be set apart for them. If this cannot be done, let Government forbid prostitution altogether. The fallen women will be able to earn their livelihood by honest labour.

11. In an article under the head-line noted in the margin the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April notices the comments of the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Daily News* on the unsatisfactory answers of the Under-Secretary of State for India to the questions asked in the House of Commons regarding the police oppression for extorting confession, a full account of which also has been published in the same issue elsewhere headed "Police in the Parliament."

BHARAT MITRA,
April 22nd, 1911.

The paper then notices the facts relating to the death in police custody of one of the accused implicated in Rajmahendri murder case, and referring to the failure of the Howrah Gang Case makes the following observations:—

The High Court judgment denounces the whole proceeding of the case from the beginning to the end. Sir Edward Baker will, of course, act very cautiously in future; but in the present case also His Honour should hold an enquiry and punish the guilty, for such expenditure of the valuable time of the Court and the hard-earned money of the people is an index of deplorable condition [of the administration]. The enquiry, however, should not be like that held in the Midnapore case, it should be open and unreluctant.

12. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 23th April has the following:—

NAYAK,
April 23th, 1911.

The Police and the people. We have already said that the police cannot justifiably be blamed in connexion with the political trials,—they merely carry out behests, as they receive them,—but then the police are to blame for this that in defence of their self-interests they occasionally step beyond the limits of their duty or are compelled to do so—and for this reason, at times, if asked to seize and bring up a man, they bring him bound so to speak. For this reason we did not blame the police or the Government much in connexion with the Howrah Gang Case—we blamed only the Crown lawyers.

The Judges of the Special Tribunal are insisting on the production of evidence of the standard and of the kind on which English Judges insisted when the Crimes Act was in operation in Ireland. This Mr. P. L. Roy, experienced barrister that he is, should have understood. We are bound to blame him in that he failed to let the accused go at the outset even after Sir Lawrence Jenkins' request, and prolonged the hearing of the suit.

Anglo-Indian papers like the *Englishman* are greatly agitated over this Howrah Gang Case. The *Pioneer* says that never since the Orissa Famine did the Bengal Government incur such serious disgrace. Sir Cecil Beadon had to resign because of the Orissa famine scandal. Will Sir Edward Baker have to resign in connexion with the Howrah Gang Case? We do not think so—for Sir Edward Baker is very little to blame for this affair, he has acted on the advice of the lawyers, so one has to say that the full measure of disgrace and more of it, if possible, for this affair must rest with the Crown lawyers.

The *Journal* remarks that it will be difficult to preserve the peace in this country if such a lofty standard of justice is maintained. Our idea is just the reverse. Peace will be restored to the country automatically if impartial justice is dealt out. Let the police arrest the offenders, let them come to the Courts of justice with only the true facts of a case, and the guilty are certain to be stamped out. But if they come with a preconceived notion or theory and procure only such evidence as will support it, then some amount of fraud is sure to be practised. Such fraud cannot pass the scrutiny of sharp-sighted judges. So defeat results. We hear that radical changes in the Calcutta Bengal Police are in contemplation. A Civilian is to be Commissioner of the Calcutta Police. So we shall not say anything now against the police or on attempts to reform them. But this we say, that the fact that the efforts of the police to put down anarchy in Bengal have so far gone for nothing is due to lack of proper arrangements, to a spirit of mutual rivalry and jealousy. Had the high-placed officers been not typical servants, had they not been always striving to add to their own reputation, had they in a spirit of whole-hearted devotion to the British Government set themselves only to do their duties, these troubles would not have occurred. We merely throw out hints, the justification of what we say will be apparent if the Lieutenant-Governor or the Viceroy makes inquiries.

The last point for consideration is: one of the accused who have been released is dead: he had no disease when he went to *Ayat*; why then did he die? Why did he get paralysis? Who is responsible for his untimely end? We hear two others of the accused have been driven mad. Why? Who is responsible for this insanity in two respectable lads? Others of the accused have contracted asthma, dysentery, headache or eye diseases. Most of them will be incapable of earning their livelihood. May we not ask now as to who is responsible for bringing respectable boys to this pass? Will not Government do something to compensate these men for losses which they will have to suffer till their death? What was to be has been. The people will thank His Honour and there will be no end in the gratitude of their hearts if Sir Edward Baker graciously helps these innocent accused.

BARA BAZAR GAZETTE,
April 22nd, 1911.

Gambling in Bara Bazar.

13. The *Bara Bazar Gazette* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April reports that gambling is briskly in vogue these days in Bara Bazar. In addition to the "ring game" another tempting method of cheating the simple folk has been introduced. It consists of displaying within a shop tickets bearing various values and the visitor is asked to touch one of them (for which he pays the value ascribed to it) with a cane given to him for the purpose under the allurements of obtaining articles of much higher value. But generally the man who pays for a ticket worth Rs. 2 or so has to rest content with getting an article worth a trifle.

The paper draws the attention of the Police Commissioner to these forms of gambling being openly practised producing very unwholesome effect on the moral character of young men, besides robbing the poor people of their small savings.

NAYAK,
April 26th, 1911.

14. The *Indian Daily News* reports, writes the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 25th April, that on the Hon'ble Mr. Halliday taking leave, the Hon'ble Mr. Bompas or Mr. Blackwood will become Commissioner of the Calcutta Police. We published this news two weeks ago. We have more than once

urged that the Commissioner of the Calcutta Police ought to be a civilian. We thank Lord Hardinge and Sir Edward Baker for appreciating the reasonableness of this suggestion.

15. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 26th April writes:—

Mr. Blackwood as Commissioner of the Calcutta Police.

There are reasons for the rumour that Mr. Blackwood is to be Commissioner of the Calcutta Police. Sometime ago a suggestion was made that the Commissionership of the Calcutta Police should be made equal to a Divisional Commissionership. We now hear that that is not to be. The salary of the Commissioner of Police is not to exceed Rs. 2,500. If this is true, Mr. Bompas may not accept the office. We have already said and we say it again that we wait to see a *subberdust*, impartial civilian, a strong man of action, in this post. The police administration of Calcutta has come to be seriously lax. We cannot be reassured until we get a *subberdust* ruler. We shall be happy if Lord Hardinge appoints a competent man after due consideration.

NAYAK,
April 26th, 1911.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

16. Commenting on the acquittal of Hector de Gama, the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 20th April remarks:—

Europeans left unpunished.

Is the life of an Indian so cheap that any and every European may threaten him to shoot with impunity. Even if the statement of the accused that he did not aim at the deceased be taken to be quite correct did he not commit even a rash act? One such decision of a court is capable of spreading unrest to a degree unattainable by a hundred editorial articles of the most mischievous type, and the Government is not unaware of this fact. We desire to know what the Bombay Government now proposes to do in this matter.

HITVARTA,
April 20th, 1911.

17. Noticing the above case as well as the similar incident at Hindupur, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th April asks in utter disappointment if the Viceroy, or the

Ibid.

Secretary of State, will not do something to protect the Indians from being shot by Europeans (in self-defence, or, by accident)?

HINDI BANGAVASI,
April 24th, 1911.

18. Referring to the acquittal by Mr. Justice Robertson of one Hector Gama, a Portuguese, who was committed to the Court of Sessions of the Bombay High Court on the charge of murdering, with the help of a gun, a *tongawala* on the Bassien Road Station, Bombay, on the 29th of January last, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April writes:—

Mr. Binning, the counsel for the accused, argued that the incident was due to a pure accident, that the gun happened to go off itself in the course of the struggle, and that therefore the accused was not responsible for the death of the *tongawala*. The jury, composed of eight Europeans and one Parsi, gave an unanimous verdict of "not guilty," and the judge thereupon acquitted the accused Gama. The *tongawala* was shot dead with a gun because it was so ordained by Fate, and no one has been held responsible for the crime. At the Hindupur railway station also in Madras two persons were fated to be shot dead, and there also neither Private Tobey nor any one else was held responsible. The Government of Madras tried hard to establish the guilt of the accused in the Hindupur murder case, but to no purpose. We piteously ask the Viceroy and the Secretary of State for India whether or no they will take any steps to prevent such accidents.

BANGAVASI,
April 22nd, 1911.

19. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 21st April writes as follows:—

The judgment in the Howrah Gang Case.

The judgment of the High Court in the Howrah Gang Case reminds us of a story in the Mahabharata. When after the burning of the Jatugriha (a house made of lac) Kunti with the five Pandavas was living incognito in a village, the king of that village, a rakshasa, ordered that a certain Brahmin family must surrender one of its members for his meal in lieu of revenue. The master and mistress of the family began weeping on

NAYAK,
April 21st, 1911.

hearing this news. Seeing his parents weep a son of theirs, a mere child, took a blade of grass in his hand and said that he would kill the rakshasa with that weapon. The Brahmin laughed at the child's fancy, but his lady snatched the blade of grass from his hand and said, "Hush, hush, such words should not be uttered, for though a rakshasa, he is our king." The comment that the judges of the High Court has made on the charge of waging war against the Emperor leads us to think and think rightly that the effort to injure the world-conquering and unconquerable British Government with a few guns, bombs and crackers, is comparable only to the vaunting of the child who wanted to kill a rakshasa with a blade of grass in his hand.

JASOHAR,
April 22nd, 1911.

20. Referring to the result of the Howrah Gang Case, the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 22nd April writes:—

The result of Howrah Gang Case.

The trial lasted for a year, and there is no knowing how much the innocent people suffered and how much money was spent by Government. It is however a matter of satisfaction that after such a long time the innocent people have at last been acquitted by the High Court. The cloud is disappearing from the political sky of Bengal.

NAYAK,
April 21st, 1911.

21. We think, writes the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 21st April, that the

The cases of "Deshar katha" and "Desh ki bat."

case of Pandit Sakharan Ganes Deoskar's "Deshar katha" will now be taken up by the High Court.

The case of "Desh ki bat" also may be considered at the same time. Under the new law the two cases should be heard by a special tribunal of the High Court. But after the decision of the Howrah Gang Case, will the authorities risk a trial by such a tribunal? But how can they avoid risking it? A lawful trial must be provided for the appellants' cases.

NAYAK,
April 1st, 1911.

22. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 21st April writes as follows:—

A Printer's declaration case in the Calcutta Police Court.

An application for being declared printer of a Hindi edition of the *Sulabh Samachar* was recently filed in the Calcutta Police Court. The Magistrate sent this application to the Police Commissioner, Calcutta. We are unable to make out the meaning of the procedure. If the Magistrate had the power to make the necessary order in the case, why did he send the application to the Police Commissioner. It is not proper for the Magistrate to base his decision on the report of the Police. We think that all such applications should be made after giving previous notice to the police. This procedure will have the advantage that the applicant will know the objections, if any, of the police and be able to answer them, and then the Magistrate will be able to give his decision after hearing both sides. The procedure that is now being followed makes only a figure head of the Magistrate who announces the police report as his own decision.

BASUMATI,
April 22nd, 1911.

23. We learn from the tables supplied by Government in reply to a

Death sentences in India.

question in Parliament, writes the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April, that nearly 500 people are annually sentenced to death in India. Is this not fearful? It is doubtful whether the number of persons receiving death sentence in all Europe every year is half so great. This circumstance goes to prove that judges in India are disposed to pass improperly heavy sentences on offenders. Punishment has two objects—first, to strike terror in the hearts of criminally disposed people and thus prevent them from committing crimes; second, to gratify the spirit of revenge. Severe sentences can never fulfil the first object, and the second object is unbecoming of and disgraceful to a civilised community.

(d)—Education.

SANJIVANI,
April 20th, 1911.

24. In reply to a question asked by the Hon'ble Kumar Mahendra Ranjan

Educational questions in the Eastern Bengal and Assam Legislative Council.

Ray Chaudhury in the Eastern Bengal and Assam Legislative Council, writes the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th April, the Hon'ble Mr. Nathan has said that under the existing rules students of such

middle Bengali schools as teach English also are not allowed to compete for middle scholarships. This reply has made us sorry. Does not Mr. Nathan know that middle schools, not teaching English, do not get many students, and that, consequently, such schools are gradually dying out? Who will enjoy the middle scholarships if middle Bengali schools die out? We hope that Government will soon amend the existing rules relating to these scholarships to save the schools.

In reply to another question asked by the Hon'ble Kumar Bahadur, the Hon'ble Mr. Nathan has said that books printed outside Eastern Bengal and Assam are not excluded on that account from the list of text-books approved by the Dacca Text-book Committee. This reply has given us great satisfaction. But we would like to draw the attention of Mr. Nathan to page 1674 of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Gazette dated the 28th September 1910. Here it has been said:—

"Arithmetic by Radha Govinda Nath and Matriculation Arithmetic by Rai Bahadur Kumudini Kanta Banerji will also be approved (if printed at Dacca with better type.)"

"Algebra Made Easy" by K. P. Basu (if printed in Dacca); Elementary Modern Geometry, Part I, by K. P. Basu (if printed at Dacca.)"

The meaning of the above is plain; we think that it was published without the permission of the Government. However that may be, we hope that in future Government will prevent such things being published in the Gazette.

25. The *Sri Sri Vishnupriya-o-Ananda Basar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th April asks the Government to see that only competent men, who have passed University examinations with credit, are appointed as professors in the Sanskrit College. As matters stand at present only base flatterers are getting the upper hand in the University. The same is the case in the matter of selection of Bengali text-books. Unless merit is rewarded, discontent among the educated community will be inevitable.

26. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 20th April has a strong article against the proposal of amalgamating the Hindu University scheme of Mrs. Annie Besant with that of the Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and warns the readers of the impending danger.

27. The *Hindi Bihari* [Bankipore] of the 21st April questions the authority of the *Bharat Mitra* to pose as the interpreter of the views of the whole Hindu community which, it says, looks with alarm and disapproval the amalgamation, for the *Bihar Bandhu* of Bankipore has approved of the scheme.

28. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th April also notices with alarm the above proposal, and says that the news has given rise to universal dissatisfaction and grave anxiety among the Hindu community.

29. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 20th April attaches great importance to and is in entire agreement with the remark of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces made in his budget speech in the Council that "the present system of education is defective and should be reformed at the outset." It does not understand, however, what His Honour's idea of reform is. If only the appointment of a number of Inspectors or European teachers on high salaries is what is meant by reform the paper has no sympathy with it. The most needed reform is to increase the salaries of lower teachers, for at present they are so ill-paid that no capable man is ever willing to be a teacher and an intelligent man accepts a teachership only to make it a stepping stone to a better appointment. As young children are more in need of careful and intelligent instruction under competent teachers than older students it is highly desirable to raise the status of the lower teachers in order to attract better men.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BASAR PATRIKA,
April 20th, 1911.

HITVARTA,
April 20th, 1911.

HINDI BIHARI,
April 20th, 1911.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
April 24th, 1911.

HITVARTA,
April 20th, 1911.

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1911.

30. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April thus indulges in a vein of humour over the appointment of a graduate of the Trinity College, Dublin, as Inspector of Schools,

Eastern Bengal and Assam:—

White is now the prevailing colour in the Education Department. The Secretary of State is appointing exclusively white men to the high posts in this department. Through the kindness of the white officers, it is the full moon which shines in the higher department of the service throughout the year; it may be emphatically asserted that the entire Education Department will smile in the white rays of the moon. We now understand why Radha cried for her black-coloured lover, and that when the goddess of learning herself is "white like the *kunda* flower, the moon and snow", it is natural and reasonable that the officers at the head of the Education Department should also be white coloured.

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1911.

31. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says:—

Retirement of Mr. H. M. Percival from the Presidency College.
Mr. Percival, Professor of English literature, Presidency College, retired from service on Wednesday last. He had served in the Education Department for the last thirty years and obtained

special renown. It is indeed not small praise in these days to say that he was able to win the esteem of his pupils. On the day of his retirement he was garlanded by his pupils, who, in spite of remonstrances on his part, dragged his carriage up to his lodgings. Mr. Percival was a great scholar and an experienced professor. He has made a gift of the large collection of books in his library to the Lahore University. We wish him long life and unimpaired health.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 22nd, 1911.

32. For the blessings which our generous Government, says the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April, has bestowed

Government unsympathetic to free education.
upon the country we shall ever be grateful; but there are certain actions of the Government which we must severely criticise, for instance, its attitude on the problem of free primary education. Attempt has been made times without number to draw the attention of the Government to the efforts and achievements of the Governments of other countries in this direction; but it is not willing to notice the measures for spreading education adopted (even in this country) by, for instance, Baroda State—a tiny dominion when compared to the extensive British Indian Empire. Even the example of good results achieved by the private enterprise of some unselfish workers among the poor people (for example free education in the Gurukul of Kangri as well as the Rishikul of Haradvar and the abolition of schooling fees in the D. A. V. Collegiate School of Lahore—all unaided institutions) is unable to persuade the British Government possessing enormous wealth to lay aside its stinginess. It has taken the charge of the education of the people into its own hands, but is not fulfilling its duty in that respect.

KHULNAVASI,
April 22nd, 1911.

33. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 22nd April writes as follows:—

Complaints about the Khulna Zilla School.
The complaints that we published in our last issue about the Khulna Zilla School (See Report of Natives Papers in Bengal dated 22nd April 1911, paragraph 31) have produced the result that Babu Rakhal Das Chakrabarti, M.A., Assistant Inspector of Schools, 24-Parganas, has come to enquire into them. We have seen him and made to him the following complaints against Babu Peary Mohan Mukherji, Boarding Superintendent, Babu Fakir Chandra Chakravarti, Head Master, and Munshi Helaladdi, teacher:—

Complaints against Babu Peary Mohan Mukherji:—

(1) (a) Living under his control, Brajendra Lal Dutta, a student of the 6th class, used to visit houses of ill-fame. (b) Brajendra had been living in the Boarding since the time of his admission to the school. Had Peary taken proper care of the boy he would not have gone so astray.

(2) Peary Babu keeps a maid servant in the Boarding, her age being not more than 30 or 32 years.

There is no want of man-servants at Khulna.

Complaints against Munshi Helaladdi, teacher.—

(1) Munshi Helaladdi has been guilty of outrageous conduct towards a son of Babu Sita Nath Sen, Police Inspector, and a nephew of Babu Sarada

Charan Battacharyya, both students of class VII, Section B., and Phanibhushan Pramanik, student of class IV, and many other students.

(Sita Nath Babu's son and Sarada Babu's nephew have told everything to the Assistant Inspector in our presence.)

2. A Musalman teacher named Walub even beat Sitanath Babu's son for having divulged the matter at home.

(This also has been told to the Assistant Inspector by Sitanath Babu's son.)

Complaints against Fakir Chandra Chakravarti, Head Master—

1. The Head Master realised this year nearly Rs. 200, a sum about one and a half times more than what used to be realised in previous years, for printing question papers for annual examinations. At the request of the guardians we repeatedly asked for an account of the money, but in vain.

2. In spite of the Head Master having come to know of the affair about Brajendra, the sixth-class student, nearly a month ago, he neither inflicted any exemplary punishment nor reported the matter to the Inspector of Schools. He even tried to hush up the matter by removing the boy from the school. Subsequently on the 8th April, Babu Kunjabehari Chakravarti, Pleader and Chairman of the Local Municipality, brought this matter, the fact about keeping a maid-servant in the Boarding, and the misconduct of teacher Helaladdi, to the notice of the School Committee in the meeting that was held in the house of Mr. Bradley-Birt, President of the Committee. Seeing that the matters could no longer be hushed up, the Head Master at last reported them to the Inspector of Schools.

3. Why did the Head Master describe the maid-servant engaged in the boarding as an old woman, although her age is not more than 30 or 32 years?

4. About a month ago Babu Sitanath Sen, Police Inspector, and Babu Manmathanath Datta, Court Inspector, brought the matter of teacher Helaladdi's misconduct to the notice of the Head Master and asked for redress. Why then was the Head Master silent so long?

5. When the meeting in Mr. Bradley-Birt's house closed, the Head Master came out and asked Kunja Babu: "What rogue has told you all this?" Kunja Babu replied:—Do not use abusive language; Mukhtar Rashbehari Babu has told me; he is not a man to tell lies.

Why did the Head Master abuse the person who had given the informations to Kunja Babu?

6. Subsequently, the Head Master abused the inhabitants of Khulna before six or seven teachers and six or seven students on the verandah of the School Library, and said:—The people of Khulna are all cross-breeds (*khachehar*), cheats, rascals, rogues, liars, sons of bastards; they should be sent to jail.

What right had the Head Master to abuse the people of Khulna in this fashion?

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

34. Referring to the election of Sir Pherozeshah Mehta as the President of the Bombay Corporation after a hard contest, the *Sulabh Samachar* [Calcutta] of the 14th April writes:—

SULABH SAMACHAR,
April 14th, 1911.

Election of President of the
Bombay Corporation.

Sir Pherozeshah is full of independent spirit, dutiful, and is yet loyal. There is no doubt that every thoughtful man in the country will be glad at his election. It is a matter of still more satisfaction that, although he is an elected Commissioner, he has yet been able to secure the Presidentship of the Corporation. Calcutta is the capital of India, but the ratepayers of the City have not yet been given the right of electing their own President as in Bombay. The Government have been conferring various rights on us after the introduction of the Reforms, and it will be a matter of great satisfaction if the ratepayers of Calcutta be given the right of electing the Chairman of the Corporation. It is to be hoped that the day will soon come when the Government will confer this right.

JASOHAR,
April 15th, 1911.

35. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 15th April has the following :—

Malaria in the districts of Nadia and Jessore.

Owing to the prevalence of malaria the populations of the districts of Nadia and Jessore have decreased by 40 thousand and about 58 thousand, respectively, during the last ten years. There has not been so much decrease in the other districts. If the population go on decreasing at this appalling rate, the two districts will soon be turned into cremation grounds. It is to be hoped that the Government as well as the leading men in the two districts will gird up their loins and soon engage themselves in checking the disease. There is no doubt that the want of pure drinking water and bad drainage arrangement are the causes of malaria in these two districts. We request the authorities to take steps to remove these two chief causes of malaria.

NAYAK,
April 21st, 1911.

36. The *Nayat* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says that under the old Municipal law the condition of the rate-payers of Calcutta was much better than what it is now.

Self-Government. Municipal Commissioners in those days were generally a much better class of men than they are now. Municipal servants also were not so over-bearing in those days as they are now. It is the narrowing of the scope of self-government in the city which has reduced it to its present deplorable condition. Unless the scope of self-government is enlarged in the districts, their condition also will become similar.

BASUMATI,
April 22nd, 1911.

37. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April says :—

Feeder roads to be constructed by the 24-Parganas District Board.

The 24-Parganas District Board will make a loan of Rs. 60,000 from the Government for constructing feeder roads for carrying goods to the Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway. We are not against feeder roads, and their usefulness is not unknown to us. But we regret that District Boards do not show as much zeal in discharging their other duties as they do in constructing feeder roads. They show a deplorable lack of earnestness in repairing bad roads and supplying wholesome drinking water within their jurisdictions. The 24-Parganas District Board would have done a permanent service to the part of the country in which Basirhat is situated, had it excavated a large tank and constructed a good drainage in it at a cost of 60 or 70 thousand rupees. The want of these is a source of much greater harm and inconvenience to the people of the place than the want of feeder roads.

BARA BAZAR
GAZETTE,
April 22nd, 1911.

38. While acknowledging the efforts of the Calcutta Corporation in the past towards improving the public health of the city, the *Bara Bazar Gazette* [Calcutta] of the 22nd

Adulteration of *ghee* and oil. April complains that the present condition is still quite unsatisfactory, majority of the residents being unhealthy, the main cause of which is adulteration of food-stuffs.

The paper particularly refers to the newly introduced "Bloomless" oil which is very cheap and can very easily be mixed with *ghee* and mustard oil, and requests the Corporation to levy a prohibitive tax on the oil, which will fulfil the twofold object of checking adulteration by making it unprofitable as well as of fetching money to the Corporation.

NAYAK,
April 26th, 1911.

39. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 26th April cordially approves of the agitation that has been set on foot by the *Indian Daily News* against the adulteration of food-stuffs in the country.

Adulteration of food-stuffs in India.

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

BANGARATNA,
April 17th, 1911.

40. Referring to the report published by the Government on the 31st

The condition of the rivers in the Nadia district.

March last stating that the water of none of the four rivers, the Bhagirathi, the Bhairab, the Jalangi and the Mathabhanga, is more than two or two and-a-half cubits deep, the *Bangaratna* [Krishnagar] of the 17th April writes :—

The rivers in the district of Nadia are about to be filled up with silts; the condition of the canals, as may be easily imagined, is still more deplorable.

No one need be told of the extent of water scarcity in the district of Nadia and of the inconvenience to trade in consequence of this silting up of the rivers. The condition has become so grave that unless the rivers are dredged up they will dry up in a few years. We call attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to this pitiful condition of the district, and hope that he will earn the gratitude of the people by ordering a dredging up of the rivers.

Anent the same, the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Saidabad] of the 12th

April writes:—

Ibid.

The current of the rivers having stopped and there being no water in them the condition of the towns bordering on them has become very pitiful. We have been repeatedly calling attention of the authorities to this state of things, but without any effect. We pray that they will now take speedy steps in this direction.

(h)—General.

41. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 15th April has the following:—

Public money spent on the Christian religion.

Perhaps it is known to many that the poor people of this country have to contribute their hard earned money towards the propagation of the Christian religion. Probably no one will easily believe that there is any necessity of spending money for the spread of the news about salvation in a country where the people themselves attain salvation for want of pure drinking water and sufficient food. But it is a fact that 18 lakhs and 53 thousand rupees are spent from the public funds to spread the "joyful news" or the news about salvation among the Indians.

The Government of a country may, after consulting the condition of the people, spend money for the propagation of the religion of that country. But when Christianity is not the religion of India the Government of India is perhaps not bound to spend money for its propagation. It is needless to say that much benefit could have been done to the Indians if this large sum of money were expended on removing water-scarcity and spreading education in the country, instead of being spent for the spread of the Christian religion.

42. Referring to the course adopted by the Government in the *Khulna Gang Case*, the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 15th April writes:—

The *Khulna Gang Case*.

The reason of the prevailing heart-burning among the white conductors of newspapers is not known. One cause of this heart-burning is however apparent and it is the climatic condition of this country. We have, however, been greatly moved by the liberal and sympathetic policy adopted by our kind-hearted Viceroy, Lord Hardinge. His Excellency has been able to realise the value of clemency. The strength of a powerful man is measured by the spirit of forgiveness and liberal-mindedness shown by him. Such a ruler alone who has realised that the spirit of forgiveness is more efficacious in subduing the people than the policy of repression is capable of winning their heart.

43. The following is the full translation of an article headed "*Howrah Gang Case*," which appeared in the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 20th April:—

The *Howrah Gang Case*.

All the accused persons in the *Howrah Gang Case*, with the exception of six, have been declared not guilty and acquitted. From the very commencement of the hearing of the case the Judges had been asking the Counsel for the prosecution to weigh all the facts in evidence on his side. But the Counsel continued (lit. did not give up) till the last his effort to tie a good knot with torn hair. The result was that the hearing of the case lasted three or four months, so much time of the court was wasted, Government's money was spent like anything (lit. a *sradh* of Government's money was performed) and a number of innocent men suffered extreme physical and mental troubles by remaining confined in *hajat*. If it is said that the Counsel for the prosecution could not gauge the weight of the evidence on his side, he is not fairly judged. Mr. P. L. Roy is a senior Counsel and has so long been earning his livelihood by practising in criminal law. It will be doing an injustice to

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
April 12th, 1911.

JASOHAR,
April 15th, 1911.

JASOHAR,
April 15th, 1911.

NAYAK,
April 20th, 1911.

him to say that he did not understand his case. We are inclined to say that he knew everything and understood everything, but shut his eyes to all that he knew (lit. forgot everything in spite of knowing and hearing). When he went to Dacca to conduct the Dacca Conspiracy Case on behalf of the Government he, for once, made a scandal. It was not unknown to him what was sedition and what was not sedition in the eye of the law. But still he left no stone unturned to bring love for one's own country, love for one's own nation and political discussion and practices within the scope of sedition. His acquaintance with the Bengali language had most probably ended with his separation from his Guru-mahasaya at Barisal. Still, being full of self-conceit, he tried to throw *Ananda Math* of late Bankim Chandra into the clutches of sedition. Grieved in some worldly or social matter, he did not omit to abuse even Surendranath who is honoured throughout the country. See, on the other hand,

Mr. Baxter, an Englishman. In these few* cases Mr. P. L. Roy's conduct did not manifest even the smallest fraction of the spirit of self-sacrifice and the amount of impartiality that he (Mr. Baxter) showed in the Midnapore Bomb case. We neither hesitate nor are afraid to say that Mr. P. L. Roy and the vakil Babu who used constantly to sit behind him, these two persons are responsible for this futile prosecution of this gang case of Howrah. If British law does not provide for the punishment of this wilful offence, it will never be condoned in the judgment of Him who is above.

What shall we say of the Judges? The patience, impartiality and devotion to justice that they have shown will be praised everywhere. They carefully weighed the evidence both for and against the accused persons. Those whom they acquitted, they acquitted because there was no evidence against them; and those whom they found guilty, they found so because there was no want of evidence against them. The punishment that they gave to those whom they found guilty was a just one and not severe. For this even-handed dispensation of justice all the people of the country will sing the glory of the judges. It is for such even-handed dispensation of justice that British rule has so long remained firm in India, and if justice is dispensed with such even-handedness British rule will remain firm in India for a long time.

In the present instance, we shall not omit saying a few words, intending them for the Government. Although all officials are not lawyers, although it is beyond the power of (all) officials to weigh the evidence on both sides of a case, still they are men with ordinary common sense. What we regret is that none of the officials ever troubled his head with the evidence for the prosecution in this case. They remained satisfied with placing the entire charge of the case on the lower police. Some officials seem to be of opinion that if unrest is created and crime increases in the country, Syama should be punished if Rama cannot be got hold of (lit. punished). But this is neither justice nor *dharma*. And we do not also admit that such a procedure is sign of good government. An administration carried on in this fashion can never be beneficial to a country. May be that some of the officials gave a free hand to the police with a view to carrying on the administration in this fashion, and, consequently, did not consider whether there was any evidence against the accused persons. But what was the result? Was it not the result that after a long travail the mountain gave birth to a mouse? Could officials of this type control the road to justice in the country at the same time their effort, be it good or bad, could be productive of some sort of fruit. But we do not believe that any of the officials gave a free hand (to the police) in this matter with the purpose of carrying on the administration in this fashion. It was probably their lethargy and carelessness which brought about such a state of things. Another thing. If the officials were unable to judge or incapable of judging matters concerning law, they could have shown the papers of the case to some able and impartial counsel at a cost of at most one or two thousand rupees, and taken his opinion on it, and then this farce would not have taken place. In the Midnapore bomb case Mr. Sinha had withdrawn the case against a number of accused persons on looking into the papers only.

It is not that honest and right thinking counsel are rare. To a number of counsel you have paid such a large amount of money as they could never have seen in their whole life. Have you acted intelligently by doing this? Secondly, in spite of your knowing the police perfectly well, you put unbounded faith in them. We admit that the police are the chief instrument in putting down the wicked. Just as after appointing military men (?) for guarding the dominion you keep the Military Department under the control of the Executive Department, so after appointing the police for establishing peace in the country, you ought to keep them also under perfect control. It is by no means proper to place so much reliance on or give so much independence to the police. After the trial of so many cases, you ought now to consider for once what mystery there is under the murders of Babu Ashutosh Biswas and Shamsul Alum. You are wise and intelligent. We have not the power to make you understand (these matters). If you have to rule the country, you ought to be acquainted with the hidden truth in every matter.

44. Referring to the Howrah Gang Case, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th April says that the Government will surely punish the people through whose fault no less than

The Howrah Gang Case.

27 innocent men have suffered confinement in *hajat* for one and a half year on a charge of conspiring to wage war against the Emperor.

People will not soon forget the ability with which Mr. J. N. Roy, Mr. B. C. Chatterjee, Mr. S. K. Sen, Mr. J. M. Sinha and other barristers-at-law conducted the defence.

45. Referring to the judgment in the Howrah Gang Case, the *Samaj* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April writes:—

The collapse of the Howrah Gang Case.

The police must have been sorely disappointed at the wholesale breakdown of the case, which is an apt illustration of the story of the "mountain in labour." Such harassment of innocent men deserves blame. If Government had been careful before instituting the case, it might have prevented the unnecessary expense, and the valuable time of the High Court would not have been wasted.

46. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th April says that the decision of the Government not to discuss questions of caste precedence, etc., in the Census Report has been very wise. When Government is not the

Social questions in the Census Report.

head of the society, it ought not to discuss such questions.

47. Referring to the memorial submitted by the Calcutta (?) Association to the Government of India, praying (1) that the Census Circular of the 11th of July 1910 be

The Census and Hindu society.

withdrawn, (2) that no class of Hindus be returned in the Census papers as "low class" or "untouchables," and (3) that there should be no objection to return a Hindu under a new designation which he might adopt, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says that it appears from the reply of the Government that it has no objection to accede to the first two prayers of the Association, but that it is unable to accede to the third prayer. In short, Government is not in favour of any change in the old order of things. The authorities cannot be blamed for this, for being foreigners and professing a different religion, they have adopted an attitude of neutrality in matters relating to the religions of the subjects. So long as Hindu society is unwilling to recognise the claims of the classes who are going to adopt the new designations, it is foolishness to seek for Government help in the matter. It is this impatience and foolishness of people, who are inordinately fond of every thing new, which often puts obstacles in the way of social reform.

48. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 22nd April says that it is a matter of pleasure to find that on the advice of the Indian Association the Government has agreed not to adopt, in the present census, the same method of classification of castes which in the preceding census caused so much bitterness and irritation among the several classes in Bengal.

Classification of castes in the census.

of classification of castes which in the preceding census caused so much bitterness and irritation among the several classes in Bengal.

49. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 20th April objects to a subsidy given to a newspaper by the Government on the ground that the views expressed by that paper on religious, social as well as other topics, will be taken to be the views of the

Government policy criticised.

SANJIVANI,
April 20th, 1911.

SAMAJ.
April 23rd, 1911.

SANJIVANI,
April 20th, 1911.

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1911.

JASOHAR,
April 22nd, 1911.

HITVARTA,
April 20th, 1911.

Government itself, and this notion will be greatly mischievous specially where those views refer to matters relating to religion. This policy of the Government will strike at the root of the principles laid down in the Queen's Proclamation which forms the foundation of the huge structure of the British rule.

Referring to the *Jagadvritta* of Bombay the paper makes the following remarks:—

The journal was nearing its death when the Government saved its life by granting it an annual subsidy of Rs. 15,000 out of public money, viz. out of the pocket of those very people who were not at all willing to patronise the paper. That paper has now taken upon itself to abuse the Brahmins in indecent filthy language. Had the paper then ceased to exist, this particular class of His Majesty's subjects would have been saved the misfortune of such abuses being hurled at them. But the Bombay Government has fed and kept it alive, spending the people's money. Does this not mean that the Government itself is abusing the Brahmin class? We desire a full discussion in the Parliament on this regrettable policy of the Government.

SANJIVANI,
April 20th, 1911.

50. Referring to the replies given by Lord Hardinge to the addresses presented to him by the Muhammadan and Hindu Associations at Karachi, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 20th April says:—

The Viceroy's speeches at Karachi. In reply to the Muhammadan Association's address His Excellency said that education had a much higher object than that of securing service and that claim to service should not be based on distinctions of caste, race or religion. Should not His Excellency apply the same principle of fair field and no favour in the matter of Legislative Council elections?

We are glad to hear him say, in reply to the Hindu Association's address, that the Council regulations will be amended. But he has at the same time said that the amendments will not violate promises already given, that is to say, the system of separate representation for Musalmans will not be abolished. This, however, is not a liberal statement. In another place he has said that Government will not interfere with the separate representation of Musalmans so long as they themselves will not surrender their claim to it. His Excellency should consider whether such a policy is calculated to bring about a unity between Hindus and Musalmans.

HITVARTA,
April 20th, 1911.

51. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 20th April writes:—The words of His Excellency Lord Hardinge, when he set his foot on Indian soil, said in reply to the address presented by the Bombay branch of the

Lord Hardinge disappointing Hindus. Moslem League, that "giving preferential rights to a particular community means ascribing disabilities to others" had inspired the hearts of the Hindus with the hope that their grievance caused by Lord Minto's granting excessive privileges to the Muhammadans would be redressed by Lord Hardinge. But now we realise that the hope entertained by us was airy. From His Excellency's reply to the Karachi Hindu Sabha it may be deduced that the Hindus cannot expect any better treatment from Lord Hardinge. Touching the partiality shown to the Muhammadan community in carrying out the Reform Scheme His Excellency said that "if it was possible to reform the Council regulations having due regard to the pledges given to Muhammadans and to the diverse interests the Government will not hesitate to make proper changes." And Lord Minto has given pledges of excessive privileges to Muhammadans; so we should ever remember that to urge for equal treatment is simply crying in the wilderness.

HITVARTA,
April 20th, 1911.

52. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 20th April advises the Government to appoint without any delay the additional five Judges on the Calcutta High Court Bench as soon as the sanction of the Parliament, which has been applied for, is obtained, for accumulation of cases in the High Court is causing great hardship and much loss to the parties concerned.

TIRHUT SAMACHAR,
April 20th, 1911.

53. The *Tirhut Samachar* [Muzaffarpur] of the 20th April supports the Government of India's proposal of appointing more Judges to the Bench of the Calcutta High Court and hopes that at the time of filling

A candidate for High Court Judgeship.

up appointments, when sanctioned by the Secretary of State, the claims of Mr. Vincent, the Sessions Judge of Muzaffarpur, a very able and courteous officer, will receive due consideration. His elevation to the High Court Bench, says the paper, will be hailed with joy by the local public.

54. The *Tirhut Samachar* [Muzaffarpur] of the 20th April is of opinion that the Abor tribe should be dealt with severely and if necessary their territory should be annexed to the British dominion.

TIRHUT SAMACHAR,
April 20th, 1911.

55. Referring to the extension by one year more of the order that all meetings in public squares and gardens in Calcutta should be closed at least half an hour before sunset, the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says:—

NAYAK,
April 21st, 1911.

The order is very convenient for those who have to perform their evening prayers. It would have been much better had the authorities further ordered that after closing all meetings half an hour before sunset people should mind their evening prayers. However that may be, we are not dissatisfied with the order. Speechification simply causes biliousness and from biliousness come bad digestion and foul eructation; that is to say, sedition. We, therefore, thank the Lieutenant-Governor for the above order.

56. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says:—

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1911.

Ex-King Theebaw of Burma. Through the irony of fate, Theebaw, the last independent King of Burma, is now dispossessed of his kingdom and lives a captive in the hands of the English. The Government of India has kept him in confinement at Ratnagiri in the Bombay Presidency, and fixed a yearly allowance for him. A European official has been appointed his guardian. We do not know if the unfortunate king has to live under the complete control of his guardian, just as boys who have not attained majority have to do. But he being a political prisoner, there is no doubt that he is in all respects under the control of the officials. Mr. H. J. Inman had so long been his guardian, but he has recently been transferred, and Mr. B. T. Russel, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Insein, has been appointed in his place. To a blind man it matters little whether it is day or night.

56(a). The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th April praises Lord Hardinge's statesmanship. L—to return to Rangoon from Allahabad where he has been living with his family on an annuity paid by the Government.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
April 24th, 1911.

57. The Resident of Baroda, says the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April has increased the duty on hemp imported into the cantonments. What is beneficial for soldiers is also beneficial for people in general. Still the Government has so much facilitated the sale of hemp in this country that the number of inmates of the lunatic asylums is yearly increasing. If Government can abolish the opium trade for the benefit of China, is it not its bounden duty to reduce the sale of hemp for the benefit of its own subjects? Only people, whose intellects have been perverted by smoking hemp, and officials of the type of the members of the Hemp Drug Commission will object to the proposal of reducing the sale of hemp. But what the Government should be guided by is considerations for the people's good. What the Government will lose owing to the reduction in the sale of hemp will be made up by the consequent increase in the sale of liquor, and at the same time the lunatic asylums will cease to be overcrowded.

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1911.

58. In considering the causes of the present unsatisfactory condition of the Bombay Cotton Mills, the *Bara Bazar Gazette* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April points out the necessity of growing long staple and superior cotton in this country and the desirability of giving help by the Government as is done in other countries such as Japan and Germany by means of bounties. It is to be regretted that in this country the Government levies an excise duty on cotton goods. The question of its abolition should therefore receive attention of the Government.

BARA BAZAR GAZETTE,
April 22nd, 1911.

MUHAMMADI,
April 21st, 1911.

59. The *Muhammadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April is glad that after all Government has been convinced of the necessity of separating judicial and executive functions. The Secretary of State for India has, on the success of the experiments made in a few districts, ordered the experiment to be extended throughout the two provinces of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam. It will give satisfaction to the people of these provinces to see the Government taking up the experiment at once, for they are confident of its success.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 22nd, 1911.

60. Referring to the sanction of the Secretary of State to separate the judiciary from the executive in some of the districts of the two Bengals, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April opines that the judiciary should be brought under the control of the High Court subject to no interference whatsoever from the Lieutenant-Governor, for if the District Judge will be made subordinate to the Divisional Commissioner as was intended in the scheme drawn up by Sir Harvey Adamson, the separation will be of no good.

NAYAK,
April 21st, 1911.

61. Though not perfectly faultless, writes the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 21st April, the judiciary in India is not a very reprehensible institution. Many of its present faults will be rectified if it is separated from the executive branch of the administration. Our quarrel will then lie with this branch only. But if, according to the recommendations of the Decentralisation Commission, the executive administration of districts is placed in charge of Magistrates or Commissioners aided by committees of elected persons, then the shortcomings of the present executive department will also be to a great extent removed, and if the committees are composed of wise and able men and they are allowed to express opinions freely, it will even earn the good will of the people of the country.

JASOHAR,
April 22nd, 1911.

62. Referring to the despatch of Lord Morley regarding the separation of the judicial and executive functions in the provinces of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam, the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 22nd April writes:—

We are highly pleased at the news, and suggest that those who try criminal cases should be brought completely under the High Court. This being done the Government will easily realise the effects of the separation of the two functions. The Sub-Judges and Munsifs should also be entrusted with the trial of criminal cases, and it is desirable that lawyers should be appointed judges.

BARA BAZAR GAZETTE,
April 22nd, 1911.

63. The *Bara Bazar Gazette* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April says that although the Government did not see its way to act up to the suggestions of the Indian South African League to prevent the South African *mistris* from recruiting coolies, its reply is satisfactory and calls forth regard and admiration for it.

III.—LEGISLATION.

JASOHAR,
April 18th, 1911.

64. Referring to the Bill for compulsory free primary education introduced by Mr. Gokhale in the Imperial Legislative Council, the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 15th April writes:—

Every Indian, be he rich or poor, learned or illiterate, ought to consider the Bill thoroughly.

The educated men in the country have been urging the Government for some years past in congresses and conferences to make primary education compulsory, it being the duty of every Government to educate all its subjects irrespective of caste or creed. If the law works well for some years together it is hoped that the wrong ideas now prevailing in the country due to ignorance will disappear to a large extent.

We whole-heartedly support the Bill and thank Mr. Gokhale for moving it. No matter whether the Bill is passed or not, Mr. Gokhale's name will ever be remembered in the history of the spread of education in this country. The

people of this country, which is full of ignorance, will be much benefited if education be spread here by any means whatsoever, but we are grieved to notice the attitude of the Government in the matter.

If the Government took the initiative in this matter, it would have been a proof of its liberal-mindedness. If the Bill falls through, the people will think that the Government rejected it by using Mr. Gokhale as a mere tool.

On the other hand, if it be passed it will no doubt be an occasion for the people to express their gratitude to Government. There is a provision in the Bill empowering the Municipalities and Local Boards to collect an Education Tax to defray the expenses of compulsory free education. It is not known how much will be collected in this way, but is not the Government aware that it will only be a source of great trouble to the middle-class and poor people of India? The people are already overburdened with various kinds of municipal taxes, and a fresh imposition in the form of an education tax will greatly add to the burden. Every one understands that, being fully aware that there is not the slightest chance of the Government defraying the cost of free primary education, Mr. Gokhale has been obliged to move for the imposition of a new tax. Thinking that the people will strongly object to a fresh taxation, the Government has entrusted Mr. Gokhale with this unpleasant duty. If the people agree to pay the tax out of deference for the mover, who is held in high esteem throughout the country, the Government may perhaps have no objection to the passing of the Bill. But if it be otherwise, the Bill will not be passed and the Government will not be blamed for it. We are unable to support these tactics adopted by the Government.

When moving the Bill, Mr. Gokhale asked the Government at the outset to agree to bear a great portion of the expenses of free primary education, and we hope that the Government will earn the gratitude of the people by contributing at least half the cost. It is our belief that the people will not object to a small tax. There is a provision in the Bill for the payment of fees by those students in the primary schools, who can afford to do so, and for exemption in case of the poor students. In the village schools the position of the free students is very trying, they having to make up the full value of the fees by performing works for the teacher. We are therefore of opinion that, instead of there being such distinction, all students ought to be given instruction free of charge, and the cost ought to be defrayed by some other means. There are many rich men in the country who spend much money for "buying titles", and if the Government encourages the payment of subscription towards the maintenance of schools, these institutions will not want money. There are many zamindars, too, who pay subscription without entertaining any desire for titles. The money thus collected ought to be kept as capital, and the interest arising from it may be expected to be quite sufficient for the costs to be incurred. The people, however, ought, even by agreeing to pay the tax, to support the Bill; because whatever is invested in education returns with interest.

65. The *Hindusthan* [Calcutta] of the 19th April opposes the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale's Elementary Education Bill and writes
"Compulsion in education." as follows:—

HINDUSTHAN,
April 19th, 1911.

It is a mistake to suppose that the Government that does not provide for compulsory education is a bad Government.

Education is compulsory in Abyssinia. Is it to be inferred from this that Abyssinia is better governed than India?

The Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale's proposal is not a new one. It has existed since the days of Reverend Lal Behari De, who was a warm advocate of compulsory education.

What is possible in a small State like Baroda is not always possible in a vast dominion like British India. It is impossible to make education compulsory for 9 or 10 crores of boys and girls.

Compulsory education may be approved of by a few men like Lal Behari De and Gokhale, but the masses are opposed to it. And it is always unwise to introduce a thing objected to by the majority.

Legislation alone can make education compulsory. India has already got too many laws for dealing with criminals, and she will be glad to be spared a new one, whatever its nature may be. A law that provides for the punishment of delinquents is not a very easy law. There could be no objection if

the proposed law was to be operative on such people alone as advocate compulsory education. It would be unwise to make the law operative on 20 or 22 crores of people who do not want it.

Compulsory education must be free, so that Mr. Gokhale's Bill provides for an education tax. If a tax is imposed, it will have to be paid by everybody. Those who have got children receiving education and those who have no children at all will have to pay the tax equally with those who have children receiving education. A machine of oppression will thus be set up in the country.

Mr. Gokhale has provided that attendance at school will not be made compulsory in the case of boys whom circumstances will not permit to attend school. This provision will include the vast majority of the boys of the country, so that only such boys as are now receiving education will receive it after the passing of the Bill. Boy labourers in mills and factories receive education even now and they will also receive it afterwards. This is not all. The compulsion provided by the law will make many such boys averse to studies as are now receiving education.

What comes about slowly is best. Education is steadily spreading in the country. There was a time when boys had to be paid for attending school and their parents for allowing them to attend school; when all students of the Calcutta Sanscrit College used to get Rs. 5 each per mensem. Even in our school days we read free in the Sanscrit College and were moreover supplied with paper, pencil, etc. When the Normal School was established, all students were given scholarships of Rs. 5 each, irrespective of merit. This state of things has changed and education is being more and more valued in the country. Allow this steady progress of education to continue and a day will come when the purpose of Mr. Gokhale's Bill will be fulfilled in natural course without the imposition of any tax. A great wrong will be done to the country if the Bill is passed. Fortunately, however, there is no chance of its being accepted by the Government. Even if passed, we do not think that Government will be able to extend it to any place on account of the poverty of the Municipalities and the District Boards in the country.

Universal education is calculated to do immense harm to the country by spreading socialistic ideas of equality in it.

A certain gentleman has expressed a hope that compulsory education will place newspapers in the hands of the agricultural and labouring classes and enable them to save themselves from the oppressions of zamindars and their subordinates. None but mad men can entertain such a hope. In Europe and America the result of compulsory universal primary education has been the creation of widespread socialism which is gradually leading to hideous revolutionism. No education is better than little education. The more primary education will spread, the more will the lower classes of the society become unruly. This unruly spirit will lead to irreligiosity as it has done in Europe. Violent socialism is inimical to religion. The anarchists have banished even God from the world. What has happened in Europe will happen in India also.

HITAVADI.
April 21st, 1911.

66. In its fourth article on the "Improvement of Calcutta", the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says that nobody denies the necessity of the improvement of Calcutta, but the authorities are no doubt aware that Calcutta as it is does not compare unfavourably with many fine cities of highly civilised Europe. Who will deny that, if at an enormous cost, the narrow streets of the city are widened, the poor people are driven out, and the number of population reduced, the health of the city will be improved and its beauty enhanced? But what is to be considered is how far it is reasonable to render a great many persons helpless and drive them out of the city with a view to increasing its beauty.

The Municipality had been slowly effecting the improvements of the city which were also making it difficult for poor people to live in it. But still the poor people had time to think; it was, therefore, that no strong protest was heard against these improvements. But under the present scheme, the authorities are bent on expediting the work, on doing in two years what takes ten years to perform. Consequently, the inhabitants of Calcutta,

especially poor and middle-class people, have been alarmed. The Municipality could have accomplished in double the time what the Improvement Trust will be required to do, and at the same time, there would not have been so much agitation and discontent. Now that the Secretary of State has approved of the Scheme, and a Bill has been introduced in the Legislative Council, it would be mere waste of time and energy to discuss the necessity of the law. The paper, however, thus criticises some of the provisions of the law.

The principal object of the law is to remove the congestion of the city. But the cause of this congestion should be ascertained. People first flocked to the heart of the city when they found the Municipality making efforts to improve its health. Want of accommodation in the city gradually made them remove to the suburbs. The suburbs are now so overcrowded that it has become necessary to remove their congestion. But the proposed law provides for sanitary improvement of the city and the suburbs, but it is silent about the improvement of the villages to which the people driven out of the city will flock, and which will gradually form the suburbs of the improved city. Still the *Statesman* and the other Anglo-Indian newspapers say that the improvement of the city is meant solely for the benefit of the poor. The paper is unable to solve this mystery.

The proposed law contains a provision for accommodating poor classes and workmen, who will be deprived of their houses by its operation. The paper thinks with Mr. Apear that provisions for accommodation should be made for persons, whose income is below Rs. 2,000 a year. The Hon'ble Mr. Bhupendranath fixes Rs. 1,000 as the maximum limit of income in this case. He thus excludes the middle-class people, whose condition of all others is the most deplorable. Brought up in affluence, Bhupendranath has acted inconsiderately in excluding them. The accommodation will be provided in this way. The Improvement Trust will acquire bare lands, on which they will build houses, establish markets, etc. These houses will be let out to persons dispossessed of their dwelling houses. The result of this arrangement will be that people will have to live separately from their relatives. The inconvenience will not be felt so much by those who now live in rented houses as by those who live in houses of their own. The people of this country do not like to live in rented houses all their life. They generally live in their own houses from generation to generation. People, therefore, who will want to have houses of their own, will have no other alternative than to remove to neighbouring villages. If the authorities provide for the improvement of the health of those villages, they will earn the hearty blessings of the people. To this end the paper suggests the improvement of the villages within a radius of at least 8 or 10 miles from the city. The Improvement Trust need not bear all the expenses in this connection. The neighbouring municipalities may be required to contribute in proportion to their ability, an octroi tax may be levied on people coming to the city from those villages, something may be realised from the zamindars, and something may be contributed from the Improvement Trust Fund also. With this money it will not be difficult to provide for the supply of good drinking water and proper drainage in the villages. When it is admitted that one of the imperative duties of the Improvement Trust is to provide for the accommodation of the poor and the middle-class population, why then should not the Trust Fund contribute towards the sanitary improvement of the villages?

The convenience of the poor and the middle-class people should receive the consideration of the authorities more than the convenience of the zamindars. The zamindars will lose nothing by the carrying out of the scheme. The income of the zamindars has been greatly increased along with the extension of the city and the increase in its population. They cannot now raise any objection if they have to suffer any slight inconvenience. Let the authorities improve the city in any way they like, but along with it let them improve the health of the neighbouring villages for the benefit of the poor and the middle-class people.

67. The *Satya Sanatan Dharma* [Calcutta] of the 20th April says:—In the beginning the privilege of interpellation given to the members of the Legislative Councils was considered to be of great value, but the treatment

Interpellations in Councils,
only waste of time.

SATYA SANATAN
DHARMA,
April 20th, 1911.

accorded to the questions asked in the Imperial as well as Provincial Councils has made it clear that the privilege amounts to a mere waste of time.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SULABH SAMACHAR,
April 14th, 1911.

68. Rai Jadu Nath Majumdar Bahadur, M.A., B.L., writes in the *Sulabh Samachar* [Calcutta] of the 14th April:—

The present political sky.

The present political sky of India cannot be said to be totally free from clouds and no one can say that sedition has been nipped in the bud. Are some of the ill-disposed, inexperienced youths alone responsible for the deeds, unbecoming of an Aryan, that are being perpetrated, such as attempts at secret murders and circulation of books full of untruths, which are calculated to engender a seditious spirit? or, are there some older and well-to-do cowardly conspirators also behind the scene? What is the fault of the Government officers if in order to allay unrest they have to adopt some stringent administrative measures? These measures do not at all affect innocent people. It is being stated that the people have almost been deprived now of a free press and of the right of public speech, and that the Government officials are to blame for it, but can anyone say if there has ever been any obstacle put in the way of any person submitting just and real grievances to Government? It is doubtful if any other Government could show such coolness and patience as was shown by the British Government. As Lords Morley and Minto had tried their best to suppress sedition, so also had they spared no pains to extend the just rights of the people. They did not hold the entire population responsible for the acts of a few wicked individuals, and consequently they did not hesitate to effect necessary changes in the system of administration. A mere look at the political sky will convince one that the policy of repression coupled with that of concession has been effective and has re-established peace in the country. The right of self-government is being extended to India with the increase of intelligence and administrative ability of the people. Although the right of self-government given to the people of England is almost perfect, still they are trying to get new rights. Hence it befits only a mad man to call the Indians seditious if they merely take part in political agitations, but it is nevertheless not wise for anyone to request the Government to remain unconcerned if attempts are made to turn such agitations into seditious movements.

It is a most blameworthy act to seek the enjoyment of privileges without having the sense of responsibility. There are both privileges and responsibilities in all social relations, namely, in relations between the rulers and the ruled, between the husband and the wife, between the father and the son, etc. Hence, is it not the duty of a loyal subject to take the side of Government to uproot sedition? Under the influence of temporary excitement, a loyal subject ought not to entertain a feeling of settled hatred against the Government. The Government is never pleased if attempts are made to engender such feelings against it for the misdeeds of particular officers.

Queen Victoria was like the mother of India, and anyone reading the sacred account of her pure life will be convinced of the deep love which Her Majesty entertained for her Indian subjects. Our present Emperor's love for India is also well-known, and the whole of India is full of joy at the news of his approaching visit.

SULABH SAMACHAR,
April 14th, 1911.

69. In an article headed "The *Sulabh Samachar* and Government," Babu Jnanendra Lal Roy, M.A., writes in the *Sulabh Samachar* [Calcutta] of the 14th April:—

The *Sulabh Samachar* and Government.

For sometime our political sky was full of dark clouds and the vessel of State was rolling. But the pilot, though anxious, was fearless and steady, and the danger has already passed away or is passing away. The Government did not lose its balance of mind, as a result of the disturbances created by the misguided youths and the series of murderous acts. "Martial law" was not proclaimed in the country, on the contrary the Government began to confer new rights on the people.

For a long time the Government has sought justice like the common people in the law courts established by itself, and it is now standing as a suitor

before the reading public. It is for this purpose that it has incurred the expense of starting a newspaper of its own, and of subsidising one or two vernacular papers, which will support its cause. Some of our countrymen have been grieved at the action and have even been afraid of some evil. But as for myself, far from finding any cause of such grief, I consider the arrangement as a pleasing and hopeful one, and it is an honour to the reading public that the Government is standing before them as an applicant for justice with a petition in hand. The readers may consider the subsidised newspaper as the application by the Government or as an explanation of its own action. This is a proof of the glory and power of the people as well as of the force of their opinion.

It is true that a newspaper supported by Government may at first incur the displeasure of the people. The public may think that the *Sulabh Samachar* is the mouthpiece of Government or that it is pleading on its behalf, and that it will support the interests of Government only and not the opinions and desires of the people. For the sake of argument I take the *Sulabh Samachar* to be the pleader on behalf of the Government, but what harm there is to be so? In order to find out the truth is it not proper to hear both sides? No one will say that in courts there ought to be lawyers on one side only, which may lead to many mistakes passing undetected; for this reason the judges always request liberal-minded lawyers to appear without fee for undefended persons accused of heinous crimes. I find no reason why the *Sulabh Samachar*, if it be considered as pleading for the Government, should be an object of disregard. No one can hate a lawyer for the defence, because he does not try to throw dust in the eyes of the judge but is dutiful, and fearlessly adduces evidence and sets forth the law points on behalf of his client. Similarly, is there any one who will hate and disregard a Government pleader who, keeping an eye on truth and justice and without departing from the path of virtue, adduce proofs and sets forth arguments on behalf of the prosecution?

70. The following criticism of the first number of the Government subsidised vernacular newspaper, the *Sulabh Samachar*, appears in the *Sri-Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Basar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th April:—

The *Sulabh Samachar* criticised.

The publication of the paper for which the Sarkar Bahadur has undertaken to spend no less a sum than Rs. 62,500 annually, naturally excited extraordinary curiosity in the public mind. But it must be said that its get-up has thoroughly disappointed the public who expected it to appear in a much more attractive garb than what it now wears. Again, the annual subscription of Rs. 2-8 which has been announced, does not make it the *Sulabh* or cheap newspaper that its name implies, as any respectable Bengali newspaper can be had for Rs. 2 annually.

The first number bears little evidence of editorial ability or of skilful discrimination in the selection of the articles. The editorial note setting forth the objects of the paper contains the usual blatant vapourings, which besides being totally worthless, are positively injurious to the dignity and gravity of the paper.

Impartiality is the watchword of this paper, as, indeed, it is of every other newspaper. But the present number falls miserably short of the lofty ideal thus held up. In the article headed "*Sulabh Samachar* O Government" the writer admits that the paper is an advocate of the Government. But an advocate cannot afford to be impartial but must hide the shortcomings of his client. "The Bengali newspapers adopt many questionable methods for increasing the number of their subscribers," so writes the *Sulabh Samachar*. Being the adopted child of the mighty Government, the *Sulabh Samachar* may well say so, as it can do without a large number of subscribers. But it does not appear that the editor himself is at all free from that greed of gain which characterises other mortals; for, otherwise, he would not eagerly collect all sorts of advertisements for his paper, not excluding even those which are obscene.

Regarding the expression of religious opinions also, the vaunted impartiality is scarcely to be met with. It was expected beforehand that Buddhism would be preached in the paper, and that expectation has now been fulfilled. There are a good many articles dealing with Buddhism

SRI-SRI
VISHNU PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA,
April 20th, 1911.

in the paper. Can it not be pertinently asked whether Government is spending Rs. 62,500 merely to help the spreading of Buddhism?

The articles have been written by various writers each in his own way, and there is nothing like similarity of purpose or method running through the whole. While one writer says that the political sky of India has now cleared up, another says that the clouds have not yet disappeared altogether, and there is danger ahead. What, then, shall the classes of people for whom the paper is intended believe? Rai Bahadur Jadu Nath Mazumdar writes:—Who is responsible for the despicable crimes? Is it merely the misguided and immature Indian youth, or are there older men possessing wealth and influence hiding behind the curtain, who are the real investigators? Now, this sort of writing used to be confined to Anglo-Indian papers which were the enemies of India, and the Rai Bahadur seems to have inadvertently echoed the same sentiments. Such groundless charges should never be published in a paper which professes to adhere to the truth.

From the literary point of view also the first number of the paper is a failure. (The writer here points out some errors in grammar and style, and concludes by pointing out the errors and inconsistencies in writings of some of the professors of the Sanskrit College appearing in the issue of the paper).

HITVARTA,
April 20th, 1911

71. The adage that a mountain was in labour and brought forth but a rat is said by the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 20th April to apply to the subsidised paper

The Sulabh Samachar. published Friday last, for in size and matter it is inferior to the chief Bengali weeklies, *Hitvadi*, *Bangavasi* and *Basumati*, while not only is its subscription higher but it also receives a large sum from the Government.

Commenting on the policy of the *Sulabh Samachar* as stated in its leading article headed *Nivedan* that the object of the paper is to publish genuine news and to criticise impartially the actions of the Government, the *Hitvarta* has the following remarks:—

Verily the paper which has come into existence solely for being partial and for this very purpose has been granted an annual subsidy of Rs. 62,500, is sure to be impartial! Does the Rai Bahadur consider the Bengalis such fools as incapable of understanding even this plain and simple truth? It is very difficult for the public to understand what the real policy of the paper would be, because either they should disbelieve the Rai Bahadur's profession of impartiality, or the statement made on behalf of the Government that the paper has been started with a view to discuss the question from the Government point of view. One of the two must be a lie.

BARA BAZAR
GAZETTE,
April 22nd, 1911.

72. Learning from the newspaper vendors that the sale of the *Sulabh Samachar* is not satisfactory, the *Bara Bazar Gazette* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April asks:—Will the preaching of loyalty be unsuccessful even after so much expenditure?

BASUMATI,
April 22nd, 1911.

73. In reviewing the first issue of the *Sulabh Samachar*, the *Basumat* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April says that the name of the new Bengali weekly is a misnomer for, instead of being cheap (*sulabh*), it is dearer than the other Bengali weeklies. Keshab Chandra Sen's *Sulabh Samachar* was really *sulabh*, for its price was one pice per copy.

The writer then tries to prove by means of detailed criticism similar to what has been made by the *Nayak* (see Report on Native Papers dated the 22nd April 1911, paragraph 73) that the writings published in the issue of the *Sulabh Samachar* under review are full of grammatical mistakes and mistakes in idiom and style. Only the articles contributed by Babu Jnanendra Lal Ray and Pandit Rajendranath Vidyabhushan are not spoken badly of. But still it is said that a much better thing was expected from Babu Jnanendra Lal Ray. Pandit Pramathanath Tarkabhushana, another of the contributors, is taken to task for writing against conservative Hinduism in a paper maintained by public money. Mistakes have also been found in the language used by the pandit.

NAYAK,
April 22nd, 1911.

74. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April says that the second issue of the *Sulabh Samachar* is a much better production than the first. The language and style are better

though not all that could be desired. The choice of subjects has also been more judicious. Why should we, asks the writer, call a good thing bad? We are enemies of spurious things, duffers and busybodies. So long as we shall be able to wield the pen we shall protest against misuse of public money. Nourished by the public purse, the *Sulabh Samachar* ought to be an ideal Bengali journal in style and language. Its choice of subjects also ought to be an example to all Bengali writers. Its first issue was so badly written and executed that it was severely criticised by the entire Calcutta Press. The second issue also has not been a perfect one and can by no means be placed in the same rank with the *Hitavadi*, the *Bangavasi* or the *Basumati*. But still we can safely say that it is an improvement on the first issue.

Rai Bahadur Sen should know that none of us is unhappy because he is to get Rs. 62,500 from the Government. But we tell him in plain terms that many of the band of men with whose help he means to conduct the *Sulabh Samachar* are altogether unfit for the task. Many of them have the brand of seditious leaning on their persons, and it is with the object of applying the unguent of loyalty to it that they have sought the cool shade of the *Sulabh Samachar* and have begun a devil's dance there.

If it is desired to make an ideal paper of the *Sulabh Samachar* these busybodies must be given the short shrift, and the duffers expelled. Unless this can be done, the *Sulabh* will never prosper. Rai Bahadur Sen has reached extreme old age. He does not know Bengali, and has no acquaintance with the Bengali newspaper-reading public. For these reasons he has made a serious mistake at the very outset. To rectify this mistake he requires an expert helmsman. Let him find out such a man and then he will prosper. We hear that Pandit Dhirananda has become prepared to sever his connection with the *Sulabh Samachar*. He has served in the *Bangavasi* and the *Hitavadi* for twenty years. He has a better knowledge of grammar and literature than some of the busy pandits of the Sanskrit College. He is not a pandit of the sycophant class, neither a spurious proof-reader. If Rai Bahadur Sen cannot retain the services of a man like him, no self-respecting writer will dare take service under him. These are true words, and unless servile degeneration has come over Rai Bahadur Sen he will heed them. Otherwise, the *Sulabh Samachar* called back from the world of ghosts will remain a field for ghosts' sports.

75. Referring to the article entitled "The Monument's Remarks" which appeared in the *Sulabh Samachar* dated the 21st instant, the *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 25th April

NAYAK,
April 25th, 1911.

says:—

In one part of the article it has been written, "But alas! You do not appreciate this unbounded love of mine, you do not take my advice even for once, you do not turn your eyes towards me even for once." If you raise the point of taking advice, we must say that it was your advice which reduced us to the most pitiable condition. You preached boycott and we were assaulted at Jamalpore, images of our gods and goddesses were broken, our women were insulted and at last we were arrested on a charge of murder. Fortunately, there was the High Court and we were saved the halter. It was because we followed your advice that we were belaboured at Beadon Square, and some of us were even arrested and sent to jail. And still you want us to follow your advice?

76. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 26th April refers to the following extract from an issue of the *Sulabh Samachar*:—I (i.e. the Ochterlony Monument) like you very much; attend to what I say and judge impartially, and that will do you good;—and commenting on this remarks:—

NAYAK,
April, 26th 1911.

Your body is built of bricks and there is *soorki* on your head, what good can be done by what you say? The Bannerjees of Nimtola listened to what you said and you know what good has come to them.

Later on in the same article there is the passage:—

"চির বুদ্ধি বিধায়িনী বঙ্গভূমি! হায় তোমার সন্তান কুলে এমন বুদ্ধি হস্তি কোথা হইতে আসিল?"

Will this writing open the eyes of Government? Do you know what this sense and faculty is:—it is the display of loyalty, which is called hypocrisy in

English. Put in plain words, this passage means: No matter what may be your feelings, do not cease making a show of your loyalty. If you do, you will forego official patronage and that would be stupidity.

There is then another passage in the same article which may be freely rendered into English thus: "When all, irrespective of social rank, age and sex abused your King (or rulers) and brought unrest in the land, the ruling power silently put up with it all." On this passage the *Nayak* remarks:—

Brother Bengali, will you put up with this abuse of yourself? Is there nobody among you who can bring a defamation suit and bring this *mosahib* (sycophant) to his bearings, can deprive him of his little all and bring such an unreadable lifeless paper to an end? We do not know who abused the King (or rulers) and we do not hesitate to say that this article is a lie.

Taking next the following passage from the same article as its text,

ইহার পর লেখা হইয়াছে—“একজন বিদ্যালয়ের ছাত্র প্রতিদিন বিছানা হইতে উঠিয়া বিলাতি বিস্কুটসহ চা খাইতেন। বরন বর্জনের প্রতিজ্ঞায় আবদ্ধ হইলেন তখন বিস্কুট হাড়িয়া দিয়া তৎপরিবর্তে মুড়ি সহযোগে চা খাইতে আরম্ভ করিয়াছিলেন। ব্যবহাটা দেশের রহস্যময়ী প্রকৃতির উপযুক্ত হইয়াছে বটে, কিন্তু স্বদেশী আন্দোলনের লম্বা বড়ই শোচনীয়রূপ প্রকাশ করিতেছে; হাড়ি হাড়ি, মজ্জার মজ্জার, যাহাদের অমুকরণ প্রবণতা বিদ্যমান, তাহাদের স্বাভাবিক আন্দোলন করিতে যাওয়া যে বিড়ম্বনা তাহা বুঝিয়া কি?”

the same paper remarks:—

We appeal to our rulers in our distress! You have broken up Bengal, but do not ruin our language by publishing this kind of language at our expense. You are trying to improve the Bengali language in the schools, but do not let the language be ruined by such stuff in the newspapers. If you want to instruct the public, there are many educated men who may be entrusted with the conduct of this journal. Do not let Bengali be ruined like this any more. And do you understand the sense suggested by this passage: If you will carry on political agitation, just give up imitating the English and then take up politics. Is not that so?

NAYAK,
April 26th, 1911.

77. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 26th April writes that a gentleman who has no connection with Government, save that he is one of His Majesty's loyal subjects, has lately been supplied by post with the second issue of the *Sulabh Samachar*. He never asked for the paper and yet the copy cannot have been a sample one, for the cover bore his name in print and there was a registered subscriber's number also printed. He does not venture to refuse to accept the paper lest his loyalty be suspected. Can it be that this copy is one of the 25,000 copies purchased by Government for free distribution?

JASOHAR,
April 22nd, 1911.

78. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 22nd April writes:—
We understand that in the very first issue of the Government subsidised newspaper the *Sulabh Samachar*, Rai Jadu Nath Mazumdar Bahadur, the Government Pleader of Jessore, has written an article headed "The political sky of India." As we have not yet received the paper we are not in a position to express our opinion on anything said in that article, but it is reported that Jadu Bahu has already received a printed copy of the *Swadhin Bharata* the contents of which are not known, but which is said to contain some threatening words warning him against writing articles in the *Sulabh Samachar*. We have been astonished at the report, and are unable to find out the reason why one should be angry with him for expressing his personal opinion, although that opinion may not be liked by many thoughtful writers. No harm is done to any one if, being a Government officer, the Rai Bahadur does not keep all information and cannot fully understand the condition of the country; but the writers in the *Sulabh Samachar* ought to think about the condition of the country and the actions of the present liberal Government before taking up the pen. It is as harmful to publish unjust abuse against the Government as to flatter them to a high degree. Thoughtful men are uninfluenced by feelings of enmity and think about the welfare of the ruled and the rulers as well. It is better to protest against any action of Government than to shower unjust applause on them, because such applause has the effect of producing feelings of disrespect in the

minds of the people on the one hand, and of making the Government blind to its faults on the other. A work is done better if there be an opposing party to point out the defects than if there be only flatterers. It is for this reason that much liberty is given to the press in the British Empire. We are of opinion that the *Sulabh Samachar* ought not to contain only words in praise of the Government, and instead of asking the people to be grateful for certain actions of the Government, it ought to publish fully the good intentions of the Government and a report of the beneficial work done by it. A political storm has just passed over the country, complete peace has not yet returned to the hearts of the people, and they have not yet been able to realise the policy of the present liberal Government. So, any high degree of eulogy at the present time will baffle the intentions of the benign Government, and the people will go against the teachings of the *Sulabh Samachar*. Therefore we say that the paper should refrain from eulogising the Government, so long as its good name is not widely circulated. Considering the ability and high-mindedness shown by Lord Hardinge in his actions we hope the condition of the country will soon be completely changed, when any opinion expressed about the Government will not cause any perturbation of mind to any party. They, however, who are thinking of changing the opinion of the people through the *Sulabh Samachar* and are acting as pleaders on behalf of the Government, are mistaken; because the people are solicitors of favours and the Government is the giver of them and a pleader supporting the cause of the Government cannot be loved by the solicitors who consider his intervention as meaning refusal of their prayer. We are seekers of favour and shall be satisfied if we get something. Such being the case the people object to the Government appointing a pleader to support its cause at such a cost.

79. In an article, headed the "New Incarnation of the *Sulabh Samachar*," the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April thus criticises the first issue of the new journal:—

"The new incarnation of the *Sulabh Samachar*." At last, on the auspicious day of the 1st of Baisakh, the new incarnation of the *Sulabh Samachar* made its appearance in the market. The minds of those who were anxiously waiting for its appearance are now assured. They have seen with their own eyes what they had so long been hearing about.

But in the words of the old song everybody will now say that "it would have been better if we had not seen him". For the "skill" which the new incarnation of the *Sulabh* has displayed at the outset, the way in which the baby decked in the girdle of Government money, has clutched a club before playing with the bauble, the way in which it is puffed up with pride at being the darling of the Government, all this is rare not only in Bengal but in the whole world.

The old man, Sen Mahasay, who is at the helm of the *Sulabh*, with one foot in the grave, is awaiting the call of death. It was, therefore, expected that whatever were the other qualities in which the *Sulabh* might be wanting, it would never lack courtesy. But proud of possessing Government patronage, the *Sulabh Samachar* has forgotten what courtesy is, and, bidding adieu to truth and honesty, it trumpets forth to the world that there is no impartial newspaper in Bengali. Has anybody heard of such monumental impertinence and gross falsehood? The Bengali newspapers are partial to one or other sect or party, while the old *Mirror*, the hypocritical *Mirror*, is a saint, an incarnation of honesty! If there is any partial or party paper in Bengal, it is the *Mirror*, and its shadow the *Sulabh Samachar*. What brazen-faced liar the *Sulabh Samachar* is!

But that is not the only venom spurted out by the *Samachar* in its *Nivedana* or submission. It has further called the Bengali newspapers liars and fools. In short, this *Nivedana* of the *Samachar* is a string of lies, and in its endeavour to put it round the neck of the Bengali newspapers, it has itself got the string fastened round its own neck.

We may ask, how can a newspaper, which has to speak at every step with an eye to Government money, on which its existence solely depends, express its views in an impartial spirit? Has ever such an impossible thing happened? The "old grandfather" of the newspaper press in Bengal knew

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1911.

beforehand that such a question might arise. So he entered the stage with a pleader at his tail. This pleader is Srijukta Jnanendra Lal Roy, M.A. Like goddess, like priest; Jnanendra Babu writes thus in his own article:—

From a very remote period, the Government has been a suitor, like a petty subject, in its own courts. Now the Government is a suitor before the reading public. It is, therefore, that at its own cost it has established a newspaper to plead in its own behalf, and has proceeded to subsidise one or two vernacular newspapers to plead for it! This has made some of our countrymen sorry and apprehensive of harm. I find nothing to be sorry for in this arrangement. On the contrary, this arrangement appears to me to be hopeful and one at which we may rejoice. The Government stands before the reading public as a suitor praying for justice. This indicates nothing but the high esteem in which the reading public is held. The reading public may look upon the subsidised newspaper in the light of the petition or the explanation of the Government. This only proves the glory, power and the high value of the opinions of the subjects. So I say that there is nothing to be sorry for in the establishment of such a newspaper; on the contrary, there is much ground for hope.

The arguments which the writer has brought forward in support of a subsidised newspaper, and the picture which he has drawn of the Government as a suitor before the assembly of the subjects, are as much out of place as extraordinary; the pleading is thus thoroughly original. But what is to be regretted is that this veteran writer does not know that law and politics are not one and the same thing. He has tried to support by hollow arguments a measure, the baneful effect of which has been clearly pointed out by all newspapers, both Indian and Anglo-Indian, and which even the Government had to admit, in deference of public opinion, as an experimental measure. Such an instance of foolishness and pride is rare even in Hare Street. Nobody ever dreamt that Jnanendra Lal's journalistic and literary career would end in this. But as the proverb goes, "Man becomes wiser by degrees."

The paper then criticises the language of some of the articles published in the first issue of the *Sulabh Samachar*. From the specimen already published, it says, it appears that the rules of grammar and composition have been trodden under foot; besides, the language emits such a bad smell of "Feringhee Bengali," that it is unbearable even to the writers of the notices of "Mother Siegel's Syrup" and "Condensed Milk." The sores are all over the body, the paper has thus no patience to apply the remedy. The only article worth reading is Babu Ishan Chandra Ghosh's article on the Temple of Buddha in Javadwipa.

The paper contains no news of the country and its people. After three months' preparation, the *Sulabh Samachar* has now appeared before the public. Like a new-born babe possessed it has begun to talk, so it cannot be expected to live long. If it does, it must be ascribed to Mr. Sen's good luck. Compared with the other weekly newspapers and the old series of the *Sulabh Samachar*, the newspaper is not worth the name of a newspaper. But Mr. Sen has nothing to fear, for his *Samachar*, though it is a wooden cat, will still be able to catch mice. The pagoda tree at Alipur will shower gold and silver on him by instalments, and he will have no anxiety for subscribers.

80. Under the heading "An old man's sayings," "An old man" thus

HITAVADI,
April 21st 1911.

The "Loyal Citizen" of Howrah
and the *Sulabh Samachar*.

writes in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st
April:—

Brother, have you heard of another funny thing? It is rumoured that the "Loyal Citizen" of Howrah, that is to say, the loyal citizen, Lahiri Mahasay, tried to secure Government favour by fawning and whining, but that he had to come back at last disappointed. This worthy, so the rumour goes, applied to the Government to the effect that when Government had arranged to spend money lavishly on the *Sulabh Samachar*, which was not yet in existence, why should it not spend money at least on a small scale on the existing "Loyal Citizen"? But Government did not make even a very small provision for Sriman Lahiri, not to speak of a provision on a lavish scale. This is indeed a very grave injustice on the part of the Government. Government has arranged for the payment of sixty-two and a half thousand rupees to Narendra Nath Sen, the very man who, on several occasions in the past, in public

meetings, severely took the Government to task, who even presided at the meeting organised by the *Hitavadi* for "honouring the persecuted," and presented medals to persons who had suffered imprisonment, while it did not pay even sixty-two and a half broken *couries* to the highly devoted, loyal citizen, Sriman Lahiri Babajiban! Alas! Lahiri!

You went to bathe in the ocean of nectar!
But in your case everything was changed into venom!

81. Says the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April:—

The Albert Hall.

Our old Sen Mahasay is furnishing evidence of his honesty and impartiality by publishing the *Sulabh Samachar*. We, therefore, ask him to-day a question, in the hope that he will give us an honest reply. We know that the Albert Hall is a public property, but the use of this Hall for any public purpose can very seldom be secured. A school is however held as usual in this Hall, and there are also in it a typewriting school and a students' mess. Rents are being realised every month from the proprietors of the school and the mess respectively. Now, Sen Mahasay is the sole trustee of this Hall; are the rents then being deposited with him? If there is money in his deposit, why is the Hall in such a dilapidated condition for want of repairs? Why, for want of accommodation in the Albert Hall, have the public to appeal to the managers of the theatres? Who is the proprietor of the Albert Hall? How long has it been let on hire? Before teaching honesty and impartiality to the people of this country, will Sen Mahasay give fair replies to these questions? Will he publish a statement of accounts in this connection? In a daily English paper a gentleman has advised the authorities of the University Institute to acquire the Albert Hall and the adjoining land for the use of the Institute. Many people believe that this advice will be acted upon. We are highly surprised at this conference of mice. The Albert Hall was built to commemorate the name of Empress Victoria of revered memory, which nobody has a right to treat lightly. We want to know whose property the Hall is and who will sell it?

82. The *Sulabh Samachar* [Calcutta] of the 14th April writes:—

The Royal Reception Committee.

It is owing to our good luck that the Emperor of India is coming to this country, and many people are counting the days of the auspicious visit, with hearts full of hope. A Committee has been formed in Calcutta to make arrangements for the reception of the Emperor. It consists of representatives of all classes of the people except the *adhyapakas* (professors of Sanskrit). Being pleased with their ability the Government have conferred the title of Mahamahopadhyaya on many *adhyapakas*, and it would have been a matter of great pleasure if at least one of them were in the Committee.

83. In the course of a long article the *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 19th April says that in the Calcutta Royal Reception Committee the middle classes should be strongly represented. The election of the Maharajadhiraj

The Royal Reception in Calcutta.

Bahadur of Burdwan and Maharaja Sir Prodyat Kumar Tagore as its President and Secretary respectively is, therefore, regretted. The writer does not urge the exclusion of aristocrats from the Royal Reception, but says that it is the middle classes which have the right to take the leading part in it and not Rajas and Maharajas, Nawabs and *raissas*, attorneys, barristers and judges or even the Lieutenant-Governor. He calls on all classes of people, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad, Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi, Babu Surendranath Banerjee, Babu Mati Lal Ghosh and all others to join heartily in the Royal Reception and procure materials for worshipping their Royal guests. The Hindu Shastras say that the sovereign is a god in human form. The Bengali poet Hem Chandra has sung, India's god is now a Briton. Let not selfishness and personal vanity taint the sanctity of the solemn occasion. The article concludes with a Sanskrit verse which may be translated as follows:—

Come, O Fifth George, great King,
Protector of India,
Accept thy subjects' offering of loyalty.

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1911.

SULABH SAMACHAR,
April 21st, 1911.

PALLIVASI.
April 19th, 1911.

HITAVADI,
April 21st, 1911.

84. Referring to the dispute regarding the presidentship of the Royal Reception Committee, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April says that while the Maharaja of Burdwan and the Maharaja of Durbhanga were quarrelling over the presidentship, nobody thought of that nobleman, who, sitting at Murshidabad on the banks of the Bhagirathi, which flows like a current of tears from the eyes of the goddess of this land, was still keeping alive the name of the Nawab family, the memory of the Nawab Nizam and the dreams of happiness of golden Bengal. The Maharaja of Burdwan gained the victory in the Town Hall meeting, he became the President of the Reception Committee but what is strange is that even Sir Edward Baker who was the President of the meeting and who possesses extraordinary knowledge of Bengal, did not consider that in such a non-sectarian affair as the Royal Reception, the presence of the representatives of all classes of people was indispensably necessary and that all persons should be equally given opportunity to worship the King and express their loyalty. His Honour unhesitatingly appointed the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and a section of the landholders of Bengal to receive the King-Emperor. He did not endeavour to make this affair a holy and universal Yajna (sacrifice) of loyalty. Did he act properly?

As regards the new arrangement for the reception which was made with the object of giving precedence to the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad, the paper asks: Was there no other way to do him honour? The Nawab Bahadur was not dragged into the Reception Committee when the present Emperor visited this country as Prince of Wales. Did the Nawab Bahadur lose his honour on that account? True, that on such an unprecedented occasion the Nawab Bahadur's honour should be increased. But it is strange that the Government itself has declared the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad to be the premier nobleman in Bengal, and that consequently it has been decided to give him precedence in the affair of the reception. The arrangement is unnecessary when there are other ways to honour the Nawab Bahadur. The Maharaja of Burdwan was elected President of the Reception Committee in the presence and with the approval of His Honour. His Honour should have thought of honouring the Nawab Bahadur at that time. As a zamindar of Bengal, the Maharaja of Burdwan enjoys extraordinary honour. The paper is sorry to see him thus insulted. From this affair of the Reception Committee, the paper understands that qualities like far-sightedness, wisdom, etc., have disappeared from this country.

The paper then quotes from the *Indian Daily News* a paragraph which describes the amended programme of the reception as settled by Sir Edward Baker, and says that when His Honour himself has settled the programme, who will speak against it? It does not think, however, that the disputes regarding the reception will end here. It is rumoured that the Maharaja of Darbhanga has devised a new method of receiving the Emperor and the Empress on behalf of the Bengal Landholders' Association and the *Sangit Samaj*. He is going to have a *tula* ceremony in which the Emperor and the Empress will be weighed against silver. If this rumour is true, then the Maharaja is going to commit a great blunder. Only one person can receive the Emperor on behalf of Bengal and the Bengalis. To organise, therefore, a new party and to try to receive the Emperor separately as its leader, only shows the Maharaja's inordinate pride and foolishness. The paper prays that His Honour will not permit it. If the Maharaja performs a *tula* ceremony now he will thereby set a bad precedent, for no such occasion in the future will be regarded as celebrated with suitable grandeur unless the *tula* ceremony forms a part of the celebrations.

MUHAMMADI,
April 21st, 1911.

85. We are obliged, writes the *Muhammadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st April, to protest against a few unpleasant circumstances that have arisen in connection with the King-Emperor's reception in Calcutta. The reception will be given by the people of Bengal, so that their representatives ought to have the first place in the Reception Committee. But no consideration has been given to this point. We would have had no objection to the arrangement made, had it been intended to give the reception on behalf of the aristocracy and titled gentry alone of India. Amongst the Musalman members of the Reception Committee we find four gentlemen belonging to a single well-to-do Musalman family

in Bihar. We are unable to make out how this has taken place. Moreover, we find in the list of members many titled names with whom the Hindu and Musalman public have no acquaintance.

The writer next refers to the election of the Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan as President of the Reception Committee, and says that however great the Maharajadhiraj Bahadur may be as a zamindar, and however high he may stand in the favour of the community of white men, the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad as a scion of the Nawab Nazim of Bengal occupies a much higher position in the estimation of the public than he does. His election as President has, therefore, grieved and astonished all classes of people, both Hindu and Musalman. The matter has caused displeasure to even men like the Maharaja of Darbhanga. Fortunately, Sir Edward Baker has made the best of a bad affair by adopting a middle course and creating for the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad a conspicuous part in the reception of His Majesty.

As regards the manner in which the King's visit to Calcutta will be celebrated, various proposals and ideas are afloat, as, for instance, the proposals to perform a *tula* (weighing) ceremony, to feed school boys and beggars, to hold displays of fire-works, etc. The writer expresses himself strongly against feedings beggars; for, the manner in which beggars were fed in Calcutta on the occasion of Queen Victoria's death at a cost of one lakh of rupees was simply scandalous. The beggars of Calcutta who ordinarily manage somehow to procure their daily meal were, on that occasion, belaboured and kept waiting for a whole day for a meal, and at last sent off, some fed and some unfed. Such feeding of beggars is perfectly useless. Had the lakh of rupees that was spent on this account been made the nucleus of a fund for alleviating the miseries of poor men in some direction, a permanent service would have been done to the country.

The writer next beseeches the rich and influential men of the country not to waste money in fire-works and such other useless things, but to commemorate the Eupenor's visit to Calcutta by works calculated to benefit the suffering millions of the country.

86. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 20th April says that the Indian people are very enthusiastic about the coming visit of His Majesty, first because of their eagerness to realise the great pleasure of seeing their Sovereign and, secondly, because of the hope they entertain of obtaining something substantial at the occasion. The paper suggests that His Majesty may be pleased to commemorate his visit to India by reforming the police so as to make it popular among the people. This will give equal satisfaction to all the diverse communities of the country.

HITVARTA,
April 20th, 1911.

87. In supporting Mr. Stead's appeal for stoppage of cow-slaughter in India at the occasion of His Majesty's visit the *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipur] of the 22nd April makes the following observations:—The Delhi Durbar in the Viceroyalty of Lord Curzon did not create much interest among the masses; it could not impart satisfaction to the nobility even. The enthusiasm noticed at present, therefore, is not due to the prospects of another Delhi Durbar but for the reason of the King's proposed visit to this country which will be the first occasion of its kind in the annals of the British rule in India. To-day His Majesty's visit is the main topic of conversation in every home, and the poor subjects are full of hopes that the august occasion will be commemorated by measures which would mitigate their miseries.

BIHAR BANDHU,
April 22nd, 1911.

Quoting from the Guild Hall speech of His Majesty (then Prince of Wales) on his return from India that "the task of governing India will be made easier if we on our part infuse in it a wider element of sympathy," etc., the paper says that his proposed voyage to India is the first manifestation of his wider sympathy for the country; and appeals to His Majesty to give his best consideration to Mr. Stead's proposal, for to the Indians and particularly to the Hindus, protection of cows is the most pleasing idea and will give universal satisfaction.

Referring in this connection to the laws and arrangements regulating cow-slaughter in the days of Muhammadan rulers, notably the great Akbar in order to respect the religious sentiments of their Hindu subjects as described by Munshi

Devi Prasad of Jodhpur, as well as to the similar measures adopted of late by most of the Muhammadan chiefs of the Native States, the paper asks in the words of Mr. Stead, "Why should the Hindus be deprived under a Christian rule of the advantages enjoyed by them under the Muhammadans?"

Mr. Stead's suggestions if carried into action will, the paper adds, serve the noble purpose of establishing friendly relations between the Hindus and the Muhammadans, for cow-slaughter is one of the chief causes of tension between the two communities.

JASOHAR,
April 15th, 1911.

88. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 15th April has the following:—

Bomb outrage in the city of Belfast in Ireland.

In the city of Belfast in Ireland a young man named Jenkins threw a bomb at his opponents at the last Parliamentary election. The bomb burst and a man named Watson was severely wounded. Jenkins was arrested for the offence and was prosecuted. The kind-hearted Judge let him off with a warning. He wrote in his judgment that such incidents were of frequent occurrence in political party strife, and that the accused being a hot-headed young man it was not strange that he should throw a bomb in this case. The Judge was not at all astonished at the incident, but we are stupefied at it.

SAMAY,
April 21st, 1911.

89. Even in the cold climate of England, writes the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 21st April, Sir Andrew Fraser has been able to maintain the warmth of his feeling towards the police. In his new book entitled "Among Indian

Rajas and Ryots" he has said that oppression by the police is almost unknown in India. We know not what to say in answer to this statement. Not to speak of Indian newspapers, reports of Indian provincial Governments bear unmistakable testimony to the oppressiveness of the Indian police. Truly has Sir Andrew been blinded by his love for the police, so that it is useless to try to show him its defects. But the people of the country will never disbelieve Government reports and believe him in this matter.

BASUMATI,
April 22nd, 1911.

90. Reviewing the outgoing Bengali year, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 22nd April writes as follows:—

The new year.

We have no control over the past. The year that has passed can never be recalled. The memory that it has left of weal and woe will remain as a permanent impression on the minds of the people. We cannot undo what we have done during it. Our control lies only on the present. The commotion which the rulers created last year in the minds of the people by pursuing a repressive policy or by mistake or by some other means can no longer be revoked. It has passed beyond the power of even the Almighty Ruler of the Universe, leaving behind only a memory. Similarly, the services also that the Government of India has done to the country during the last year will be ever preserved in the memory of its inhabitants.

The things that will happen in the next year are, however, under the control of the rulers and the ruled. The people may, if they desire and try, cease from evil doings and accomplish good deeds. The Government also may, if it desires, add to the comforts and happiness of the people and rectify mistakes already committed. It is not now possible to change the history of Bengal for the last six years so as to make it what it would have been had Bengal not been partitioned. But who can deny, that if, on the occasion of the Delhi Coronation Durbar, His Majesty the King-Emperor annuls the partition, the pain which has lasted in the minds of Bengalis for the last six years will be removed? Both the rulers and the ruled are subject to blunders. If the Indian people seek out the true path of their advancement, shaking off evil propensities, lethargy and ignorance, and if their rulers try sympathetically to open that road to them shaking off all false ideas of prestige, ignorance, short-sightedness and racial narrow-mindedness and rectifying blunders, then the ill-feeling that has been created between the people and the ruling community is sure to be removed. The new year brings to man opportunities to rectify his mistakes. Those who, through mistake, pride, vanity or self-conceit, fail to rectify their past mistakes, in spite of their capacity to do so, offend man in this world and God in the next. It is for this reason that the coming year is held in such high honour.

The new year is raising high hopes in many directions in the hearts of the Bengalis. Lord Hardinge has taken up the reins of the Government of

India. We expect many things from His Lordship. Besides this, His Majesty is coming to India. Nothing can be a happier news for the Indians. We Hindus are worshippers of time. We bow to the new year, to its seasons, months and days.

91. Reproducing from the *Tribune* of Lahore the fact that at the recent

HINDI BANGAVATI,
April 24th, 1911.

Defective arrangements at the Lahore Darbar.

Darbar held at Lahore by His Excellency Lord Hardinge no carriages except those of the Viceroy himself and the native Chiefs were allowed

to approach the gate, and consequently many respectable gentlemen including the European Judges of the local Chief Court had to leave their conveyances at a considerable distance and to walk to the gate on foot although police officers could drive up to it, the *Hindi Bangarasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th April asks—If this news of the *Tribune* be correct, was the arrangement made in the knowledge of the Viceroy?

92. The *Nayak* [Calcutta] of the 26th April writes that all who know

NAYAK,
April 26th, 1911.

A modification of the Partition of Bengal.

anything of such things are aware that Lord Hardinge is determined to modify the Partition of Bengal. His Excellency is a strong opponent of

useless expenditure, a terrible enemy of waste. The Partition of Bengal has come to be a perennial source of waste and extravagance. The spirited Viceroy is determined to stop this waste. A Governor will probably be appointed for all Bengal. Sir Charles Bayley will probably be selected and the powers of Divisional Commissioner will be augmented, the Commissioners of Assam and Bihar being raised to the rank of Chief Commissioner. Various rumours like these are afloat—true or false, a modification of the Partition is inevitable.

URIYA PAPERS.

93. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 12th April highly appreciates the clemency shown by the Government towards the accused in the Khulna and Jessore dacoity cases. The writer observes that the whole country feels grateful to the Government on this

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 12th, 1911.

The clemency shown to the accused in Khulna and Jessore dacoity cases highly appreciated.

account.

94. Referring to the proceedings connected with the suspension of

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
April 12th, 1911.

Neglect of duty on the part of the Cuttack Municipal authorities.

Babu Ram Chandra Mahanty, Inspector of hackney-carriages within the limits of the Cuttack Municipality, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 15th April states that the accounts in this connection

have not been checked for two years, that the owners of hackney-carriages have not been given any receipts for the taxes which they paid, and that on this account the same taxes are again being demanded from them. In the opinion of the writer, these things show neglect of duty on the part of the municipal authorities of Cuttack.

95. The *Utkalbarta* [Calcutta] of the 8th April does not approve of the

UTKALBARTA,
April 8th, 1911.

An appointment not approved.

appointment of Babu Narayan Prasad Mahanty, B.A., as Headmaster of the Cuttack Collegiate School and is at a loss to understand why the claims of Babu Dasarathi Panigrahi, B.A., Assistant Headmaster of the Balasore Zilla School, to the above-mentioned post were not considered. The writer suggests that, however that may be, Dasarathi Babu should be appointed as the Headmaster of the Puri Zilla School as that post will soon fall vacant, and invites the attention of the authorities to the matter.

96. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 15th April approves of the action

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 15th, 1911.

An action of the Cuttack Municipality approved.

of the Cuttack Municipality in fixing a water-pump in the bed of the Kutjuri river near the Cuttack town. The people of the Cuttack town

are enabled to get pure drinking water from this pump instead of using water from the slender current of the river, which often becomes impure in various ways.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
April 12th, 1911.

97. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balsore] of the 12th April states that cholera has broken out in the Balsore town, but is glad to notice that the Municipal authorities of that town are trying their best to cope with the fell disease. The writer, however, is very anxious for the people in the interior of the Balsore district, who suffer badly from want of pure drinking water and observes that every endeavour should be made to open out new sources of water to these poor people, and suggests that "the Edward Memorial Fund started for the district be utilised in allaying the thirst of the people of the district."

RAJENDRA CHANDRA SASTRI,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI 'TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE;
The 29th April 1911.

REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 29th April 1911.

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**LIST OF NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS RECEIVED AND DEALT WITH
BY THE BENGAL SPECIAL DEPARTMENT.**

[As it stood on 1st January 1910.]

No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	Circulation.
1	"Amrita Bazar Patrika"	Calcutta	Daily	K. P. Chatterji, age 46, Brahmin	4,000
2	"Behar Herald"	Patna	Weekly	Monmatha Nath Dey, age 41, Pleader of Bankipore.	500
3	"Beharee"	Bankipore	Bi-weekly	Sham Sankar Sahai, Pleader, and P. P. Sharma of Muzaffarpur.	750
4	"Bengalee"	Calcutta	Daily	S. N. Banerji, Kali Prasana Sen, age 39, and Kali Nath Roy.	6,000
5	"Bihar"	Patna	Weekly	Kali Kumar Sinha, B.A., B.L., Pleader of Bankipore, age 36, Kayastha.	750
6	"Day's News"	Calcutta	Daily	Bai Premananda Bharati, age 51, Hindu.	500
7	"Hindoo Patriot"	Ditto	Do.	Srish Chandra Sarbadhikari, age 41, and Koylash Ch. Kanjilal, Pleader, Sealdah Small Cause Court.	800
8	"Indian Empire"	Ditto	Weekly	Kesab Chandra Banerjee, B.A., age 46, Brahmin, and Panchanon Masumdar, age 36, Hindu, Baidya.	1,500
9	"Indian Mirror"	Ditto	Daily	Bai Norendra Nath Sen Bahadur, age 61, Head of the Maha-Bodhi Society.	1,000
10	"Indian Nation"	Ditto	Weekly	Brojendra Nath Ghose	500
11	"Karmayogin"	Ditto	Do.	Editor's name not known for certain. Arabinda Ghose is one of the contributors to the paper.	2,000
12	"Kayastha Messenger"	Gaya	Do.	Jugal Kishore, age 37, Kayastha	500
13	"Musalman"	Do.	Do.	A. Rasul and M. Rahman, Muhammadans	500
14	"National Daily"	Do.	Daily	Bai Premananda Bharati, age 51, Hindu	500
15	"Reis and Bayyet"	Do.	Weekly	Jogesh Chandra Dutt, age 59, a Calcutta house-owner.	500
16	"Star of Utkal"	Cuttack	Do.	Kherode Ch. Roy Chowdhry, age 69, retired Head Master of a Government College.	400
17	"Telegraph"	Calcutta	Do.	Satyendra Nath Bose, B.A., age 32	3,000

ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Name of Publication.	Where published.	Edition.	Name, caste and age of Editor.	REMARKS.
1	"Day's News"	Calcutta	Daily	(See above)	Defunct.
2	"Karmayogin"	Ditto	Weekly	(Ditto)	Ditto.
3	"National Daily"	Ditto	Daily	(Ditto)	Ditto.
4*	"Indian Echo"	Ditto	Weekly	Kunju Behary Bose, age 45, Kayastha	2,000 (circulation).
5	"Indian Nation"	Ditto	Ditto	Srish Chandra Sarbadhikari, age 41 (Editor since 1st November 1910).	500

NOTE.—Dealt with by the Bengal Special Department since 1st June 1910.



II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a).—Police.

493. The *Bengalee* writes:—"Among the many legacies of Lord Curzon's Government, the Criminal Investigation Department is one. It has cost the public a lot of money. It has been instrumental in establishing a system of espionage all over the country; it has sensibly added to the volume of public dissatisfaction. But, in the prevention or the detection of crime, the results achieved by it are not by any means commensurate with the sacrifice of the public resources. This department should be re-organized and its sphere of work curtailed; and altogether the police must adopt new methods for the prevention and detection of crime."

BENGALUR,
22nd April 1911.

494. The *Bengalee* writes:—"The prosecution of the accused in the Howrah gang case was a grave blunder, and we are curious to know who is responsible for the waste of public money, of the time of the Judges and of the Magistrates, and the sufferings—the unmerited sufferings, as we must now hold them to be—on the part of these 33 accused who were kept in the lock-up for over a year. The moral effect of the failure of the prosecution will be disastrous. It will we fear confirm the prevailing opinion about police incompetency, and the feeling of regret would be widely shared that the Government was so largely guided in this matter by the opinion of the police. The legal advisers of the Crown must also come in for their share of the public censure."

BENGALUR,
21st April 1911.

495. The *Beharee* reproduces from the *Pioneer* a letter from Mr. Irwin of the Motihari Concern, regarding the alleged oppression at the hands of the local police of the Madhubani Raj Kumar in the district of Champaran. The writer says that owing to some false reports that were submitted by the local Sub-Inspector against the Babu and his superior servants (i.e., the Munshi and Agent in Motihari) the Raj Kumar was subjected to the most exasperating indignities. His servants were seized and beaten by the police, who also penetrated without permission into the more private part of his grounds. Commenting on this, the *Beharee* writes:—

BEHARUR,
21st April 1911.

"The allegation against the local Sub-Inspector of Police is rather strange, and one can only say that it is a scandal on the force which has such members. We trust Sir Edward Baker will personally look into the matter and will not leave the inquiry to some police officers, who may possibly recommend the Sub-Inspector for speedy promotion for his faithful loyalty—though we fear carried to the worst extreme—to his chief of the district. That a man who is regarded by a European to be a 'courtly, kindly, well-bred and loyal gentleman' should be harassed like this under the *Pax Britannica* is a slur on the just and kind rule of His Majesty which we all very much deplore."

(b)—Working of the Courts.

496. The *Amrita Basar Patrika* writes:—"The result of the trial of what is known as the Howrah gang case will cause profound sensation. Accused 39—and all but 6 found not guilty! And these 6 had already been convicted for taking part in another dacoity! In other words, all the 33 youths who constituted the so-called gang, along with 6 convicts, acquitted! This simple and unadorned fact speaks more eloquently about the unjustifiable character of the prosecution than any criticism of the press can do. We daresay the Government of Bengal will be pleased to take severe notice of the conduct of the authors of the case, unless they can satisfactorily explain its breakdown."

AMRITA BASAR
PATRIKA,
20th April 1911.

497. Referring to the prosecution of the accused in the Howrah gang case, the *Amrita Basar Patrika* writes:—"Why was this extraordinary prosecution undertaken? Why was an enormous amount of public money and of police, magisterial and

AMRITA BASAR
PATRIKA,
22nd April 1911.

judicial time and energy wasted in this connection? Why was the prestige of the Government sought to be jeopardized without rhyme or reason? Above all, why were so many tender-aged lads, belonging to *bhadralog* families, dragged from their homes on grave charges and subjected to untold and unmerited sufferings for upwards of a year? It was because two men, one of whom is a *ganja*-smoker, and both of whom have been judicially condemned as untrustworthy, and who again had been under police control before their confessions were recorded, took it into their head to tell a cock-and-bull story, namely, that a score and a half of lads of 14 or 15 had conspired to drive away the rulers with revolvers and arrow-heads!"

BENGALUR,
20th April 1911.

498. Referring to the judgment delivered in the Howrah gang case, the *Bengalee* writes:—"All that we desire to say to-day is that the judgment does not come as a

surprise to the public. It had in fact been very correctly anticipated by most people who had followed the course of the proceedings in the High Court from day to day. The case for the prosecution, so far as the majority of the accused were concerned, totally broke down as a result of the searching cross-examination to which the prosecution witnesses were subjected. The judgment, it is hardly necessary to say, will give complete satisfaction to the public."

HINDOO PATRIOT,
20th April 1911.

499. The *Hindoo Patriot* writes—"It goes without saying that the exhaustive judgment delivered by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice in the Howrah gang case may go a great way to weaken the prestige of the

Executive Government as has been rightly remarked by our worthy contemporary, the *Englishman*."

(h)—General.

BENGALUR,
20th April 1911

500. In protesting against the deputation of Sir John Hewett in connection with the Coronation Durbar, the Lieutenant-Governors on leave. *Bengalee* writes:—

"There is absolutely no justification for causing a break in the continuity of administration in provinces subject to one-man rule as Lieutenant-Governorships are. Under Council Government this would be tolerable, but the curious thing is that it is a Lieutenant-Governor who is strongly opposed to Council Government, who goes on leave and consents to be employed on deputation in another province."

BHARH,
21st April 1911.

501. Alluding to the *Sulav Samachar*, the Government-subsidized paper, the *Beharee* writes:—"We are not in a position to justify the action of the Government in spending Rs. 62,500 per annum over such a paper, and we very much doubt whether the paper will justify its existence for the purpose for which it has been started."

BENGALUR,
22nd April 1911.

502. In pointing out that the abandonment of the opium revenue will involve a serious loss of revenue in India, the *Bengalee* writes:—

"The humanitarian policy of the Imperial Government is very much to be commended, but surely it is in the fitness of things that the sacrifice which the adoption of this policy involves should not be incurred by India alone. A part of it should in equity be borne by the Imperial Government."

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BHARH,
21st April 1911.

503. Commenting on the recent railway accident which occurred near Sadisopore station and in which, according to the account published by the Railway authorities, only one life was lost, the *Beharee* writes as follows:—

"To an average mind it seems very extraordinary that in such a serious accident in which carriages were smashed to pieces, only one life should have

been lost. We draw the particular attention of the President of the Railway Board to this matter, and urge on him the necessity of appointing an independent Commission to make a searching and exhaustive enquiry into the matter. The Railway authorities owe it to the public to remove all misapprehensions from their minds on this score. We trust the matter will receive the prompt attention of the Government and the Railway Board."

H. C. CUNNINGHAM,

Spl. Asstt. to the Deputy Insp.-Genl. of Police.

OFFICE OF THE BENGAL SPECIAL DEPT.,

9, ELYSIUM ROW,

The 29th April 1911.

