

India

FOR THE

No. 111. NEW SERIES.
No. 205. OLD SERIES.

WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1900.

[REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER. PRICE... 2d. 3d. 2d.]

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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE able speech of Mr. Ibbetson in the Viceroy's Council shows how much the actual severity of the famine exceeds even the gloomy forecast of last October. Almost all the districts whereof the fate was then doubtful have now to be included in the famine area. It was then thought that 350,000 square miles with a population of 30,000,000 would be affected; while now 300,000 square miles with 40,000,000 inhabitants are suffering acute distress, and in addition general scarcity prevails in another 145,000 square miles with a population of 21,000,000, which will soon need relief. This means that a population more than double that of Great Britain at the last census is or soon will be in the grip of famine. Mr. Ibbetson thus describes the present situation:—

In a large portion of the area affected it follows close upon a famine of great severity; it is accompanied by an unprecedented scarcity of fodder and water; and there seems reason to fear that in many places (to quote the words of the Bombay Government) "destitution has reached, or will reach, a higher stratum of society than has ever been affected before since the country came under British rule."

These considerations, it might be thought, would sufficiently account for the greater influx to the relief-works, without the assumption of any moral deterioration in the people.

Lord Curzon fully endorsed all that Mr. Ibbetson had said as to the unprecedented intensity of the famine. Lord Elgin in January, 1897, had spoken of the occasion as without parallel because one-and-a-quarter millions were on relief, and now in January, 1900, three-and-a-quarter millions are on relief, and the parallel has come and has been left far behind. Yet now the attention of England is directed elsewhere than to suffering India. The Viceroy dealt at some length with the famous Circular of his Government on famine relief. He said:—

I am the last person in the world to prefer the mere interests of economy to those of humanity, and I conceded to the utmost the obligation of the Government to spend its last rupee in the saving of human life and the mitigation of human suffering. But the Government of India must necessarily take a broader outlook than its critics. We are acquainted by the reports that we receive from our officers with what is passing, not in one district alone, but in all parts of the country. We are the custodians of the interests of the taxpayers of India; we have to look to what may happen in future famines, and recent experience does not encourage us to regard famine as the rare and isolated phenomenon which it has hitherto been held to be. Above all, it is our duty jealously to watch and conserve the character of the people.

The confession that famine must no longer be considered a rare phenomenon, though obviously true, is certainly painful to read. It may, indeed, be asked whether the view of the Government that has apparently to be content with such a confession is really broader than that of its critics who seek to find the causes of famine.

Lord Curzon went on to give instances that had come under his notice of the abuse of famine relief. But the *Friend of India*, an Anglo-Indian journal, considers the evidence insufficient for his purpose. The greater intensity of the famine is sufficient to account for the greater numbers seeking relief. The small wage—admittedly only a little more than sufficient to keep life in the recipient—the distance from home, the irksomeness of the supervision and the probability "that he will be mulcted of a sensible fraction of his scanty wage for the benefit of the underlings of the relief establishment" make it certain that no one will resort to the Government works if he can obtain

other employment which will enable him to live. Our contemporary concludes its remarks with these words:—

It cannot be too constantly or too carefully kept in mind that tests which would make a system of famine relief absolutely proof against abuse, which would afford a certain guarantee against anyone with a single copper-put, or a single rupee's worth of credit remaining, resorting to the relief works, or against anyone, however frugal, saving a few pice out of many weeks' relief wages, would keep away from the works hundreds of thousands of the really destitute and condemn hundreds of thousands of workers to extreme misery.

While Lord Curzon is complaining that relief is given too lavishly, the *Bengalee* praises the Government of the Central Provinces for the excellent provision it has made. Owing to its promptitude not a death, it is said, has occurred, while in the last famine the mortality was terrible. In fact, it is doubtful whether on that occasion the authorities would have admitted the existence of famine, had it not been for the great number of deaths; but this time there has been no delay. It will thus be seen that Lord Curzon and Mr. Chitnavis, C.I.E., the *Bengalee's* informant, agree that famine relief has been more prompt and generous than it was three years ago. But does Lord Curzon wish that the mortality of the last famine should be repeated? It is impossible to believe it. Yet how can it be prevented save by more liberal relief?

Mr. Ibbetson in his speech in the Viceroy's Council paid a high tribute to the energy shown by the Native States in affording relief. It is an old complaint of Anglo-Indian officials, as the *Hindu* reminds us, that the authorities are remiss in adopting measures of relief and allow the distressed to wander into British territory with their dependents and cattle. In Bombay and the Punjab refugees are being every week driven back into the Native States. But, on the other hand, thousands of refugees have crowded into Mysore, and the Government of that State, far from driving them back, has been trying to find them employment. Yet, although actual famine is not anticipated, the condition of Mysore is very threatening. Mr. Ibbetson said that "in Madras and Mysore the abrupt disappearance of the monsoon was a great disappointment, and the harvest will be indifferent over large areas."

Mr. Santo Crimp has completely dispelled the hope that the sinking of artesian wells might protect the Bombay Presidency from drought. He finds that the geological formations of Western India conform to neither of the conditions essential to the success of artesian wells. These are: (1) a large catchment area of porous rocks, such as chalk, to absorb a portion of the rainfall; and (2) that this porous formation should extend underneath a plain, in part clay, so that the water may be confined to the porous stratum. It is well to know the worst so as not to waste money on useless experiments and also so as to devise other remedies.

We have pleasure in reproducing the following editorial note from the *Westminster Gazette* of Wednesday last:—

It is well that there should be an Indian Famine Fund at the Mansion House, and we are glad to see that upwards of £30,000 has already been subscribed. But it is highly improbable that any sum can be collected in this way at all commensurate to the purpose for which it is wanted. There are nearly four million persons in India who are suffering from the famine, and it comes so terribly soon after the last that it finds the Indian people even less able than usual to fight against it. In ordinary times, and with no war to preoccupy our minds (and empty our pockets), we should undoubtedly raise half-a-million or more to send out to relieve the hungry people of India. But since this can hardly be possible—with all the war funds and with the prospect of future taxation—it becomes a question whether we ought not to find the money from some other source. The objections to any Imperial "dole" are obvious, and may be such as to preclude any being made. But it would be well if some method could be devised for getting the money which at this juncture private charity seems hardly likely to furnish.

Side by side with this passage let us place an extract from an admirable article which appeared in the *Investors' Review* of Saturday last:—

When we think that we owe to our possession of India our greatness as a modern empire far more than to any other heritage; that but for the conquest of India and the outlet it gave, not only for our surplus capital, but for our increased manufactures—product of our victories as pioneer in modern mechanical inventions—the loss of our American colonies would have left us only a greater Holland among the nations of Europe, it is surely worth while for our Government to consider whether it should not, as representing the nation, now hand back a few millions of the thousands of millions India has in the last hundred and fifty years yielded us, in order to lift the horrors of starvation off the Indian people.

Who shall say that the Government of India is not concerned for the improvement of agriculture? It has just published a series of eight resolutions embodying "a policy of agricultural enquiry and improvement, formulated as the result of fifteen years' deliberation, of repeated consultations with Local Governments, and of five Central Conferences at which representatives from all provinces were present." What then? The first resolution is historical. It shows that it was the famine of 1866 that first awakened Government to the necessity for an agricultural department; and that it was in consequence of the recommendations of the Famine Commission of 1878—half a generation later!—that Indian and provincial departments of agriculture were actually established. In the next ten years five Conferences were held. The Government at last started the department of Land Records. The second resolution sets forth the principles that should regulate the training, qualifications, and duties of Land Records officers. The third resolution deals with the utilisation of land records. "It is hoped that under intelligent direction much valuable information regarding the agricultural needs and condition of any village can be obtained." Really, one would think so. The fourth resolution actually gets away from land records. It deals with scientific and national enquiry, or a national scheme of agricultural enquiry, including all branches of science which bear directly or indirectly on agricultural interests: Geography, Geology, Meteorology, Botany, Economic products, Veterinary Science, Bacteriology, Agricultural Science, Statistics, and Forestry. The fifth resolution considers the constitution and duties of Provincial Agricultural departments; the sixth, agricultural education; and the seventh and eighth, the methods of publishing agricultural information and submitting the Administration Reports.

There is the outline of the outcome of a generation's labours. One cannot but think of the poor horse that died while the grass was growing. Here are departments in galore, "each of which (says the *Hindu*) has been growing into stupendous magnitude." "European experts have been provided with lucrative berths": that goes without saying. But, asks the *Hindu*: "What is the benefit that has been derived by the rayats, or what is it that is expected in the future?" Excellent as is exhaustive information (except, apparently, when it is information about the thoughts and feelings of the people), some good might surely have been done with less, to begin with, especially if the rayats had been consulted, and the fuller details on the gigantic scale might have come in gradually. The agriculturists themselves would have advised differently; only perhaps they do not know what is good for them. The *Hindu*, to our mind, speaks sound sense as follows:—

If there is financial vitality in the people, improvements need not be forced on them, but will proceed from within. But unfortunately the weight of heavy land assessment has crushed them almost into an inert mass, with little capital and less spirit. How are they to undertake improvements, which always involve some cost? And has the rayat the incentive to undertake them at any cost? No, he has not. . . . Lighten the assessment; secure to the rayat a greater share of the produce of the soil; secure for him the full benefit of the improvement he may effect, then agricultural improvements will proceed under a slight initiative in a manner which all the departments of Land Records, etc., etc., cannot hope to accomplish, and the problem of the Indian farmer will be solved.

Yes, O wise *Hindu*; but what of the reduced exchequer, and what of the starving Gold Standard fund? Are not these more than many rayats?

is my administration." Such is reported to be Lord Sandhurst's own summary of his five years' rule in Bombay. But these natural calamities will not be laid to his charge. What will be entered against him is his weak submission in the hands of his leading counsellors. "When we blame him," says the *Mahratta*, "we blame him not because he was an agent of maleficent nature, but because he proved a weak instrument in the hands of more powerful, but less virtuous, subordinates." Giving full allowance for the troubles of the period, one cannot but be surprised at the backwardness of the Government in fulfilling the natural expectations of the educated community. It is preposterous, for example, that the Khoti Bill should have hung fire in such a persistent manner. How far it yet is from settlement may be gathered from the following extract:—

A large and crowded meeting of Khots of the Chiplun taluka was held at Chiplun on the 12th instant, over one thousand Khots being present. Several resolutions were passed. It was resolved (1) that the principle of fixing rents on the basis of a multiple of the assessment to abolish the Abhavani system is likely to ruin both classes; (2) that multiples of 3 for paddy, and 2-4 for Warkas lands are utterly inadequate; (3) that the sanction of the Collector for the appointment of Muktyars by the Khots is unnecessary and would make Khots relinquish the management of villages and forests; (4) that the section of the Bill is destructive of the Khots' rights; (5) that the deputation of Khots should wait upon the Government; (6) that it was inequitable to rigorously exact from the Khots' assessment while orders were given not to execute the orders for assistance; except for assessment and local funds cess; and (8) that Government be thanked for so far giving a patient hearing to both sides and maintaining an impartial attitude.

The Government seem to know neither the facts of the case nor the principles to apply to its solution; or else they are deliberately engaged in a policy of delay. But this is not government.

Some rather surprising statements have lately been made with reference to the Report of the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure. Indeed, as will be seen from our Parliamentary report, Lord G. Hamilton permitted himself to say a few days ago that the Report was to be signed on February 14. We believe that the facts are as follows. The chairman's draft report, after undergoing some revision, has been for a few days in the hands of members of the Commission. But it has not yet been signed, and it is quite certain that some at any rate of the members of the Commission will not be content with the report in its present form. A further report will therefore be submitted as an alternative or speak to the chairman's draft. It is too early yet to speak of a "majority" and a "minority" report, for it surely cannot be supposed that anybody will be invited to sign the chairman's draft before the alternative report has also been considered. After the extraordinarily long interval which elapsed between the closing of the evidence and the preparation of a draft report, it would be surprising indeed if any undue haste were now permitted to interfere with the due consideration of proposals as to the contents of the Report.

In the Bengal Legislative Council (January 20) Mr. Surendranath Banerjee addressed to the Government a comprehensive series of questions on the Chupra case. Mr. Bolton's answer was as follows:—

A copy of Mr. Pennell's judgment was submitted by him to the Government. The officers of the Saran District concerned were gravely to be blamed, and the promotion of the two who were most responsible has been suspended for a year, and two others have been censured.

Subordinate Magistrates may, without sacrifice of their judicial independence, seek the advice of the District Magistrate, or of brother Magistrates, and similar consultations occur in course of justice generally. In difficult cases especially they afford useful assistance to judicial officers. In the present instance, however, the District Magistrate had personally interested himself in the prosecution and ordered its institution, and no discussion should have taken place between him and the Deputy Magistrate during the trial.

Mr. Pennell was transferred in the course of official changes, and the order appointing him to Noakhali was passed before the Government saw his judgment.

It is something to know that the Government profess at least to regard the case with serious disapproval. The lenity of their action, however, constitutes but little discouragement to similar acts on the part of other officials in similar circumstances. It is not quite easy to read aright the passage about the transfer of Mr. Pennell. We will

"Three years of plague and two years of famine—that

take it, however, in its plain meaning, and keep an eye on Mr. Pennell's future.

The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* traces back to Sir Charles Elliott the policy of "screening an official at any cost," and of "protecting him the more, the more his conduct was criticised by the Press." This policy, it says, "demoralised the Service; and it was only the strong-minded among officials who escaped being affected by it." Though the Chupra case surprised the Bengal Government, it did not, says the *Patrika*, surprise "the people who know how things are sometimes carried on in the Mousil." We were unwilling to draw any large inference even from the Chupra case, but our contemporary suggests plainly enough that we might have safely done so. It proceeds:—

One of our great complaints is that the independence of the subordinate Magistrate is sometimes tampered with. The Government would never believe the accusation that subordinates are thus interfered with by their superiors; and those who brought this accusation could never prove it. How could they do that? If the District Magistrate told a subordinate something which he had no right to tell, would the latter ever venture to enter a protest, or give it out? So, if that accusation was brought, the Government refused to believe in its accuracy. The Chupra case, however, furnishes a proof, and Mr. Bolton is pleased to admit that the District Magistrate did wrong. Well, then, it is proved that District Magistrates do some times interfere with the independence of their subordinates. That being the case, we think the Government will do well to issue a Circular reminding the Magistrates that they should never interfere with the judicial independence of their subordinates.

We are not sure that a Circular would be of any particular effect. What is effective is the sure and adequate punishment of delinquents.

On the same occasion Mr. Bolton informed Mr. Surendranath Banerjee that the Government of Bengal "has received no communication from the Government of India relating to the Memorial" on the question of the separation of judicial from executive functions, submitted to the Secretary of State for India on July 10 last year. This important Memorial, it will be remembered, was signed by men of eminence and experience in judicial and executive work in India—by Lord Hobhouse, Sir Richard Garth, Sir Richard Couch, Sir Charles Sargent, Sir William Markby, Sir John B. Phear, Sir John Scott, Sir William Wedderburn, Sir Roland K. Wilson, and Mr. Herbert J. Reynolds. On July 27 Lord George Hamilton, in reply to a question put by Sir W. Wedderburn in the House, stated that he proposed to forward the Memorial to the Government of India, requesting them to consider it and to report to him the conclusions at which they might arrive; and he added that, till he had received the reply of the Government of India, he could say nothing as to the desirability of the proposed change or as to the views of the people of India on the subject. We know, however, from his reply to Mr. Herbert Roberts on May 11 that he regards the proposed reform as "a revolutionary change." Anyhow, the Government of India seems to be very dilatory if the Government of Bengal has as yet "received no communication" from it on the subject. It is more than half a century since the reform was beyond the need of argument, and still the Secretary of State is fumbling over it, in sheer distaste of even an apparent concession to Native opinion.

We learn from the Indian papers that Mr. Romesh C. Dutt, C.I.E., President of the recent Congress, was invited by the Viceroy to an interview, and accordingly visited Lord Curzon on Jan. 17. Of course, the interview may have been merely formal. At the same time, it indicates a politico—and probably a kindly—interest of the Viceroy in the Congress movement. It also recalls what was said by Professor Murison at the annual dinner of the London Indian Society on Nov. 1, 1898, in proposing the toast of the Indian National Congress:—

We are gaining support in the Press, both London and Provincial, and I look forward to the time when we shall have a Secretary of State and a Governor-General of India who will recognise clearly that it is impossible to govern the Indian Empire without the cordial co-operation of the Indian people, and who will send for the President of the National Congress and say: "Come, my friend, have we not both the same interests at heart? Are we not both men of affairs? Come, let us reason together."

Referring to this adventurous anticipation in his Presidential Address to the Congress in the following month, Mr. A. M. Bose called Professor Murison "a dreamer of

the West," adding "I am afraid it will be a very long time before that dream of the friendly conference he speaks of will come true." Well, at any rate it has so far come true. There has been a "friendly conference" at least, and the political position of the Congress could hardly have missed mention. Anyhow, the interview is a remarkable—and a hopeful—fact.

Acknowledging the interest of the facts and figures in the Report on Forest Administration in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for 1898-99, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* properly complains that the Government resolution on the Report has nothing to say about the manning of the department. There are, we believe, twenty-four higher appointments, of which twenty-two are held by Europeans. In the full light of the Queen's Proclamation, after more than forty years, the children of the soil have been admitted to no more than two—one-twelfth of the whole. And this, too, notwithstanding the famous Circular of Lord Dufferin in 1886, and the recommendations of the Public Service Commission, which was appointed for the express purpose of putting an end to the standing complaint of the Indians about their grudging employment in the higher branches of the "Minor Civil Services." These recommendations were indeed adopted by Lord Cross. Still nothing has been done, apparently. Such an imbecility of administration is beyond comment.

A certain man remitted his revenue by means of the Post Office, which instead of sending it to Cuttack sent it to Balasore. As a result of this error, it did not arrive in time and the unfortunate man was sold up. He appealed to the Courts, and the District Judge decided in his favour. But the High Court has reversed this decision, holding, it appears, that as the Post Office was the taxpayer's agent and not the Collector's, the former must suffer for its errors. Nevertheless, the case seems to be one of great hardship and injustice; the more so as under Section 18, Act xi of 1859, the Collector has power to grant a delay when a real reason is forthcoming for failure to meet the revenue demand on the date fixed. The Court expressed its regret that this had not been done.

The *Madras Mail* gives an account of the sufferings of some refugees that have recently arrived from the Transvaal. A batch numbering about a thousand left Johannesburg on October 18 under an escort of Boers, who treated them with kindness; but at Delagoa Bay they declare they were plundered by Portuguese soldiers. The refugees wished to go to Durban, and were told that they would be sent there, but the ship on which they embarked took them to Bombay. They were kept at that place for two months while the Government was making arrangements for sending them to the places in India from which they had originally emigrated. This was no easy matter, for some of them had been born in Natal. Eighty-two have been sent to Madras, apparently because Tamil is their language, but many of these have no connexion with the place. "For all practical purposes, they say, they have become Natives of Africa and had no idea of ever returning to India; in fact, they speak of Natal as their country."

The attention of the detractors of educated India may be invited to the speech of Dr. Sime, Director of Public Instruction in the Punjab, in Convocation of the Punjab University at Lahore on January 11. We select a sentence or two of his summary conclusions:—

It may be difficult as yet to estimate the whole trend; but generally, the direction is believed to be upward. On the side of general intelligence, this is seen in the greater efficiency with which the work of the educated, in all spheres of life, is being performed, in the readiness with which the educated are taking to new lines of occupations, and in the increase of numbers in the lower walks who have had their wits sharpened by a smaller degree of school training. On the moral side, the ideals of the educated are generally of the highest, and their practice in proportion as the training has been extensive, is becoming purer and better. It will take a long time to affect the quality and tone of the mass, but an influence is already at work, which shows that a little leaven of education, with an example from above and a pressure all round has begun to permeate the whole.

On the whole it may I think, be said that every year evidence becomes more and more clear, as to the beneficial general effects of Western education on the whole life of the people, intellectual, moral, and religious.

THE INDIAN IN SOUTH AFRICA.

NEAR two hundred thousand soldiers are, or soon will be, fighting in South Africa to redress the wrongs of the Outlanders. It is no intention of ours to ask how far this vast expenditure of blood and treasure is justified by the character of the laws against which the British in the Transvaal protested. It is rather our purpose to call attention to the wrongs of another class of Outlanders—wrong more serious than those that are now being redressed by the sacrifice of men's lives and the breaking of women's hearts. These wrongs have not been made the subject for war but only for mild and guarded remonstrance; for they have taken place not only under the tyranny of President Kruger but where the British flag waves, securing to all, as is so often said, freedom and justice. It is our purpose to set forth in brief the unjust and discriminating laws which have been enacted against British Indians throughout the States of South Africa; and it should bring a blush to the face of every Englishman to think that these laws are harshest and most numerous not in the Transvaal but in Natal, not under the rule of the Dutch but under that of their own fellow-subjects. Nor is it pleasant to be told that the one part of South Africa where the Indian "has no grievance apart from the general population" is the territory that still remains to Portugal.

The enactments of which the Indians in the Transvaal complained were certainly serious enough. Lord Lansdowne, since the outbreak of the war, has declared that none of the misdeeds of the South African Republic filled him with more indignation than its treatment of the Indians—a statement contrasting strangely with the mildness of the efforts that the Government of which he is a member has made to redress them, and with the sanction given to the far more severe legislation of Natal. The Transvaal laws may be summarised as follows. Indians cannot become voters or acquire landed property, they have, if traders, to be registered and to pay a heavy fee, they are restricted to the third class on railways, cannot be out at night without passes, and are liable to be debarred from the use of the side-walks and forced to inhabit special streets or districts. These seem a formidable list enough, but many of them are universal throughout South Africa, and others are exceeded by the legislation of the British Colony of Natal. Universally throughout South Africa Indians can travel only in third class carriages. Nearly everywhere they are not allowed out of their houses after 9 p.m., unless they have a pass from their employer. According to a correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* there is only one town in South Africa where the side-walks are free to men of colour and that is Johannesburg in the Transvaal. In the Cape the Municipalities are authorised to restrict Indians to specified localities. In Zululand, a Crown Colony directly under the control of the Colonial Office, only persons of European birth and descent are allowed to purchase land, and if persons who do not fulfil this condition get possession, it reverts to the Crown; so that the Indian is as effectively debarred from acquiring landed property as he is in the Boer Republic. In Rhodesia Indians cannot trade without a licence which is generally refused. In Natal no British Indian can become a voter.

But the laws regarding Indians in Natal are at once so numerous and so harsh that they deserve a separate enumeration. There are first those laws which we have already spoken of as common to almost all South Africa. No coolie in Natal can travel without a pass, and such is the zeal to enforce this law that every Indian is liable to be treated as a coolie. In the times before the war, when trains still ran, the Indian interpreter of the Ladysmith Court made a journey to Estcourt, where a policeman promptly arrested him for travelling without a pass. In the end he was recognised as a Government official and released, but his suit against the constable was dismissed, and it was only by appealing to the High Court that he obtained justice. In Natal, too, the High Schools are closed against Indians, and in some places difficulties are put in the way of their use of the primary schools. In 1897 a series of laws, peculiar to Natal, was passed, limiting Indian immigration and depriving many Indians of their livelihood. Sir Lepel Griffin speaks of the first of these Acts as "a quarantine law of exceptional severity obviously directed, not against contagious disease, but against

immigration." The second Act, avowedly intended "to place restriction on immigrants" requires that the application for admission should be written and signed in a European language, and unless this is done, no licence to trade will be granted. The third Act "amends" the law relating to traders' licences. And the fourth makes the law as to passes still more stringent.

All these Acts were permitted by the Home Government at the very time that they were protesting against the treatment of Outlanders in the Transvaal. The third of this series of four Acts does, indeed, seem to have exercised the mind of the Colonial Office. The Act places the right of granting or refusing licences to trade in the hands of an officer appointed by the Town Council or Local Board, which represents the classes most opposed to Indian competition; there is no appeal from his decision to any Court of Law; and licences can only be granted to those who keep their accounts in the English language. So unfairly was the Act administered at Ladysmith that the Natal Government addressed a letter to the Board, from which it would appear that the Home Government had threatened, if the Act was not carried out with discretion, to insist upon the right of appeal being granted. But this seems to be the only occasion on which we have any sign of the Government being moved. Mr. Chamberlain, in reply to a deputation (August 29, 1895) said that the difficulty he had was "in finding a practical way of dealing with the question." Would it have required 194,000 troops to make Natal do justice? Lord George Hamilton, in answer to a memorial (December 15, 1897), said, "that all the arguments adduced by you on behalf of the British Indians in Natal had been anticipated and fully considered by her Majesty's Government, and have been urged by them as far as they thought practicable upon the Government of Natal, which, however, is a self-governing colony." It must not be supposed that Ladysmith alone administered the Act with harshness. Dundee and Newcastle and many other towns did the same. It is a melancholy reflection that the soil which is now watered by the blood of our brave soldiers was foul with the injustice wrought by our own fellow-citizens in the Empire.

The iniquity of the laws has been rendered all the harder to bear by the insults and outrages heaped on the Indians in Natal. Educated men have been constantly treated as coolies, refused admission to inns, and molested if they ventured to use the trams. An Indian barrister, Mr. Gandhi, who had been in Natal, had the temerity to protest in India against the way in which his countrymen were treated. On his return to Durban an attempt was made to lynch him. In 1897 the sixtieth anniversary of the Queen's accession was celebrated at Durban, as in other parts of her dominions. But there it was made the occasion for heaping new insults on her Indian subjects. Indians who attended the unveiling of the Queen's statue were hustled back, and a proposal that Indian boys and girls should take part in the procession of school-children was received with indignation. Such is the way in which the Colony of Natal shows its loyalty and its "Imperialism."

But since then many things have happened. War has begun, and the territory of the Colony has been invaded. In the outcry concerning the wrongs of the Outlanders Natal took a vigorous part. Yet at that very time there was an agitation going on in the Colony, to which voice was given even in the Legislative Assembly, to force Indians to return to India as soon as they had served the time for which they had been indentured. Events, however, have moved fast. The "Britishers" of Ladysmith have now something else to do besides harrising Indian traders. The people of Natal have seen their country saved by troops long maintained and kept in efficiency at the expense of the Indian taxpayer, and evidently not required for the defence of India since they could be spared at a time when, if ever, India would be most exposed to attack. These troops were British; but Indians, as stretcher-bearers, showed their bravery on many a battle-field. At the beginning of the war a curious incident occurred. Numbers of Indians, like other British subjects, were forced to leave the Transvaal; but they were denied entry into Natal. Flying from the enemy, they found a worse enemy in the members of their own household, their fellow-subjects in the British Empire. The Immigration Restrictions Act prohibited the entry into Natal of all who had not been previously domiciled

there and did not know a European language. Under this Act the Government had made rules allowing Indians to pay a temporary visit to the colony on depositing £10. This deposit the Natal authorities were asked to suspend. At last they did so, and the fugitives were allowed to find a "temporary" refuge in the colony. But now a new difficulty arose. The way by rail was blocked and the later refugees had to come by Delagoa Bay; but the shipping companies had ceased to carry Indians to Durban, in consequence of Government circulars, and the refugees thus found themselves stranded at Laurengo Marques. In this case also the Natal Government gave way on condition that the fugitives took out "temporary" passes on landing at Durban.

Thus British subjects have at last been allowed to find a refuge on the soil of the British Empire. It is to be hoped that this relaxation of the law is the prelude to the complete repeal of the whole barbarous code which disgraces the Colony of Natal. The expressions of Imperial patriotism to which the Colonial Government and the people have given so loud a voice are rendered ridiculous by this open flouting of their fellow-citizens in the Empire of which they are so proud. India has saved Natal. Is it not time that public men both in the Colony and at home should declare that the oppression of the Indians in Natal must cease?

SIR WILLIAM HUNTER.

THE premature and unexpected death of Sir William Wilson Hunter makes a notable gap in the British ranks of the friends of India. He has fallen a victim to influenza. His health was not a little impaired, however; probably it had been declining during the past year. Yet he has died a young man, comparatively. After about a quarter of a century of service in India he retired at the early age of 47, and he employed a dozen years of laborious private study and literary work in the further service of Indian history and politics. His decided tendency to literary journalism found an outlet during the past ten years in the columns of the *Times*, where he did admirable work for India in the special treatment of Indian Affairs. From time to time we have been under the irksome necessity of differing from him, and sometimes of combating his views with some warmth. Such differences, however, have never blinded us to the importance of the regular statement of facts or discussion of policy which he was able to present on so prominent a public stage, or to the value of his balanced moderation of tone which alone allowed him to speak from such a platform. To-day especially it is for us to accept, in its full meaning, the last sentence in his letter to Sir William Wedderburn expressing "much regret" at being unable to be present at a luncheon at the National Liberal Club on an occasion connected with the Indian National Congress (March 9, 1897):

We all have the interest of India at heart, and little differences in our methods of working should not be allowed to obscure our identity of aim.

In a broad view, and in spite of serious grounds for animadversion, we may join in this grateful remembrance the part the *Times* has played in keeping some of the facts of Indian political and social conditions before the minds of the British public. A still more generous policy would be a still greater service to the Empire, as well as to India.

Sir William Hunter's natural kindness, his Scottish blood and associations, could not but incline him to regard with marked sympathy the untoward conditions of the masses of the people of India among whom his official lot was cast. Nor could his native endowment of Scottish "canniness," accentuated by his sense of official dutifulness, operate otherwise than to breed in him a profound sense of respect for the Government views of Indian policy and administration. His natural qualities and his official position conspired to make him a reconciler, and imposed on him some risk of being unfavourably regarded on both sides. For ourselves, we cannot entertain any doubt that his honest desire was to see the best on all sides, and to find a common platform for the real good of India. We can thus understand how it was that he sometimes expressed himself in terms of rather caustic severity on certain aspects of the attitude of Indian reformers. This unwelcome tinge of bitterness was perhaps plainer than usual in his later contributions in the *Times*. It may, of course, have been due to an editorial hand, but we are

rather disposed to see in it a revulsion from a combative one-sidedness that offended his judicial and conciliatory sense; and it may not be unconnected with a progressive failure of health. At any rate, it was but an accidental manifestation, and after all not without its uses. In all essentials, the influence of Sir William Hunter was thrown into the scale on the side of India.

Our own columns have frequently borne testimony to Sir William Hunter's sympathetic interest in India. We may now recall his admirable speech at the banquet to Mr. (now Sir) M. M. Bhowaggre, M.P., on Nov. 13, 1895. Referring to the Imperial relations of Britain and India, he said:

From this Imperial point of view, we must regret the absence of a well-known figure from the present Parliament. If, for one, can never mention the name of Mr. Dalabhai Naroji without sentiments of respect, for I can never forget that he was the first man who proved, after a long and hard struggle, that the House of Commons is open *de facto* as *de jure* to our fellow-subjects in India. He has disappeared from the scene for the moment. But, however widely some of us may differ from him in politics, I think we must all hope to see him at some future day again in the position which he so gallantly won.

On the same occasion he naturally referred to the progress of the Indian awakening and to the work of the Indian National Congress:—

The more advanced classes in this new India have organised themselves into an association which no Indian member of Parliament can overlook—I mean the Indian National Congress. Whatever we may think of the details of the programme of that Congress, it represents a political power in India which no Indian statesman and no Indian member of Parliament can afford to disregard. The Indian Congress is essentially the child of British rule, the product of our schools and universities. We have created and fostered the aspirations which animate the Congress, and it would be both childish and unwise to refuse now to those aspirations both our sympathy and our respectful consideration.

Half a dozen years earlier, however, Sir William Hunter had given a public testimonial on behalf of the Indian National Congress in more vigorous terms than he could permit himself to use at a meeting of "a strictly non-party character"—a testimonial that will always have a place in the history of the Congress, as well as in the hearts of Indians. In 1888, he said:—

The Congress has outlived the apprehension that it would become the tool of any single race or class, and has vindicated its claim to its title as an Indian National Assemblage. Of its loyalty and moderation it has given clear proofs.

And in the following year (1889):—

I have been referred to as a moderate man. I am a moderate man. . . . The history of India has yet to be written, and when it is truly written, Englishmen will learn that the present movement is the inevitable result of causes which we ourselves have set in motion. Those who misrepresent us speak of our movement as isolated, dangerous, or unimportant. But I believe this political movement in India is an indispensable part of that great awakening in India which is showing itself not only in the intellectual progress of the Indian people, but in India's commercial development and in many signs of a new national life. We have got a great force to deal with—a force which must be powerful either for the disintegration of our Indian Empire or for the consolidation of our Indian Empire; and therefore, as an old official, I say it is our duty to use it as a consolidating and not as a disintegrating force. . . . I affirm that there is no political movement in this country which is managed with the same moderation of speech and the same dignity of procedure as this, the Indian National Congress.

If Sir William Hunter had lived to write the final volume of his "History of India," it would have shown how thoroughly just, in the historical sense, are the opinions expressed in this passage. It is an historical judgment, measured, convinced, and conclusive. "He has conclusively shown, with the calm of the historian rather than with the partial spirit of a contemporary writer," says Sir Charles Dilke, "that the present Native movement is the necessary outcome of the principles on which our rule in India has been based, and that it is to our interest, as much as it would be to our honour, to satisfy it in some measure."

We have no space to reproduce Sir William Hunter's opinions in detail, and will content ourselves with Sir Charles Dilke's summary of the main points:—

Sir William Hunter shows how the people of India have been prepared to admit to public office, their education, ability, and integrity, to use the words of the Queen's Proclamation, are now such that no ground can be found under those heads for refusing them admission. He points out how we have trained the picked youth of India in the literature of English freedom and inspired them with British political ideas, and how impracticable it is to continue to refuse all possibility of growth, even though we may think that growth of free institutions in India should naturally be slow. Sir William Hunter also shows how we have modernised the intellectual class of India, without leaving the whole mass of the population with modern ideas, and how, therefore, we have two peoples in India

in the sense of civilisation—a great mass uncharged, and a small number highly trained in British notions. Sir William Hunter maintains silence upon what may be called the political demands of the Congress, but he supports its view with regard to the reform of judicial procedure, the production of an Indian Budget in Legislative Council, the modification of the Arms Act to prevent the destruction of the population by wild beasts, and a partial admission of Natives to the covenanted Civil Service. Sir William Hunter knows, however, as well as any one, that reform could not long stop here.

With such a record of sympathy with India, Sir William might well claim consideration for his own "methods of working." It may be remembered, too, that he spoke up with exceptional boldness in the Viceroy's Council (March 9, 1883) for a Bill giving a limited criminal jurisdiction over Europeans to Native magistrates and judges.

There is little of incident to note in Sir William's career, except his promotions and publications. He was born in 1840, a nephew of Mr. James Wilson, the Finance Minister who set the Indian treasury to rights after the Mutiny. Having graduated M.A. at Glasgow (1860) and studied some time on the Continent, he came out very near the top of the list in the Indian Civil Service competitive examination of 1861. He was appointed to Bengal, and commenced work at Birbhum. His first book, which many judges pronounce his best, "The Annals of Rural Bengal" (1868), demonstrated his literary faculty as well as his sympathetic interest in the people. Probably this work, no less than his official capacity or friends at court, recommended him to Lord Mayo for the new post of Director-General of Statistics (1869). His duties now "involved annual tours," he has told us, "which enabled me to see every province with my own eyes, and to study at first hand the local conditions and races from beyond the Khaibar Pass to Comorin." The resulting "Statistical Account of Bengal and Assam" in 22 volumes, as well as "The Imperial Gazetteer of India" in 14 volumes, though largely compiled by assistants, received from Sir William the touch that makes dry bones live. We cannot attempt to enumerate here the many historical, biographical, and administrative writings of Sir William Hunter; it is enough to say that they represent the energy, the intelligence, and the skill that might well serve for at least three considerable reputations. "The Old Missionary" shows his purely literary qualities in highest relief, with perhaps some glimpses of an intimate character. We mention "The Indian Mussulmans" (1871) because it is dedicated to Brian Hodgson as the Indian scholar who had "most fully recognised the duty of studying the people." Sir William was a member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council from 1881 to 1887, when he retired with a K.C.S.I. Settling down at Oaken Holt, near Oxford, he concentrated himself on his historical studies. We learn that, unhappily, his "History of India" will remain a fragment. There has been a strange fatality about it. "The main part of the materials and manuscripts," he said in the preface, "collected during 23 years, went down in the ill-fated 'Nepal' on their way home"; and ten years' labour did not adequately repair the loss. It was no less than heroism to tackle the task once more. Sir William Hunter has died, if not full of years, still full of work and of honour. He will live long in the grateful memory of the Indian people.

OUR LONDON LETTER.

WESTMINSTER, Thursday.

WHILE the war wages legislation is ignored. It appears to be impossible at present to get a hearing in the House of Commons for any of the ordinary affairs of life. Even when the subject under discussion is one merely bearing on the war, and not the war itself, members refuse to give it their attention. Take, for example, the debates of the present week on the Government's scheme of army reorganisation. It was for this epoch-making reform that the whole world was supposed to be on tiptoe of expectation. Members of the Opposition, because they insisted on discussing other questions first, were pointedly reminded of the Roman volupuary who fiddled while his capital burned. "Cease, cease these jabs!" was the daily entreaty of scandalised patriots, commenting on the debate on the vote of censure. Yet, strange to say, the benches and galleries of the House of Commons were packed night after night as long as the debate lasted. More inexplicable still, the House has been a wilderness of vacancy from the moment that the debate ended. On Monday

there was a temporary rally of public interest in response to the loud and pompous advertisement with which Mr. Wyndham's statement had been heralded, but the anti-climax of that singularly tame performance reduced Parliament to a condition of paralysis.

Lord Lansdowne's exposition of the Ministerial scheme made a better impression than Mr. Wyndham's, but the difference was one of manner, not of substance. Next day both alike were condemned. The military extremists have suffered a bitter disappointment by the failure of the Government to seize so tempting an opportunity of introducing the thin end of the wedge of conscription. For the moment they are refraining from direct attack, but they have warned their timid friends on the Treasury Bench that hostilities are only suspended. On the other hand, the Opposition by the lips of Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, and even more strongly in the speech of Mr. Edmund Robertson, have denounced the insidious method by which the Government, under the cloak of a temporary emergency, are endeavouring to make enormous additions to the permanent armaments of the country. No explanation was offered by either Lord Lansdowne or Mr. Wyndham of the extraordinary depletion of the garrisons of India, Singapore, Ceylon, Egypt, and Mauritius—an omission which provoked severe censure from Mr. Arnold-Forster, one of the ablest spokesmen of that curiously assorted body the Committee of Service Members.

Some unconventional gentleman might appropriately relieve the monotony of question time in the House of Commons one of these days by apostrophising Lord George Hamilton in the words of the poet—

Others abide our question; thou art free,
We ask and ask—thou smilest and art still.

Invited by Sir William Wedderburn last week, in view of the conspicuous loyalty exhibited by the Indian people at this critical time, to make a statement which would satisfy the public that the imprisonment of the Natu brothers for two years without trial had been prudent and necessary, Lord George flatly declined, as he said, to add anything to the statement already made. Those who have followed the case are wondering to which of the various statements "already made" this petulant answer is intended to apply. It is pointed out that the Secretary for India has accused the Natus successively of murder, of intimidation, and of disturbing public tranquility, and that not one of those charges has been either substantiated or withdrawn.

It was with a sense of shame that members of the House of Commons heard of Sir Edward Clarke's resignation. This distinguished, eloquent and courageous advocate had dared to differ from Mr. Chamberlain, and he is now suffering the penalty in a self-imposed banishment from Westminster. The sacrifice is heavy, for Sir Edward Clarke was in every respect one of the first men in Parliament. But it may do good. Indeed, its effect is already perceptible in the stimulus which the incident appears to have given to the reaction against that spirit of blind and arrogant intolerance of which the attitude of the Plymouth Conservatives was merely a symptom. It is said that the action taken by those gentlemen was due to a suggestion from the Tory headquarters. If so, it is not improbable that the party managers may yet find reason to regret their zeal. Political and Parliamentary sympathy is altogether with Sir Edward Clarke. As soon as his application for the Chiltern Hundreds was received the attitude of the Treasury Bench underwent a transformation. Sir Michael Hicks Beach went up to Sir Edward, sat down by his side, and talked to him in great earnestness. Presently Lord George Hamilton followed the Chancellor's example. If they were trying to persuade the victim of party passion to change his resolve they were unsuccessful. The member for Plymouth performed his duties for the last time with scrupulous exactitude, staying to take part in the latest divisions, and sitting through many dreary speeches with indomitable patience. But to all his friends he made it clear that Plymouth and he had parted.

Sir Edward Clarke is not the only member whose resignation has been demanded by former supporters. A similar attempt was made some time ago to oust Mr. J. M. Maclean—another staunch Tory who has refused to accept the Chamberlain fetish. The member for Cardiff, however, snaps his fingers at local Conservative opinion. He yields to the extent of keeping his lips closed and even to the extent of voting with the Govern-

ment on the question of the hour; but, for all that, he remains of the same opinion still and declines to give way for a man who would be willing both to think and to vote at the dictation of the Colonial Secretary. Several other members of the House of Commons think the thoughts of one lobby and add to the votes of the other. Sir E. Clarke himself denounced the war more vehemently than almost any other speaker who took part in the vote of censure debate, yet he voted with the Government. On the other hand his Liberal colleague in the representation of Plymouth, Mr. Mendl, endeavoured to vindicate the war and yet supported the Opposition. "Speak how you like, but give me your vote," used to be the axiom of the Whips. It is a great compliment to Sir Edward Clarke that not even his vote should have been accepted as a sufficient counterweight to the damaging force of his speech.

Only four of the numerous amendments of which notice had been given obtained a hearing before the Debate on the Address was closed. India was shut out altogether, while Ireland, thanks to the determined pressure of a reunited party, succeeded in appropriating nearly the whole of the time given to the amendments of unofficial members. Mr. Kearley accomplished a good stroke of work, by extracting from the Government a pledge to stir up the dry bones of the Royal Patriotic Commission. Ministers as usual were loth to move in the matter, and it was not till a number of Conservative members had made strong speeches in support of the amendment that the gospel of procrastination, as preached by Mr. Powell Williams, was finally abandoned by Mr. Balfour. One result of the Ministerial pledge will probably be to release a considerable part of the Patriotic Commission's enormous hoard for the benefit of the widows and orphans created by the present war.

Is conscience, as well as gratitude, an impossible quality in politics? The Irish members have been greatly amused by the unblushing efforts of some of their old Coercionist enemies to re-establish friendly relations on the basis of the Redmond leadership. Coming events are casting their shadows a long way in advance, for it is scarcely to be expected that there will be a dissolution before next year. When the time arrives we shall probably witness a repetition of the curious political coquetry which distinguished the general election of 1885. Already there have been suggestions of a working arrangement between the Unionist and the Nationalist parties. The *Times* on the morrow of Mr. John Redmond's election as chairman threw out a significant hint as to the possibility of a "deal," thus tending to strengthen an opinion long entertained by the cynical that the problem of Home Rule will ultimately be solved by a Conservative Government depending on Irish votes. Strange to say, the eagerness of the *Times* to enter into a Nationalist alliance did not prevent it next day from calling Mr. John Morley's attention to the extreme speeches of Mr. Redmond and Mr. Healy, which were held up to scorn as an illustration of the working of a "union of hearts." These little fluctuations in the stern morality of Toryism are exciting the hopeful interest of Irish Parliamentarians.

NOTES FROM BOMBAY.

LORD CURZON'S DEFENCE.

[FROM AN INDIAN CORRESPONDENT.]

BOMBAY, January 27.

The daily growing severity of the famine is the topic of the week. The press generally has been reviewing the latest speech of the Viceroy on the subject. The Indian section of the press demands the evidence for Lord Curzon's allegation as to the Government being credited with inhumanity. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and other papers assert that to their knowledge no Indian journal has indulged in such exaggeration. The charge of exaggeration is rather applicable to this mis-statement of Lord Curzon's. He observed that he was an attentive student of the leading Native journals. If so, it would be interesting to learn where he noticed the charge of inhumanity. Was it the pricking of the Viceregal conscience after the publication of the notorious Circular of December last? Official critics are never tired of laying at the door of the Native press statements which are discovered to be unfounded. Any stick is good enough to belabour the Native press, which (to vary the metaphor) is a thorn in the side of

the intolerant section of official critics. A Viceroy, however, is presumed to be above one-sided or unfounded criticism. Hence it is a matter of regret that Lord Curzon should have given expression to such a statement.

But this is only a minor incident. The speech itself on the whole is more reassuring. In fact, if one reads between the lines, it would seem that the universally adverse criticism on the new departure contemplated by Mr. Holderness's Letter has had the desired effect on the Viceroy and his advisers. Ostensibly, the speech is an endeavour to justify the Circular on the ground of protecting the taxpayers' money. But in reality it is an elaborate attempt to diminish the mischievous effect the Circular has already produced on the popular mind. Nobody in his senses supposes that State relief should be administered with a prodigal hand. On the contrary, it is notorious that at every famine the State enjoins on officials engaged in famine relief operations the duty of practising the greatest economy. The official who succeeds in carrying out relief successfully "on the cheap" is the most favoured. He is eulogised in State despatches and recommended for promotion and decoration. So that there was no need for the specially precautionary Circular of Christmas week. The Government of India might have inculcated its economic lesson to the provincial Administrations without the Circular and would have better achieved its object without evoking the hostile criticism that has followed the publication of that ill-considered document.

There was no need to be alarmed at the growing numbers on relief works. It was inevitable. Really the conduct of the Indian Government is most inconsistent. It recognises in that Circular three special and exceptional circumstances attendant on the prevailing famine: (i) that it is in every way severer than even the severe famine of 1896-97; (ii) that want of water is another exceptional circumstance; and (iii) that those of somewhat higher station, who were not hitherto to be seen on famine relief works, are to be seen there now. It would naturally follow that the three special causes combined would swell the number who must live on the dole meted out by the State. Why then be alarmed at the growing numbers? And why all this noise about economy and alleged demoralisation of the Native character? Is it not all gratuitous? Was the press wrong when it criticised the illiberal policy suggested in the Circular? Was it wrong in appealing to the Government not to carry out a narrow and cheese-paring policy, certain to entail an appalling mortality from starvation? Lord Curzon has seen the error of it; but, of course, imperial "prestige" demands that the Circular should be defended somehow. So he gallantly went to the rescue and did what he could to allay the alarm and suspicion now rooted in the public mind. How far the alarm and suspicion will prevail or how far it will decline must depend on the action of the State officials engaged in relief operations. The weekly bill of mortality will tell the tale, though here, too, it may be expected that the most strenuous efforts will be made to minimise the number, as was the case in the Central Provinces and elsewhere during the last famine. But the public will know how to estimate the mortality bill.

In reference to this matter it was magniloquently observed by the Viceroy that the State is bound to see that the taxpayers' money is not wasted. No ghost is required to tell us that. But what may reasonably be asked is whether the Indian Government is uniformly anxious to save the taxpayers' money? We know the annually growing expenditure on arms and armaments. Have the authorities ever cared to listen to the loud cry of the taxpayers to be saved from that appalling expenditure? Do they not rather still think of increasing it? What of the proposed increase of officers for regiments? Can the military secretary tell us what will be the total of the permanent additional burden which this scheme will entail? It may, again, be reasonably asked whether the Government of India thought of the taxpayers' pockets when it resolved upon awarding exchange compensation allowance to the two branches of a service which have salaries on a scale unparalleled in any part of the civilised world. Let us further ask the central authority whether it consulted the welfare of the millions of taxpayers when it introduced its new currency nostrum and ruthlessly destroyed part of their savings, the smallest ever possessed by a subject race, by one stroke of the pen. Lastly, it may fairly be asked whether it cared to consult the taxpayers' interests when it waged war with the Amir

Shore Ali? Was it for the purpose of saving the taxpayers' pockets that it created the Penjeh soare, annexed Upper Barma, and permanently added to the annual military expenditure fully three millions Rx.? And what of the numerous expeditions beginning with Gilgit and ending with Chitral which in all have entailed a burden of twelve millions Rx. since 1885? Did the last famine cost twelve millions Rx.? No. The official account puts it down at 7½ millions. What is the official estimate of the cost of the present famine, if we assume, according to Lord Curzon's declaration, that not a soul will be allowed to die of starvation so far as the Government can help it? Surely, it will not cost more than ten millions Rx. But even assuming that twelve instead of ten millions are spent; what then? Will they not be well spent? Will they not be spent for the most philanthropic of objects? Which is better—to provoke an unrighteous war, shed the blood of a few thousand Natives, and squander twenty-five millions of the taxpayers' money, or to spend one-half of it to save from thirst and hunger at least fifty millions of people most of whom, even in times of so-called "bumper harvests," do not get a full meal a day—and into the bargain to deserve their greatest gratitude and blessings? Really, one is amused when this kind of nonsensical reason, the interest of the taxpayer, is trotted out for want of something more convincing. It is sheer hypocrisy thus to use the name of the poor taxpayer who is not listened to when the Government is bent upon some costly scheme to which he objects. Besides, is it in the interest of the taxpayer that the enhanced salt duty, first imposed ten years ago with repeated promises of remission when the finances should permit, is still maintained? The long and short of the matter is that the Government is unwilling to spend a pie more on this famine than it can help. It wants all the money which can be saved by what would practically come to the old one-pound-ration theory of Sir Richard Temple, for its own imperial fireworks and its brand new currency nostrum. That is the secret. It remains to be seen how as weeks progress the provincial Administrations will try to carry out the economic lesson enjoined in the Circular.

We have had a meeting of our Local Legislature here on the 24th. Most of the interpellations referred to famine, remissions of revenue, test works and so forth; in one or two more concerned proposed small irrigation works in afflicted areas. The replies in most cases were, as usual, vague. A question on inoculation was put by Professor Gokhale. He wished the Government to make a plain statement as to its efficacy. But the Government avoided direct reply by referring Professor Gokhale to the letters on the subject some time since published by Sir Bhalchandra K. Bhatwadekar. The Select Committee's report on the Khoti Bill was presented. But it is to be inferred that it will not give complete satisfaction. The measure is undoubtedly contemplated as a compromise to smooth the new difficulties created. But the chief difficulty is of Government's own creation—the enhancement of the Khoti lands. The proposed legislation will not remove the hardships which are certain to crop up again in a few years. The difficulties are due neither to the Khotis nor to their tenants, but to the Government which never thinks of decreasing the burdensome and in some cases ruinous assessments. Impoverishment must be the ultimate result. The less lucky Khotis may have to go on relief works at the next famine. If the numbers increase, the chief cause is the general impoverishment of the peasant class all over the country. The impoverishment is persistent, and Sir Louis Mallet's prophecy is receiving greater and greater confirmation. The famine problem will be solved when the larger problem of the agriculturist's impoverishment is solved. But where is the far-sighted statesman who will undertake to solve it? In no problem of the State which awaits solution is more "courage and sympathy" essential than in this. Will Lord Curzon be found equal to the occasion? In that case he will have magnificently verified the noble utterances to which he gave expression when he landed as Viceroy-elect on the shores of Bombay just thirteen months ago.

At the South Place Discussion Society (South Place Institute, Finsbury, E.C.) a discussion will be opened on March 28 by Mohammed Barakatullah, Moulavi, on "The Future of India." The chair will be taken at 7.30 p.m. by Mrs. H. Bradlaugh Bonner. The attendance of friends is invited.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

NEARLY FOUR MILLIONS ON RELIEF.

The Secretary of State for India has received the following telegram from the Viceroy on the subject of the famine:—

Standing crops improved by recent rain in North-Western Provinces and Jabalpur Division, Central Provinces. Elsewhere in Central Provinces yield of crops very poor, and scarcity of fodder and water increasing daily. In Central Provinces the decline in the number of persons demanding relief is due in part to harvest and partly to closer supervision. In Punjab, cattle, where not dying, are weak and starved; irrigated crops are good to fair, but unirrigated crops the worst for years. Distress is steadily on the increase in Bombay, Rajputana, and parts Central India. Harvest poor in Madras Decan, and test famine relief work proposed for one district.

Number of persons in receipt of relief:—Bombay, 950,000; Punjab, 178,000; Central Provinces, 1,441,000; Berar, 286,000; Ajmer-Merwara, 107,000; Rajputana States, 337,000; Central India States, 83,000; Bombay Native States, 333,000; Baroda, 63,000; North-Western Provinces, 3,000; Punjab Native States, 3,000—total, 3,784,000.

THE MANSION HOUSE FUND.

The Indian Famine Fund at the Mansion House on Wednesday evening exceeded £36,000, and the Lord Mayor remitted during the day to the Viceroy of India a first instalment of £30,000, to be announced at Lord Curzon's meeting at Calcutta to-day (Friday).

THE NEW FAMINE POLICY. DISSATISFACTION IN INDIA.

As will be seen from our Parliamentary Report, Lord George Hamilton said in the House of Commons a few days ago, in reply to Sir W. Wodderburn's question regarding the Circular of December 27:—

I am not aware that it has caused dissatisfaction in India.

The answer is merely astounding. We give below extracts from the Indian journals which are conclusive proof of "dissatisfaction." If further proof is required, it can be given.

It has hitherto been understood that some one or other of the numerous officials at the India Office had the duty of reading the Indian newspapers. How far this duty has been discharged may be seen from a comparison of Lord G. Hamilton's answer with the following expressions of public opinion:—

The *Champion* (Bombay) wrote (January 21):—As matters stand we cannot help agreeing with the *Statesman* that the present sweeping inference of the Government, as to the demoralisation of the people leading them to relief works, belies "all past experience of the attitude of the people of India in times of distress." Those who are fully cognisant of their extreme reluctance to go to relief works at all, unless absolutely driven thereto by sheer privation, would not hesitate to contradict the inference the Indian Government would have the public draw. Is it possible that such a people should have suddenly developed a sense of such shamelessness as to flock to camp reliefs without in any way feeling "poor and distressed"? So far, however," observes our Calcutta contemporary, "from there being any difficulty in finding such an explanation, the account of the prevailing conditions put forward by the Government in this very resolution leaves nothing to be explained but its own inability or unwillingness to see what must be plain to every unbiased observer.

The *Indu-Prakash* (Bombay) wrote (January 11):—Has it been the experience that the wages paid at present in our relief camps are too high? Even with all the liberality of our famine reliefs, is it not the fact that numbers die of absolute starvation? If the distress is greater and more widespread this year, that is a reason for greater liberality, not less. If the State cannot help adequately in time of need it practically makes a sad confession. We are very much afraid that the actual effects of this Government Resolution will be very disastrous. There is always a tendency in the lower officials to minimise distress and ingratiate themselves with Government by not letting the expenses of their districts grow beyond modest figures. Even when the Supreme Government is liberal, this tendency asserts itself often most disastrously. One shudders to think what lengths it will go when the Government of India actually lays down principles of the illiberal kind we have referred to.

The *Madras Standard* (January 3) said:—What Lord Curzon wants is the curtailment of gratuitous relief, the rigorous enforcement of what is called task work and the reduction of all wages to a subsistence allowance. Of course, no one for a moment contends that idlers and able-bodied men should enjoy the same advantages that are given to the lame, the halt, and the blind. But a too rigorous enforcing of

these rules may act oppressively on all. We know by experience what the cry is that, generally comes from relief workers; and if no sort of leniency is shown then hard and fast rules are likely to do much harm.

The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* (Calcutta) said (January 4):—We are very much pleased to read the Famine Circular of the Government of India which is published elsewhere. It will, we need hardly say, create a feeling of deep anxiety and alarm in the minds of the public. Various issues have been raised by Mr. Holderness as to how famines should be administered, and we hope to deal with them in future. But it is quite clear that the sentiments expressed in the letter are at total variance in many respects with the conclusions arrived at by two Famine Commissions, whose voice should be supreme in this matter. We can fully sympathise with the solicitude of the Government, as custodians of public funds, for the proper expenditure of the taxpayers' money. But the question of economy should by all means be subordinated to the higher question of saving lives at any cost.

The *Hindoo Digest* (Calcutta) wrote (January 3):—One effect of Mr. Holderness's letter will probably be a reduction in the number of persons on relief and a corresponding decrease in the expenditure incurred on account of famine relief. We certainly do not advocate extravagance or waste but we do hope that the pendulum will not swing too far in the opposite direction.

The *Maharatta* (Poona) said (January 7): The enormousness of expenditure already incurred, and that likely to be incurred hereafter, seems to have staggered the Government of India, and the present resolution, we believe, is the outcome. The charge, so far as we see, is a unique charge, and is, perhaps, as unprecedented as the present famine. Knowing as we do by experience that the liberality of the Local Governments had unfortunately never been so great as to be in danger of being extravagant, we do not think it will be at all difficult for them to meet their demand against this charge of being over-venturous. In fact, the Government of India may remember that the last Famine Commission, in their report, have made, if anything, an indictment against the Governments of Bombay and the Central Provinces for an offence which is directly the opposite of over-liberality.

The *Tribune* (Lahore) wrote (January 13):—It must be remembered that the report of the Famine Commission of 1878 was based on the experience gained from the famine of 1876-78, which, under the circumstances above explained, could not be accepted as infallible guide. Moreover it must not be forgotten, when that Commission laid down their standards referred to by the Government of India, the Commissioners had not before them a single instance of a province having been twice smitten, by extreme drought within the short time of three years. All these important considerations, we regret to say, have been completely overlooked in the circular letter under notice. The extent and severity of a famine cannot be limited to the financial resources of the Government of India.

The *Advocate* (Lucknow) wrote (January 12):—The last notification of the Government of India of the year 1899 has left not a very good impression on the people. While the famine is gaining ground surely and rather quickly, the Government of India are really afraid that they may shortly come to the end of their resources on account of relief operations. Hence the Circular Letter, dated December 27, 1899. That a perusal of the same would give rise to a misgiving in the public mind was not an unknown factor.

The *Bengalee* (Calcutta) said (January 6):—The Government thus apprehend that the principles and the practice of famine relief are not being enforced with sufficient strictness, and the Government have been driven to this conclusion, tentatively at least, by the abnormally large numbers who are receiving relief. It is a fortunate circumstance that the Government does not definitely commit itself to the view that aid is too freely given or that the tests and precautions are insufficiently observed. The observations of the Government in this respect are tentative in their character. But all the same, we feel bound to observe that they will have a bad effect in compelling the officers of Government actually employed on famine relief to enforce precautions with a rigor which may culminate even in the loss of life.

The *Indian Mirror* (Calcutta) wrote (January 5):—Our earnest wish as well as endeavour has been not to hamper the Government of India in any manner, but to assist it forward to the ideal which his Excellency has so eloquently and so frequently outlined for it in his public speeches and Resolutions. But we should be far from discharging our duty, and doing justice to Lord Curzon himself, did we not speak out in terms of unmistakable condemnation of the Government of India's new famine policy.

The above extracts are taken from the Indian journals. The Anglo-Indian journals, according to their habit, have in the main supported the policy of the Government. A conspicuous exception is, however, the *Friend of India*, which we have cited on previous occasions, and from which we give a further passage below. The comments of the other Anglo-Indian journals are at least interesting as showing the interpretation put upon the Circular:—

The *Friend of India* (Calcutta) wrote (January 4):—While fully recognising the necessity for such discrimination in the administration of famine relief as may, as far as possible, prevent the ability of the State to relieve the destitute from being impaired by the diversion of its resources from their legitimate purpose, and while admitting that it is only by the adoption of some automatic test that such discrimination can generally be exercised, we must confess that we have read with extreme misgiving the Resolution on the subject just issued by the Government of India and published elsewhere in our columns to-day. The apprehension by which the Resolution appears to be inspired rests upon an assumption or, perhaps, we should rather say, upon a suspicion which, we are convinced, is groundless, and which seems to us to be altogether gratuitous.

The *Times of India* (Bombay) said (January 6):—The most important feature of the memorandum is the passage in which the wage scale recommended by the Famine Commission is directly challenged on the ground that it is too high. A cogent question, also referred to, is that of the extent to which the State should hold itself responsible for the protection of the people from suffering.

The *Englishman* (Calcutta) wrote (January 4):—Reading between the lines of the Government of India's resolution it is easy to see that the Government for whose benefit the warning is chiefly issued is the Central Provinces, which enjoys the unenviable distinction of having over a million persons on relief out of a total population of some ten millions. Of the reality of distress in these Provinces there is ample evidence.

The *Fioneer* (Allahabad) wrote (January 5):—The famine relief administrator in India is beginning to find that every famine costs more to manage than its predecessors, and that a larger number of people come upon the State for support. Why this should be so is at present by no means clear. But the fact is sufficiently obvious, and it constitutes a great perplexity and a great cause of irritation to a Government wishing to know beforehand the cost and the consequences of a definite line of policy.

A VISIT TO THE RELIEF WORKS.

The following letter from Miss Alison Garland (at Ahmedabad) appeared in the *Morning Leader* of February 8:—

After leaving Baroda on December 23, I came here. The country between the two towns was more like a desert than an agricultural district. The beds of the streams were dry, some of the rivers were channels of hard sand. The trees looked bare, for many of them were stripped of leaves, which had been gathered in desperation to feed the cattle. Bullocks and buffaloes—poor, weakly, emaciated creatures—were seen trying to find a few blades of grass in fields enclosed by cactus hedges. Occasionally, a camel mounted by two riders was visible striding across the plain. The dust was dreadful. It filled the carriages till the coachmen were obliged to wear it. The only joyous things in creation were the birds and the monkeys. Beautiful, brightly-feathered birds flew around us as daylight crept over the landscape, and when the train passed through small plantations monkeys with long tails scampered about, jumping from tree to tree and grinning at the amusement of the passengers.

At Ahmedabad I stayed at the house of the Commissioner, one of the ablest officials in the Bombay Presidency. He personally showed me over the relief works, established to give occupation to the starving ryots. The men were employed in excavating and extending large tanks. In future years, when the rainfall is normal, the water thus stored in these tanks will fertilise large districts. Arrangements were made on these works for sleeping accommodation for the men, their wives, and their children—a great improvement on the Baroda works, where families camped out in the open, with only the small amount (if any) of covering they had brought with them from the villages. Both at Ahmedabad and at Baroda the nights were cold and the days hot. There was often a difference of 40 degrees, and more in the temperature in the twenty-four hours. The organisation of the camp was excellent. Several sheds were set apart as hospitals. These sheds were wooden structures, covered at the roofs and sides with coarse Indian matting. The patients lay on trundle-like beds, on mattresses of the said matting. An Indian doctor was in charge of them. They suffered from various complaints begotten of privation and semi-starvation. They were well cared for in the hospital, and lay still, hour after hour, with that placidly and resignation to fate which so strongly characterises the Eastern mind. Our guide had wished for some English Christmas charity to brighten those weary hours of suffering with amusements or presents of fruit or sweetmeats. But the donors of charity are few and the recipients in famine-stricken countries are to be counted by hundreds of thousands.

The workers in the fields, both men and women, seemed to be in very fair condition. The new arrivals were easily discernible by their emaciated appearance. After a few weeks of good feeding they visibly fatten. Some of the women wore a few ornaments. Their husbands, many of them up till now small farmers, prefer to work for two annas (2d.) a day rather than sell the last silver trinket left to their wives. This commendable spirit has been encouraged on these works. It seems wise not to reduce the people to absolute destitution before admitting them to the works, for in case of sickness, or at the end of the season, they would have a few rupees to fall back upon with which to begin again. But in the last few days orders have come from the Government commanding greater strictness in the enforcement of the rules. About the ratio of persons relieved to population in a number of districts exceeds the standard of 15 per cent. laid down by the Famine Commission of 1878 as the maximum for the worst months of the year. When this is the case at the very outset of the famine the prospects are so grave for the future that economy will have to be strictly enforced, and probably absolute destitution must be shown before admission is given to works where labour is paid for at a mere subsistence rate.

At Ahmedabad there were no young children working. These were cared for in compounds close to the works, and women with infants were allowed many hours in a day to leave their labour to attend to their babies. The poorhouse is one of the most interesting of the famine institutions in this district. A large building, once used for barracks and at another time for a gaol, has been granted by the authorities for the reception of the villagers, who arrive in too feeble a condition to be put directly on the works. There were hundreds of men, women, and children here. The children were puffy, sickly little things, all skin and bone. Those who had been for some weeks in the poorhouse, however, looked more flourishing, testifying to the abundance and quality of the food. Two meals a day were given to the inmates. I was present at four o'clock in the afternoon, when the second meal was given. They all sat down on the ground, with a little round flat dish or a bowl before them. Men came round with large basins filled with rice and dhal, and gave each person a

attention to the administration of Excise in India, by which many liquor shops are being opened in various parts of India, in direct violation of the expressed protest of the neighbourhood, and in contradiction of the declared policy of the Government of India, as formulated in their Despatch to the Secretary of State, No. 29, February 4, 1890; and to move a resolution. [An early day.]

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS.—On Army Estimates, to call attention to the organisation of her Majesty's Military Forces in the East; and to move a resolution. [On going into Committee of Supply.]

RUSSIA AND PERSIA.

Mr. DRAGE asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he could conveniently state to the House whether any exclusive concessions had been granted to Russian subjects in Northern Persia for the construction of railways, or for any other commercial object;

And, whether any attempt had been made by her Majesty's Government to obtain the demarcation of an English sphere of interest in Northern Persia.

Mr. BRODRICK: The only concessions granted to Russian subjects in Northern Persia of which her Majesty's Government are aware are a concession for the construction of a road from Enzeli to Keshin, a concession for working copper and other mineral deposits in the mountainous districts of Azerbaijan known as the Karadagh Range. Her Majesty's Government are fully alive to the desirability of maintaining British interests in Persia, but the Persian Government has not hitherto deemed it advisable to recognise spheres of interest of any foreign Powers in that country.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

THE TROOPS BORROWED FROM INDIA.

The House went into Committee of Supply on the Army Supplementary Estimates (1899-1900). Mr. J. W. LOWTHER in the Chair.

Sir CHARLES DILKE, in the course of his speech, said he deplored the fact that no reference had been made by Mr. Wyndham to the circumstances that we had very largely denuded India of the garrison that was thought necessary for India by every critic in this country and in India. Surely the time had come, if the garrison in India at ordinary times was not too large—say he did not think it wise to replace the troops that had been taken away. Those troops, it ought to be remembered, were equipped in a costly way, efficiently supplied with cavalry and artillery.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES, in the course of his speech, said he had hoped to hear that the Government were taking measures immediately to prepare another 50,000 men for South Africa, but to listen to the representative of the War Office one would imagine there was no war going on. Nor was there any reference to India. The statement dealt with home defence alone. It was impossible to forget that we had a Victory which had announced in the House of Commons that his policy was to join the Russian frontier. In addition to that they had recently sent out to the Presidency of Bombay a new Governor without any administrative capacity—(oh, oh)—he begged pardon, experience—whatever who distinguished himself by rising in the House to propose an addition to the salary of the President of the Board of Trade.

Mr. ARNOLD FORSTER described the depletion of the British garrison in India as a most illegitimate and dangerous course, and said that in case of war with an European power our first call would be to provide reinforcements of 20,000 troops to bring the garrison of India up to war footing.

Mr. GEORGE WYNDHAM, in the course of his speech replying on the debate, said the hon. member (Mr. Arnold-Forster) said we did not and could not send troops to Sir George White from this country. It is true we did not, but it is quite untrue that we could not. We had a scheme before us. There were two alternative plans, one to send 10,000 men from this country, and the other to send 10,000 men from India and the Mediterranean garrisons. As a matter of fact, we sent the men from India because the passage was somewhat shorter. . . . The right hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Dilke) also dwelt on the fact that we had borrowed troops from India. Of course, we will repay what we borrowed at the earliest possible moment. But what has been the extent of our borrowing? Four regiments of cavalry out of nine, and, as the right hon. gentleman knows, the native cavalry is strong and efficient; two batteries of horse artillery out of 11; three batteries of field artillery out of 42; and although we have borrowed eight battalions of infantry out of 62, we have already paid back some, for the battalions in India now stand at 47, so that there is only a loss of five white battalions. It is one of the first duties we shall discharge, just as we are already taking steps to pay back the guns we have borrowed. (Hear, hear.)

Sir C. DILKE: How about the three-year men?

Mr. WYNDHAM: That is a very important point, and one which requires further consideration. The right hon. baronet says we now propose to take a greater number of three-year men, and the hon. member for West Belfast also brought that point against us. But it is very easily disposed of. You must have in the home battalion about 700 seven-year men in order to feed with drafts the linked battalion in India, and the number of three-year men you can take in the home battalion depends upon the number by which your home battalion exceeds that limit. Last year our home establishment exceeded that limit by 100, and we agreed to take 100 of these men. We have increased the home battalions this year again, and that will allow us to take 200 three-year men on the home establishment. (Hear, hear.) My hon. friend the member for King's Lynn deserves an answer, as he was the first of several members who argued, "You have come down to us with a plan for organising three army corps for home defence, but we want to hear how you are going to reinforce India if it should need reinforcing, and how you are going to reinforce Lord Roberts, if he should need reinforcements in South Africa." Well, Sir, we believe the best way to do that is to do what we are doing now—namely, to engage in the work of organising these three army corps, and if one is required abroad we can send it away and set to work to organise another.

That is really the only practical manner in which this problem can be approached. The way to provide troops ready to take the field in South Africa or in India is to work them up to the highest point of efficiency as a first step at home. (Hear, hear.)

Tuesday, February 14.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Notice was given of the following Motion:

Sir WILLIAM WEDDEBURN:—Distress in India.—To call attention to the condition of the people of India; and to move, That, in view of the grievous sufferings which are again afflicting the people of India, a detailed and searching village enquiry should be instituted in order to ascertain the causes which impair the cultivators' powers to resist the attacks of famine and plague. (Tuesday, March 13.)

RAILWAYS TO THE INDIAN FRONTIER.

Mr. MACLEAN asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if the attention of her Majesty's Government had been called to the action of Russia and Germany in constructing railways across the Asiatic Continent, and especially to the concession made by the Sultan of Turkey for a German line as far as the support of Russian and German rail, and to the consolidation of the commercial and financial authority of Russia in Northern Persia;

And, what steps the Foreign Office was taking to maintain British interests in that part of the world, and to prevent the control of railways up to the Indian frontier from falling completely into the hands of foreign Powers.

Mr. BRODRICK: Her Majesty's Government are aware of the concession given by the Sultan of Turkey for a German line to the support of Russia and of the progress of Russian railways in Asia. If and when British interests are affected, her Majesty's Government will take whatever steps are necessary to maintain them.

INDIAN AND RUSSIAN RAILWAYS.

Mr. MACLEAN asked the Secretary of State for India whether, in the year 1876, a large survey party was assembled on the Indian frontier under instructions from the Government of India, to initiate all the preliminary arrangements for linking together the Indian and Russian railway systems;

And, whether the proposed operations of this survey party were countermanded by a cable message from the India Office in London.

Lord G. HAMILTON: There is nothing in the official records to the effect suggested by the hon. member's question; nor have I ever heard that the facts were as seem to be alleged, though I was myself Under-Secretary of State for India in the year 1876.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

THE TROOPS BORROWED FROM INDIA.

The House went into Committee on the Army Supplementary Estimates (Mr. J. W. LOWTHER) in the Chair. The motion was to add 120,000 men to the Army. In the course of the debate Mr. GEORGE WYNDHAM said, I could not complete my reply last night to all the points that were raised, and was obliged to baffle on the field of battle. Taking up the thread of the debate last night I have a personal correction to make of a statement I made in reply to the right hon. baronet the member for the Forest of Dean. I said we had borrowed eight battalions from India for the war. That was the number we borrowed not only from India but from the Mediterranean; we only borrowed four from India. . . . An hon. member wanted to know how the 120,000 men were made up. He is aware that such a number really has no relation to the forces in the field. They are made up in this way. In respect of the Army Reserve we are asking for 55,000 more; in respect of the Colonial forces we are asking for 26,000 more than the 9,000 originally asked for; Yeomanry and Volunteers, 20,000; European troops moved from India, 2,500, in addition to the original 6,000; native Indian troops moved to garrison at Mauritius, 3,500; and an estimated further gain by recruiting up to March 31, 13,000. If you add this to what was done in October you get the gross excess over the original estimate of 155,000 men. We have asked for sanction for men borrowed from India for any purpose and every colonial soldier who is in receipt of Imperial pay.

NOTICES OF QUESTIONS.

Notice has been given of the following questions:—

Sir WILLIAM WEDDEBURN: To ask the Secretary of State for India, whether, in view of the unhappy condition of India and the unprecedented demands on the Indian revenues for famine relief, the Government will consider the propriety of making a substantial grant to India from the British Treasury. [Thursday, February 15.]

Mr. WILLIAM REEDMAN: To ask the Secretary of State for India, whether it is intended to make any grant from Imperial Funds towards the relief of those suffering from the famine in India. [Thursday, February 15.]

Mr. YERVOUGH: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether, having regard to the fact that the Boers have invaded Zululand and attacked the natives, and also that natives have been employed by the Boers as armed combatants in recent operations, he still adheres to his statement made in October last that native troops would not be employed by the Government in the present war;

And, whether the same pledge applies to the natives of India and to the troops of the Native Princes who have offered their services. [Thursday, February 15.]

Mr. DILLON: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether it is true that a large number of Indians in Natal have offered their services free of cost;

And whether and to what extent that offer has been accepted. [Tuesday, February 20.]

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- RT. HON. SIR RICHARD GARTH, Q.C.
(Late Chief Justice of Bengal).
- RT. HON. SIR RICHARD COUCH
(Late Chief Justice of Bengal, Member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council).
- SIR CHARLES SARGENT
(Late Chief Justice of Bombay.)
- SIR WILLIAM MARKBY, K.C.I.E.
(Late Judge of the High Court, Calcutta).
- SIR JOHN BUDD PHEAR
(Late Judge of the High Court, Calcutta, and Chief Justice of Ceylon).
- SIR JOHN SCOTT, K.C.M.G.
(Late Judge of the High Court, Bombay.)
- SIR W. WEDDERBURN, BART., M.P.
(Late Judge of the High Court, Bombay.)
- SIR ROLAND K. WILSON, BART.
(Late Reader in Indian Law at the University of Cambridge).
- MR. HERBERT J. REYNOLDS, C.S.I.
(Late Member of the Bengal Legislative Council).

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