

# India

FOR THE

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\* \* \* An Index with Title-page to Volume XI of INDIA (January to June, 1899) is now ready. A copy will be forwarded gratis and post free to any Subscriber on application to the Manager.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

A PROSECUTION which has attracted widespread attention has now come to an end. The prosecutor, Mr. Hardevram Nanabhay Haridas, a son of the late Mr. Justice Haridas, is a barrister practising in Surat, while the defendant, Motilal Hirabhai, was the police inspector of that city. It appears that on April 28 the police arrested some hundred persons under the Gambling Act at the Satta Bazar. The friends of some of the prisoners applied to Mr. Haridas and to a pleader of the High Court, and the two lawyers proceeded to the Satta Bazar at half-past nine in the evening to offer bail. After some difficulty their carriage was allowed to approach but before they entered the Bazar the inspector came out and threatened to prosecute the lawyers for interfering with him in the execution of his duty, and on their explaining the reason of their presence, he seized hold of them, shook them and ordered his men to push them out. On Mr. Haridas's remonstrating with him, he called for handcuffs, but they do not seem to have been brought, as the valiant advocate held up his hands and said that the Inspector might handcuff him and send him to prison, but he still applied for his clients to be released on bail. Finally, the two lawyers, after being guarded by police in their carriage, till the Inspector had finished his business in the Bazar, were taken to the Inspector's house and only released at half-past four in the morning.

Mr. Haridas then determined to prosecute the Inspector, and on the third day of the trial, after he had proved his case up to the hilt, the defendant tendered an apology, which the prosecutor accepted, and which in the opinion of the presiding magistrate ought to have been made at a much earlier stage of the proceedings. Here is the apology:—

I am sorry for what happened on the night of April 28 last between myself and Messrs. Hardevram and Mukundray and what I did was done on the impulse of the moment and under the impression that Messrs. Hardevram and Mukundray had no business to be there. The *Gujarati* gives voice to the general opinion when it says:—

For a police officer to behave towards a counsel and a pleader in the way Mr. Motilal acted in the present instance is to us inconceivable. We have not heard of such an occurrence in the Presidency, and it is no wonder that the present case created something like a sensation in Surat and was watched by the public with the greatest interest.

But if a person in the position of Mr. Haridas can be so treated by the police, to what must others be exposed? The matter is one which should engage the immediate attention of the authorities.

Our readers will remember the case of Mr. Harry Ambler, his trial for causing the death of a man whom he struck and who died soon after, his conviction for a minor offence, and his being sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 10. The new trial ordered by the High Court has resulted in a verdict of "hurt"—apparently simple hurt is meant—and a sentence of Rs. 200 fine. The jury of three consisted

of an emigration agent and two Government officials—one English and one Indian.

We take the following editorial note from the *Daily Chronicle* of Wednesday last:—

The application made to Judge Bacon by an Indian gentleman yesterday merits very serious notice. One of her Majesty's subjects, of the highest respectability and education, on his way after completing his course at Cambridge to join the Indian Bar, is calmly turned out of a boarding-house in Woburn Place, after engaging rooms, on the plea that he is a gentleman of colour and that the American tourists will not abide him. In such a case we fancy a British jury would give heavy damages, and a British judge would use strong language. Mr. Baptista unhappily cannot wait to try it out. We hope the next Indian who is so treated will not fail to do so.

To an impartial observer it would seem that Europeans in India had many advantages; to themselves it appears that on the contrary their lot is a hard one, inasmuch as their sons, if brought up in that country, have no little difficulty in obtaining a good start in life, for the lads often find themselves obliged to enter into competition with the Indians and get worsted in the fight. The *Pioneer* describes its answer to this as "brutal in its plainness and truthfulness":—

Your boys are supplanted because they are ill-educated. The Native is preferred not only because he is cheaper, sturdier, more contented, but because he is well educated, and your boys are not; they are often ignorant, ill brought up at home, foolishly indulged by weak parents, and unsuited to the well-paid positions to which they aspire.

The *Pioneer* draws the obvious moral that the children of Europeans should be given a better education. But there is another moral which might be drawn, viz., the education of which the Indians have so readily availed themselves has really been of use in fitting them each for the work of his life, and is not that useless nurse of vanity which some Anglo-Indians would have us believe.

In the course of a drastic criticism on the *Spectator's* article, "Three Rotten Cultures," the *Pioneer* argues for the employment of Indians as officials in India and defends European education as necessary for that purpose. After an eulogy on British administration in India, it goes on:—

As part and parcel of that system it has become necessary, from financial and political considerations, to admit the natives of that country to offices of increasing responsibility, and, even in the lower grades of the service, to demand from them a closer approach to the standards of European efficiency.

Later on, our contemporary says:—

To put the case in a nutshell, India, if it desires to retain its place among civilised Governments, must either overstrain its resources by paying for more Europeans or continue to supplement by Natives with an English education.

Not so very long ago it would have seemed impossible that the *Pioneer* should constitute itself the defender of the educated Indian, and demand his admission to offices of increasing responsibility on financial and political grounds. Such opinions would have savoured too much of the Congress. But necessity is a good teacher.

Mr. Balfour, the Acting General Secretary to the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants in India, has written a strong protest against the employment of soldiers on the G. I. P. Railway to take the place of the strikers. He writes:—

This interference of the military in a private quarrel between employers and employees is a most unjustifiable and antonotic action, consonant only with the traditions of a country like Russia, and utterly unworthy of the freedom of which Englishmen, Irishmen, and Scotchmen are justly proud.

And he demands that the Imperial Government of India should make its position clear in the matter and let it be known whether or no it approved of this employment of the Queen's soldiers. It must seem strange to the *Times* of India, which has been assuring us that the whole strike is merely a Brahmin conspiracy designed to give members



of that caste a monopoly of employment on the railway, that Mr. Balfour should intervene in the matter. Perhaps our contemporary will discover that, in spite of his name, he is really a Poona Brahmin.

The *Champion* asks what steps have been taken to protect the financial interests of India against the inroads of the English War Office in the event of a war breaking out with the Transvaal. It is illegal to send Indian troops beyond the statutory boundaries of India without the consent of Parliament. It would be monstrous to expect India to pay any of her troops which might be engaged in South Africa. If England does make India pay "she will be guilty of a double injustice of the grossest character, and she will further shake the confidence of the Indian people in the uprightness of her rule." Our contemporary continues:—

The war will not be for India's sake. India has nothing to do with the quarrel. And it will be a grievous wrong to allow the British War Office to foist the cost of the Indian troops on the Indian Treasury. Every pit of the ordinary pay of such troops, as well as all extraordinary charges, should be borne by the British Treasury and by the British Treasury alone.

But can it be hoped that those who wage unjust wars will be sticklers for justice in the apportionment of the cost?

It is announced that the Government will this year hand over eighteen and a-half lakhs of rupees to the Nizam as surplus from the administration of the Berars. This, in the opinion of the *Hindu*, is not an occasion for especial thankfulness on the Nizam's part. It is a result of the agitation started by the *Pioneer* two years ago, and had not the Berars been long the happy hunting-ground of Foreign Office favourites the surplus would not have been the first. There still remains the greater question of restoring the Berars to their legitimate owner. But as the *Hindu* says: "The imperialism of the day would not admit the justice of giving back what under solemn agreements ought to be given back." Another lurid gleam on "Imperialism."

The history of the treatment of the position and pay of High Court judges shows all but incredible vacillation, and in all probability the present settlement will prove to be but temporary. Curiously enough, the recent negotiations between the Government of India and the Secretary of State appear to have been set in motion by a number of representations from public bodies in Bengal upon quite another subject—the claims and position of the provincial judiciary. This was a much more important question to raise than the pay of High Court judges. In another column we deal with the urgency of the separation of judicial and executive duties, the arguments whereon have now—and indeed for long—been narrowed down to the one point of expense. Experts have shown how the reform can be accomplished without any expense at all, by mere rearrangement of duties, at any rate in those districts where the argument of expense was held to apply with greatest force. But if money be really needed in other districts, then surely it would be better applied to the furtherance of this urgent reform than frittered away on the High Court judges. The Government's activity in this matter seems to be expended on the wrong end of the judicial hierarchy. It would seem to be much more reasonable to make a commencement at least in the improvement of small and often inadequate salaries than to add big salaries already more than sufficient for the class of men now appointed—appointed too on principles that practically exclude the best men available.

The *Englishman* prints portions of a long letter on "Coolie Emigration to Assam." The writer, whose name is withheld, while admitting that the material position of the emigrants is good and in fact far better than it was in their native villages, yet brings some serious charges. Everything is done to keep down the death-rate. The births of illegitimate children or of those who die under six months old are not reported, and men and women are sometimes turned off the gardens to die. The mortality among the babies, who are kept for hours in the rain strapped to their mothers' backs, is very great. Good coolies are kept in debt by advances of money to them, so as to establish a hold on them. "Cases of forced agreement are quite common." A planter wrote: "you know as well as I do that two-thirds of the coolies in the country

are decoyed." It is not surprising that the writer considers that "a radical change in the system of recruiting is required."

The *Reis and Rayjet* announces, in particularly melancholy vein, the lamented death of Dr. Jogendra Nath Bhattacharya at Calcutta at the age of 49. Dr. Bhattacharya, it says, "was one of those 'prophets' who are 'not honoured in their own country,' and he died without having achieved either fame or fortune." The lament seems overdone. Dr. Bhattacharya is well known as the author of a dozen books, mostly on legal subjects, and some of them of very considerable importance and merit. His great work on "Hindu Castes and Sects" has been received with marked favour in all countries of the world where there are learned men competent to estimate its value. For another work, on Hindu law, written in Bengali, he received the degree of Doctor in Law. Reckon up well, and one may doubt whether Dr. Bhattacharya has not achieved a reasonable fame for one man. As for fortune, that is a very protean and elusive thing, and when an author puts his work into technical treatises caviare to the general public is not to be blamed if it refuses to part with its rupees for them. No; Dr. Bhattacharya accomplished a distinguished life-work, leaving an honourable name widely known and respected. And after all for a literary man worth his salt—provided always he is not pinched in pocket—"fame and fortune" are probably of very subordinate account. A K.C.I.E. or the like would have been of as little use to Dr. Bhattacharya as a G.C.B. was accounted by Thomas Carlyle.

We are glad to see that the recently issued Blue-book entitled "Index and Appendices to the Evidence taken before the Committee appointed to enquire into the Indian Currency," contains (p. 132) Sir William Wedderburn's letter to Sir Henry Fowler regarding Mr. O'Connor's evidence. The letter was printed in *INDIA* of June 30 (p. 323), and it is fortunate that it reached the Currency Committee in time to be included in the Blue-book. Among other interesting appendices contained in the same volume are a letter from the London Indian Society forwarding a copy of a resolution passed at a Conference of Indians resident in the United Kingdom; letters from Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji submitted through the British Committee of the Indian National Congress; a letter from the British Committee of the Indian National Congress communicating the resolution adopted by the Indian National Congress at Madras in December last; a report of Mr. D. E. Wacha's speech as mover of this resolution; and two memoranda by Mr. W. Martin Wood. It will be remembered that on April 28 the Secretary to the Currency Committee wrote (*INDIA*, May 5, p. 225) that if a copy of Mr. Iyer's speech, seconding the resolution at the Congress, were sent it would be printed forthwith. A copy of the speech was accordingly obtained from India and forwarded to the Currency Committee, but it arrived too late for publication. "It is a matter of great regret to me," Mr. Chalmers writes to Sir William Wedderburn, "that the report did not reach me in time for inclusion (with the mover's speech) in the appendix to the evidence." A note to the like effect appears in the Blue-book. No blame in the matter rests with the Currency Committee, which has shown proper fairness and courtesy in receiving communications upon the Indian as distinguished from the Anglo-Indian view of the question. The pity is that no Indian member was included in the Committee and that more Indian witnesses were not called.

In a letter to the *Times* (July 15) Mr. William Fowler submits a concise and crushing analysis of the effect of the Indian Currency Committee's Report. He points out that "convertibility is refused," with the result that, "there being no new security for the maintenance of the value of the rupee, capital will flow from home to India, as it does now, but not more freely." Yet the "more freely" was the main determining consideration in the minds of the Committee. The circulation of gold coins is a matter of utter uncertainty, but "the balance of evidence," as Mr. Fowler says, "appears to many to show that gold coins will not circulate freely, but will, when issued, pass into hoards." That is extremely likely indeed. The maintenance of the rupee at 16d. is placed on the footing of the French and American maintenance of the silver five franc



piece and the silver dollar at par with gold, though in the case of India there is to be at first neither gold reserve nor gold currency, while in France and America there are large gold reserves and a large gold currency. Such a parallel does not promise a stable condition of things in India. On the hopes and the means of accumulation the following remarks are worthy of attention:—

Because in a season of large balance of exports from India a small amount of gold has come to the treasury it seems to be assumed that further amounts will accumulate there, so that a gold reserve may be formed without borrowing to create it. No allowance is made for bad seasons.

Although, as so well set forth by Messrs. Campbell and Muir, an artificial exchange fixed at a high figure must discourage Indian production and exports, Government thus obtaining gold at the expense of Indian producers, this course is recommended by the Committee.

The whole weight of a costly and unnecessary reform is thrown upon the resources of India, artificially checking the natural development which is recognised on all hands as desirable and urgent.

Further, Mr. Fowler remarks justly that the arguments of Mr. Campbell and Sir John Muir in favour of 15d. as against 16d. "seem to go far deeper than they think, and to undermine much of the reasoning used in the general report." This too brings up the artificial groundwork of the whole contrivance. Again:—

The plan proposed destroys for ever the great natural demand for the use of silver in Indian coinage, and thus defers indefinitely the time when the present great output of gold should, as many expect, add largely to the value of the enormous hoards of uncoined silver now said to exist in India.

The large inconvertible token coinage has no precedent, "unless the use in countries of inferior credit of inconvertible paper money may be regarded as such a precedent." In any case, it is not a reputable precedent. Of course, "India will have no proper money, and her currency will be 'managed,' not automatic." At every point the artificiality of the scheme persists in cropping up. Mr. Fowler finally remarks:—

If this summary is correct, the positive effect of the plans proposed in this Report is very small, unless indeed a new demand for gold should be set up—a result not to be desired at present, and the negative effects of the plans are unfavourable to India, except so far as Government may hope to get some gold, in good seasons, without having recourse to new taxation. But in bad seasons which must recur, nothing will have been done to supply the needs of Government, nor can I see that there is any chance of an increased flow of English capital to India as a consequence of the proposals of the Committee.

This painful stroke is "the most unkindest cut of all," but it is thoroughly well deserved.

The Report of the East India Association, for the year ending with May, came in our way last week; and from a brief report in the *Standard* we observe that its annual meeting was held last Monday. That gathering, by the way, seems to take up without other formality the Indian Secretary's Financial Statement—which is taken year by year. But perhaps this is of no consequence in any case. Judging from the Council's brief and modest Report, in which we are told the last season "has been one of some activity," there is only one subject directly bearing on "the welfare of the inhabitants of India" in which the Association has taken practical action. That is, on behalf of India's "Outlanders," the immigrants from India who have, for generations past, gone to trade and some to settle in South Africa. As our readers are too well aware, this is a burning question with our Indian friends, and one of peculiar Imperial moment. So that we are free to own that the efforts of the East India Association to this extent are much to be commended and will, we trust, be continued until distinct redress of the Indian Outlanders' grievances shall be secured by our Colonial and Foreign Offices rising to their obvious Imperial duty in that regard. As to other "activity" of the East India Association, it is not very apparent on the face of its Report; but the Council seem to have been quite delighted that the Earl of Elgin's "first public appearance" was at a meeting of the Association, which occasion his lordship utilised to "justify his famine policy," that is, to make one more apology for the tardy movement of his Executive Government when famine was too rapidly approaching in the later months of 1896. The chief paragraph of the Report is devoted to an earnest and well expressed appreciation of the late Dr. Leitner's services, through the Association and in so

many other ways, to India and its diverse peoples. With this eulogium we cordially sympathise.

As to the proceedings of the Association's annual meeting, of which, as mentioned above, we learn from a daily contemporary, these would seem to have consisted mainly of a speech by Sir Roper Lethbridge on the report of the Indian Currency Committee—a subject on which we do not gather that the Council has spent much of its activity. However, in the Daniel's judgment delivered by Sir Roper, humbler or slower minds may find reassurance. He tells them that the report of Sir Henry Fowler's Committee ushers in a monetary millennium for India. It has settled the exchange difficulty "once and for ever," so that European capital will flow into our Eastern dependency until there be no more room to receive it. Happy East India Association, that has such a financial genius on its Council! Thus Sir Roper is the right man in the right place at last, for he, apparently, went on to assure the, no doubt, large and enthusiastic meeting assembled under the presidency of Sir Lepel Griffin that the Association is the only one that deals directly with Indian political, social and industrial objects. If this be so it is much to be regretted that it hides its light under a bushel. Possibly there may be much virtue in the word "Association." For there is the Society of Arts, which in its Indian Section deals very effectively with the industrial and commercial subjects relating to the Indian Empire—though not "political," except, of course, such politics as are approved in the *Times* of the day. It would not be difficult for us to name an association, body in London which deals with Indian affairs all round to ten times the extent attempted by the once very active East India Association.

"The divine Williams," we learn, has undergone a fresh transmutation for the instruction and delight of the theatre-goers of Bombay. "The New Alfred Theatrical Company of Bombay" recently presented to crowded houses at the Alfred Pavilion "Dilfarosh, or the Merchant of Venice." "For five hours, starting from 9.30 p.m.," we are told, "the players held the boards, and, though it may seem extravagant to say so, they held the audience too, from start to finish." "The players did; no," "the immortal William," for "the translator had his author with a very free hand." Still, William, if present in spirit, no doubt regarded the adaptation neither in sorrow nor in anger, but with placid amusement. He himself treated other people's handy materials "with a very free hand," and he is believed to have been of a generous disposition. "The acting throughout" is reported to have been "extremely good." Yet the honest critic has a slight reservation. "It was perhaps a pity that Shirin (Portia) was not more plentifully endowed with the beauty which she is described as possessing, and to English ears her voice was not altogether pleasing." Though her acting in the trial scene was a very spirited performance, "the concession will not counterbalance the *spretæ invidia formæ*. The gentle "Williams" would not have phrased it so. Why cannot the average Anglo-Saxon contrive to be less aggressively brutal, and yet preserve the independence of criticism?

A white paper has been published containing "copy of Reports on the effect of Military Bullet now in use in India." With reference to the reports on the effects of the .303 Lee-Metford bullet during the operation of the Chitral relief force, Major-General Morton, Adjutant-General in India, writes:—

It is evident from them that the nature of the wounds inflicted and the absence of the shock do not justify the expectation that the present service bullet used with the Lee-Metford rifle would stop a cavalry charge, or a charge of fanatics, such as the British army is liable to meet on the North-West Frontier of India, or in the Sudan. Dr. Sutherland's opinions, and the cases he bases them on, are stated fully. They are summarised in the Chitral Relief Force Political Diary:—

All the cases . . . have been noticeable from their insignificance. In every case he has seen . . . in which bones were touched, the bones were simply perforated, and occasionally splinters lifted from the surface when the bullet struck on one side of the bone or emerged obliquely. He says that histories of the perforation of the chest and lungs and even of the abdomen without death are quite common, and also similar cases of brain wounds are mentioned. The wounds heal quickly. He says the people are free in their criticism of the weapon, and express contempt for it, saying it is not even good enough to steal; that though it has a long range, the bullet does not come with any force, and a man can walk quite well when hit by it.



## JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS.

THE Memorial on "the proposed Separation of Judicial and Executive Duties in India," which (as we mentioned last week) has just been laid before the Secretary of State, is an exceedingly weighty document—weighty in argument and by reason of the experience and distinction of the signatories. The following gentlemen appended their names to it: The Right Hon. Lord Hobhouse, K.C.S.I., late Legal Member of the Viceroy's Council, now a Member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council; the Right Hon. Sir Richard Garth, late Chief Justice of Bengal; the Right Hon. Sir Richard Couch, late Chief Justice of Bengal, now a 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 late Chief Justice of Ceylon; Sir John Scott, K.C.M.G., late Judge of the High Court, Bombay, and late Legal Adviser to H.H. the Khedive of Egypt; Sir William Wedderburn, Bart., M.P., late Judge of the High Court, Bombay; Sir Roland K. Wilson, Bart., late Reader in Indian Law, University of Cambridge; and Mr. Herbert J. Reynolds, C.S.I., late Member of the Bengal Legislative Council. These ten names are highly representative and influential. It would have been an easy matter to extend the number if such a course had been judged at all necessary. Such a consensus of opinion, backed by large judicial and executive experience, ought to bring the agitation on this question, at length and at last, to an early and a satisfactory conclusion. The Memorial is divided into three sections. The first sketches the history of the question; the second restates the existing grievances and the proposed remedy; and the third collects and answers possible objections. No less than fourteen important letters and articles, printed in very recent years in INDIA or in the *Asiatic Quarterly Review*, partly for and partly against the proposed reform, are set forth in an appendix; and in another appendix are reprinted the late Mr. Manomohan Ghose's admirable "*Notes of Cases Illustrating the Evils of the Present*

and the face of it one would suppose that no argument would be necessary to show that the same official ought not to act in the threefold character of (1) constable, (2) public prosecutor, and (3) criminal judge; or in the double character of collector and magistrate. More than a century ago—in 1793—under Lord Cornwallis, the latter form of impropriety was clearly denounced in section 1 of Regulation II:—

Exclusive of the objections arising to these (Revenue) courts from their irregular, summary, and often *ex parte* proceedings, and from collectors being obliged to suspend the exercise of their judicial functions whenever they interfere with their financial duties, it is obvious that, if the regulations for assessing and collecting the public revenue are infringed, the revenue officers themselves must be the aggressors, and that individuals who have been wronged by them in one capacity can never hope to obtain redress from them in another. . . . The revenue officers must be deprived of their judicial powers.

In like manner, in 1838, Mr. (afterwards Sir) Frederick J. Halliday, as member of a committee appointed to prepare a scheme for the more efficient organisation of the Bengal police, wrote in an important Minute:—

The union of magistrate with collector has been stigmatised as incompatible, but the junction of thief-catcher with judge is surely more anomalous in theory and more mischievous in practice. So long as it lasts the public confidence in our criminal tribunals must always be liable to injury, and the authority of justice itself must often be abused and misapplied. . . . I consider it then an indispensable preliminary to the improvement of our system that the duties of preventing crime and of apprehending and prosecuting offenders should without delay be separated from the judicial function.

The Memorial goes on to cite a series of official pronouncements during the past sixty years all strongly expressed in the like sense: in 1854 a letter of Mr. (afterwards Sir) Cecil Beadon, secretary to the Government of Bengal, and a Minute by the Hon. (afterwards Sir) J. P. Grant, member of the Governor-General's Council; in 1856 a despatch of the Court of Directors of the East India Company; in 1857 a further Minute by the Hon. J. P. Grant on the "Union of the functions of Superintendent of Police with those of a Criminal Judge," in which Mr. (afterwards Sir) Barnes Peacock generally concurred; in 1860 the instructions issued to the Commission on the organisation of the police,

consisting of representative officers from the North-West Provinces, Pegu, Bengal, Madras, the Punjab, and Oudh, "all," in the words of Sir Bartle Frere, "men of ripe experience, especially in matters connected with police;" in 1860 again the Report of the Police Commission, which, however, made an exception of the district officer, not on grounds of principle, but as a temporary sacrifice to a supposed expediency. Since then, however, the Government and the legislature have fallen more and more "under the dominion of the fallacy that all power must be centred in the district magistrate," and the Government has even offered fallacious excuses "for not rectifying this shameful abuse," which has been crying aloud through the whole century. Sir Richard Garth has even been plain-spoken enough to say: "The real truth is, as Mr. Ghose tells us, and as Sir Charles Elliott and some other high officials in India are honest enough openly to avow, that the Government of India approves this scandalous system, and (whatever the Secretary of State may say to the contrary) would be very sorry to see it altered." Lord George Hamilton and Lord Curzon have now the opportunity to do the right thing and clear away the grounds of all such ugly comments.

The second section has been partly anticipated, but still it will be well to set forth in summary "the arguments which have been advanced of late years by independent public opinion in India." According to the Memorial, these are:—

(1) That the combination of judicial with executive duties in the same officer violates the first principles of equity.

(2) That while a judicial officer ought to be thoroughly impartial and approach the consideration of any case without previous knowledge of the facts, an executive officer does not adequately discharge his duties unless his ears are open to all reports and information which he can in any degree employ for the benefit of his District.

(3) That executive officers in India, being responsible for a large amount of miscellaneous business, have not time satisfactorily to dispose of judicial work in addition.

(4) That, being keenly interested in carrying out particular measures, they are apt to be brought more or less into conflict with individuals, and, therefore, that it is inexpedient that they should also be invested with judicial powers.

(5) That under the existing system Collector-Magistrates do, in fact, neglect judicial for executive work.

(6) That appeals from revenue assessments are apt to be futile when they are heard by revenue officers.

(7) That great inconvenience, expense, and suffering are imposed upon suitors required to follow the camp of a judicial officer who, in the discharge of executive duties, is making a tour of his district.

(8) That the existing system not only involves all whom it concerns in hardship and inconvenience but also by associating the judicial tribunal with the work of the police and of detectives, and by diminishing the safeguards afforded by the rules of evidence, produces actual miscarriages of justice and creates, although justice be done, opportunities of suspicion, distrust and discontent which are greatly to be deplored.

(9) That it is essential to the proper and efficient—and we might add impartial—administration of justice that the judicial officer should be an expert specially educated and trained for the work of the court.

These arguments are strongly supported by the views of the eminent judges and lawyers which are set out in the first appendix, and they are enforced by the particular cases adduced by Mr. Ghose. In 1886, the Indian National Congress based on them a Resolution recording an "expression of the universal conviction that a complete separation of executive and judicial functions has become an urgent necessity," and pressing the Government of India "to effect this separation without further delay." In the six following years, the Congress continued to urge the practical solution of the question. In 1893 the Resolution carried by the Congress was as follows:—

That this Congress, having now for many successive years vainly appealed to the Government of India to remove one of the gravest stigmas on British rule in India, one fraught with incalculable oppression to all classes of the community throughout the country, now helpless of any other redress, humbly entreats the Secretary of State for India to order the immediate appointment, in each province, of a Committee (one-half at least of whose members shall be non-official natives of India, qualified by education and experience in the workings of the various courts to deal with the question) to prepare each a scheme for the complete separation of all judicial and executive functions in their own provinces with as little additional cost to the State as may be practicable, and the submission of such schemes, with the comments of the several Indian Governments thereon, to himself, at some early date which he may be pleased to fix.

A similar resolution was carried in 1894, 1895, and 1896. During recent years, also, practical schemes for separation have been laid before the Congress. Why, then, does the Government still delay? Lords Cross and Kimberley have



both declared their approval of the principle of separation. Whig and Tory Secretaries of State admit the cogency of the arguments, and yet nothing is done. Surely Lord George Hamilton will not miss the chance now offered to him.

What are the objections? There are only three objections discoverable in a century's discussion of the subject. First: The system works well, and is not responsible for miscarriage of justice. This objection is utterly negated by the expert opinions and the typical cases massed in the two appendices. Second: The system, however indefensible it may seem to Western ideas, is necessary to the "prestige" of an Oriental officer. This is a strange allegation in view of the universal condemnation of the system by the very people who are supposed to worship "prestige." As Dr. C. D. Field, ex-Judge of the Calcutta High Court, has pointed out, this argument "has been abandoned since Lord Kimberley repudiated it in the debate in the House of Lords;" but, as he goes on to say, it still survives in another form in such bureaucratic arguments as Sir Charles Elliott advanced in the *Asiatic Quarterly Review* for October, 1896, which we dealt with drastically at the time. India has long outgrown the childish method of Government by "prestige," though arbitrary and high-handed officials grasp at the substance of it under another name. Third: The financial difficulty. Both Lord Cross and Lord Kimberley bogged over this. But the whole difficulty is obviated by Mr. Romesh Dutt's scheme, which Sir Richard Garth "entirely approves," more especially "because it is substantially in accordance with the plan which I had myself roughly suggested, and with that which was submitted by Mr. Manomohan Ghose to Lord Ripon in 1884." Mr. Dutt shows that all that is needed is a simple rearrangement of the existing staff, without any additional expense whatsoever. True, it refers specially to Bengal, but Bengal was the presidency where the financial argument was strongest, and similar schemes have been framed to suit the special circumstances of other provinces. There thus remains no substantial pretext whatever for any delay.

#### LORD CURZON'S VIEWS ON THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

By ROMESH C. DUTT, C.I.E.

THE citizens of Calcutta have during the past several months confidently hoped and expected that Lord Curzon would refuse to accord his sanction to a Municipal Bill virtually abolishing self-government in Calcutta, and taking away the real administration of the town from the hands of the ratepayers. And the citizens of Calcutta have not been disappointed in their expectations. Lord Curzon has once more proved his desire to rule India, not only in the interests of Indians, but also as far as possible according to the wishes and with the co-operation of the people themselves. He has declined to sanction Sir Alexander Mackenzie's Bill because it "might not in practice ensure that amicable and patriotic co-operation of all parties in the future municipal government of the city which is essential to efficient administration." He has gracefully recognised the frank and intelligent criticism of the present Bill by the Honourable Narendra Nath Sen and the Honourable Surendra Nath Banerjee, embodied in their "Note of Dissent." And he has desired that the General Committee of the Corporation, which is the executive of the town, should have one-third of its members nominated by the Government and two-thirds elected by the Corporation. For all this Lord Curzon has earned and will receive the gratitude of my countrymen.

With regard to his Excellency's proposals for the constitution of the Corporation itself, it is not possible to form a clear judgment till the entire text of his lordship's letter is before us. At present the Corporation consists of seventy-five members, fifty of whom are elected by the ratepayers. Lord Curzon proposes to reduce the number of members to fifty, and he desires that only one-half, i.e., twenty-five should be elected by the ratepayers, and the other half by the Government and by "representative commercial bodies." What are these representative commercial bodies? Will they be only European commercial bodies like the Chamber of Commerce and the Trades Association, or will they also include Indian Commercial

bodies like the National Chamber of Commerce? Will they include influential non-commercial Indian bodies like the British Indian Association, the Indian Association, and the Mahometan Association? How many of the twenty-five members will be nominated by the Government and the European Associations, and how many by the Indian Associations? These are questions on which we require fuller light before we can form a clear judgment on the Viceroy's proposals in regard to the constitution of the Corporation.

If the "representative commercial bodies" mean only European bodies like the Chamber of Commerce and the Trades Association, then the Viceroy's proposals will have the effect of allowing the ratepayers of Calcutta (including Europeans) to elect half the members, and of empowering the Government and certain European Associations to elect the other half. The vast Native Indian population of Calcutta will virtually be allowed to elect less than twenty-five members, while the small European population (as ratepayers, as commercial bodies, and as Government) will be able to send more than twenty-five members. Hindus and Mahometans who pay over twenty-two lakhs of rupees as municipal tax will be permitted to elect less than twenty-five members, while the Government and the European and Eurasian population which pay less than twelve lakhs of rupees will be able to elect more than twenty-five members. The administration of the town will be virtually transferred from the hands of the people of the town to the hands of Europeans who form less than one-tenth of the population and pay about one-third of the annual tax. Such a scheme my countrymen will not accept. The Government has the power to pass such a measure by the majority of votes it commands in the Bengal Council; but it will have to be carried against the unanimous opposition of my countrymen; and it will never receive "that amicable and patriotic co-operation of all parties" to which the Viceroy justly attaches great importance.

Our objection is not theoretical and sentimental, but a practical one. By the amendments which have been made by the Select Committee in the Municipal Bill, the Corporation has the power of framing the budget, and generally of fixing the rate of taxation. The present rate of house-tax in Calcutta is something like 10 or 15 per cent. of the annual value. We write this from memory as we have not the correct figure before us. Suppose the Government and the European merchants (temporary residents in Calcutta) propose to raise the tax, and the entire body of the permanent population object to the increase. What will be the result? The Government and Commercial bodies, having more than 25 members in the Corporation, will carry their proposal; the Hindus and Mahometans—virtually the whole population of the town—having less than 25 members in the Corporation, will fail to offer an effectual opposition. In other words, by the proposed constitution of the Corporation, the taxation of the permanent population of the city can be raised against their unanimous opposition at the bidding of a small majority of officials and European merchants. I do not stop here to point out the injustice of such a municipal law. All that I point out here is, that if this be the intention of the Government, it were better to abolish the representative system altogether, and to hand over the administration of Calcutta to a few European merchants and officials temporarily residing in India. My countrymen are keen-witted enough to see the probable outcome of the measure; and able, patriotic, and honest workers like the Hon. Narendra Nath Sen and the Hon. Surendra Nath Banerjee—who have devoted their life-time to municipal work and have helped and co-operated in times of plague, disturbance and difficulties—will not give their time and their services to a Corporation in which they will be mere puppets, while the real power will be reposed in other hands.

While the proposed constitution of the Corporation will thus alienate the co-operation of real and earnest Indian workers, it will not improve the work of the Municipality by the increase in the number of European members. European officials and merchants in India are exceedingly busy men; their time is entirely occupied with their own work; and nothing on earth will induce them to spend hours and days in municipal meetings in Calcutta. They have not the time to examine the vast and complicated work of the Assessment department, the Water Works



department, the Drainage department and the other departments of the Municipal Office. They have never within the last twenty-three years been induced to take much interest in the administration of Calcutta town, and never will do so. Sir Steuart Bayley who was Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal ten years ago recorded his opinion: "You will never be able to get the representatives of commerce to go out of their way to bring their knowledge and practical ability to bear on the affairs of the town." Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who was Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal two years ago, was compelled to propose the payment of a fee of thirty-two rupees to each member to induce them to attend meetings of the General Committee, a proposal which was justly condemned by Sir H. Fowler in the House of Commons. European merchants, who stay temporarily in India, and naturally devote all their time to making money, will not under any circumstances and under any temptation leave their work and spend long hours and days to improve a town which is not their home, and which they desire to quit as soon as they have made their "pile." It is not in human nature that a trader going to Hong Kong or Muscat or Wei-hai-wei for three or five or seven years for trade should feel the same interest in that "cursed hole" as a Birmingham man feels for Birmingham or a Manchester man feels for Manchester. All attempts to interest European traders in the permanent improvement of Calcutta have failed and will fail; and one of the most outrageous proposals made in India within this generation is to transfer the administration of Calcutta from men who are born there, who live there with their families and children, and who pay most of the taxes, to the hands of men who have never in the past taken any real interest in the town except as a temporary station for making money. The proposed addition in the number of European members will not therefore improve the real administration of the town. European members do attend, and will attend, municipal meetings on important occasions; they will vote increase of taxation, payable mostly by their poorer Indian brethren, if the Government desire it; but they will decline to waste much of their time over the vast and complicated details of municipal accounts, assessments, and realizations. Those real workers who have supervised all this work for the last twenty-three years, and who have improved municipal administration in Calcutta, will be alienated; the new members will not have the time for such vicarious work in a town which is not their home.

But, it will be argued, the proposed constitution is now the constitution of Bombay, and what has answered for Bombay should answer for Calcutta. The obvious answer to this argument is that the conditions in Bombay are different from the conditions in Calcutta. In Bombay the commercial element is stronger than in Calcutta. The Parsee population of Bombay are more successful merchants and business men than the Hindu and Mahometan population of Calcutta. Votes given to "representative commercial bodies" in Bombay mean votes to the most influential section of the Indian population of Bombay, whereas they do not bear the same significance in Calcutta. For these and many other reasons what is suited for Bombay may not be suitable in Calcutta.

But leaving out the consideration of the difference in the conditions of the two towns, we are yet entitled to enquire: Is Calcutta to have an illiberal municipal constitution because Bombay happens to have an illiberal constitution? Where will this process end? Possibly Madras or Allahabad, Rangoon or Lahore, has a still less liberal constitution than Bombay; is it desirable that at some future date Calcutta and Bombay should be levelled down to the state of Madras or Allahabad, Rangoon or Lahore? Under the British rule we have been taught to look forward to progress, not to continuous retrograde movements. We have been taught to hope and believe that, in as far as is consistent with efficient administration, we shall have more liberal institutions in the future, and not be deprived of those rights and privileges which we have enjoyed in the past. If Bombay has a less liberal institution than Calcutta, surely Bombay may look forward, with the progress of education and self-government, to acquire some day the same rights as the people of Calcutta. This is the hope and aspiration of the people of India; to take away rights enjoyed by advanced cities, after they have exercised them for twenty years and more, is an unwise

and a dangerous step, likely to create disappointment, discontent and disloyalty in India.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie's Bill has been vetoed; and there is a natural pause in the course of events. Let us take advantage of this; let us enquire what the difficulties have been in the past; let us ascertain how we can best remedy them in the future. If need be, let a Commission be appointed to enquire and report, to suggest improvements, and what is far more important, to secure the co-operation of the people themselves in such improvements. No Viceroy has shown a more sincere desire to consult the people, to trust the people, and to work with the people, than Lord Curzon; and we have every confidence and hope that his Excellency will give a patient hearing to our representations, and a sympathetic consideration to our wishes and aspirations, before the Municipal Bill of Calcutta takes its final shape.

It is necessary once more to state that what we have written above is written in the dark, as the full text of the Viceroy's letter is not yet before us. It is written under the impression, which we believe is correct, that "representative commercial bodies" signify, mainly, European bodies, and not bodies like the British Indian Association, the Indian Association and the Mahometan Association.

## OUR LONDON LETTER.

(FROM A PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.)

ALL-NIGHT sittings in the House of Commons have of late years resembled angels' visits in being few and far between, so that when one comes it deserves some attention. Since I last wrote the House sat until just after four o'clock in the morning to finish the Committee stage of the Parsons Relief Bill. It was the biggest thing, so far as the length of the sitting goes, of this Session, and I saw it through. And yet it was only just about half as big an affair as the corresponding struggle over the similar stage on the Landlords Relief Bill some three years ago. On that occasion the House sat for 22½ hours and indulged in forty divisions; on this occasion it sat for thirteen hours and had twenty divisions. But the Parsons Bill provided incomparably the more lively and interesting sitting of the two. This was owing chiefly to the fact that on Church topics one can always rely on the Welsh members putting in an appearance and taking an active part in the proceedings, and the Welsh have all that faculty for debate and criticism which distinguishes the Celt.

There is a certain resemblance between all-night sittings beyond the obvious resemblance that they last longer than other sittings. I have made them a speciality, and have noticed that it matters not which party is in power the majority is inclined to be over-bearing and brutal about half-past one in the morning. They interrupt and attempt to shout down any man who attempts to speak. But an hour later there is always a change for the better. Instead of becoming more impatient the members seem to like the experience and they encourage anyone who gets up, they cheer anything, and when the time for adjournment comes at last those who were an hour or two before yelling at each other are the best of good friends and seem positively reluctant to go away. This was certainly the case in the small hours of last Friday morning. Another thing which has struck me on such occasions is the steady-going manner in which some of the oldest members stick to their work and vote all night long apparently as full of zest as the youngest. I can remember occasions on which the late Sir John Mowbray and Sir Isaac Holden, both over eighty and one nearly ninety years of age, sat into the small hours of the morning and walked away home "without turning a hair" as the expression is. Last Friday morning I chanced to cross Palace Yard in the early dawn just behind Sir Wilfrid Lawson, who is the Father of the Liberal side of the House—that is to say, he has sat longer than any other Liberal member. The cheery veteran illustrated the virtues of temperance by the ease with which he had stood the strain of thirteen hours of heated atmosphere and continual tramping through the lobbies.

I have mentioned the part played by the Welsh in this interesting scene, and I may add that among the Welsh are to be found some of the steadiest and keenest friends of India in the House. Mr. Herbert Roberts and Mr.



Herbert Lewis may always be relied on when occasion arises, and they were both to the front on Thursday when the Government was forcing the gallant little Principality from which they come to endow an alien church. I have seldom heard a more impressive or moving appeal than that delivered by Mr. Herbert Lewis. He began at the half-past one era of bad temper to which I have already referred, and so he was shouted at by noisy and careless Tories. But he conquered them by the sheer merit of his speech—for with all its faults the House of Commons respects a man of character who is obviously in earnest. Two other Welshmen, Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Sam Evans, also greatly distinguished themselves. As Parliamentarians they are equal to Mr. Tim Healy, and it would be difficult to say anything more complimentary than that Mr. Lloyd George's amendments were so troublesome to the Government that Mr. Balfour had to fall back on the closure—a simple method of answering the unanswerable. Mr. Sam Evans delighted the House again and again by brilliant humour. It seems that the chief handbook on Tithes has been written by Mr. Cripps, an eminent lawyer, and now the Tory member for Stroud. Mr. Cripps wrote the book as a lawyer and not as a politician, and Mr. Evans was able to extract from its pages the most delicious passages to embarrass the Tory party. As soon as he picked up the ponderous tome the House knew what was coming, and hailed the treat with uproarious laughter. Mr. Evans, however, reserved his best for the last, for it was at about three in the morning, at an hour when speeches are scarcely reported at all, that the hon. and learned member proposed a new clause to the Bill, a clause which seemed to delight opponents as much as friends. It was worded in this way:—

This Act shall not apply while the said tithe-rent charge or any other fruits, profits, oblations, obventions, ecclesiastical rights or emoluments or of attaching to the benefice, shall be sequestered by a writ of *fiery facias de bonis ecclesiasticis* or any other writ of sequestration.

Put in ordinary English that meant that a clergyman who was a bankrupt should not benefit by the Act. But Mr. Evans took good care not to talk ordinary English. On the other hand he played upon the sonorous phrase "*fiery facias de bonis ecclesiasticis*" with great art, bringing it in repeatedly, and the House seemed to welcome it more and more every time it was uttered, until at length directly the words "*fiery facias*" were heard the merry members drowned the rest of the formula by hearty cheering. Equally learned was Mr. Evans's explanation of the difference between "oblation" and "obvention." He read to the amazed House a definition of each, but as the definition in both cases was expressed in learned and resounding Latin it conveyed but little to most of the members, and when the hon. member concluded that part of his subject by remarking blandly "so that's the difference" there was a roar of applause. The reader will gather from all this that the Bill was forced through rather a frivolous and jocular House, and this is no doubt true. But the Government will find the Bill is no laughing matter in the end. The Tories who voted for it steadily in the lobby curse it behind the scenes, and it is certain to cost the Government votes in the country.

The lot of a parliamentary politician is as a rule anything but a happy one. He has to spend weary days and nights of unrelieved gloom, but every now and then that gloom is lightened, and it was so, so far as the Liberals are concerned, on Saturday last. Sir Weetman Pearson, one of the few Liberals of enormous wealth, invited all the Liberal members of both Houses, as well as the Liberal candidates and a few others, to visit him at his great country seat in Sussex. The invitation was extended to ladies as well, and the scene was very bright and charming, for the weather was all that could be desired. Special trains were run from London, all sorts of conveyances, motor cars, omnibuses and carriages, conveyed the visitors to Sir Weetman's place known as Paddockhurst, and there they wandered about his grounds, listened to music, chatted and joked to their hearts' content. There were more than 800 present, all of them Liberals, and they were welcomed by the Leaders in each House, Lord Kimberley and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. Everyone seemed in the highest spirits, and the next general election is looked forward to with gusto. I notice that the average Tory, when that same subject is mentioned, is anything but optimistic.

## CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

THURSDAY, July 13.—In the House of Lords the Royal assent was given to the London Government Act and the Education of Children Act.—The Seats for Shop Assistants Bill passed through Committee, the Bill being extended to Scotland as well as to England and Ireland, in spite of the opposition of Lord Salisbury.

In the House of Commons the Tithe-rent-charge Bill passed through Committee after an all-night sitting.

Further details of the new franchise scheme, now revised by the Volksraad Committee, were published.

A conversation took place in the Dominion House of Commons upon a proposal to follow the example of Queensland and offer Canadian troops for service in South Africa, if necessary. Sir Wilfrid Laurier expressed the hope that the Transvaal would submit without provoking hostilities.

Lady Salisbury, who had a slight paralytic seizure on Wednesday, was better to-day and making good progress.

Lord Kelvin resigned the chair of Natural Philosophy in Glasgow University, which he had occupied for the past 53 years.

FRIDAY, July 14.—In the House of Commons the Scotch Estimates were further considered in Committee of Supply. Sir C. Cameron called attention to the case of Dr. Lamont, formerly medical officer of health for South Uist, who was prosecuted last year at the instance of the local authorities, the charge against him being that he had issued false certificates of vaccination. This charge, Sir C. Cameron declared, was trumped up against Dr. Lamont, who had done admirable work as medical officer of health, but who nevertheless had been dismissed by the local authorities and then subjected to the indignity of arrest and imprisonment. He impugned the conduct of the officials concerned in the case, which resulted in an acquittal. After an important discussion, in the course of which the Lord Advocate expressed regret and admitted that the Procurator Fiscal had erred. Mr. Balfour, in a speech in which he expressed the greatest sympathy with Dr. Lamont, said it appeared that the Procurator Fiscal had administered the law in an oppressive way and that he would be censured. Adverting to the action of the local authorities he suggested that they might have been actuated by passion, prejudice, or personal aversion; but there was no means of punishing them, unless it could be shown that they had entered into a conspiracy against this medical officer who had done all that man could do to earn the gratitude of a community. He undertook that the propriety of compensating Dr. Lamont would be considered. The proceedings illustrated in a striking way the value of discussion upon Ministers' salaries. Even in this country there are grievances for which redress cannot otherwise be obtained.

SATURDAY, July 15.—The Home Secretary declined to interfere with the sentence of death passed upon the young woman Mary Ansell for murdering her sister by sending her poisoned cake by post.

A Green-book was issued at Pretoria containing correspondence relating to the annexation by Great Britain of Zambiansland, the territory between Swaziland and the sea, against which the Transvaal protested.—At a meeting of Uitlanders held at Lydenburg a resolution was passed thanking President Kruger for the new franchise scheme and approving the principle on which it was based.

SUNDAY, July 16.—It was now semi-officially stated that the Dreyfus court-martial would meet during the first week of August. M. de Beaurepaire will be called to give evidence, but will only be allowed to speak on the subject of the *bordereau*. M. Déroulède made a wild speech in Paris to-day, explaining his campaign against "the false Republic." He has started yet another league called the "Plebiscitary Republican party," which demands that Presidents shall be elected directly by the people, the people consisting of those citizens of whom M. Déroulède approves.

MONDAY, July 17.—In the House of Lords Lord Stanley of Alderley called attention to the necessity of an independent enquiry into the working of the Ceylon Waste Lands Ordinance, and to the injustice caused by the reliance of the Government on the *ex-parte* statements made by its officials on the subject, and by the action of those officials. Enquiry was, however, refused.

In the House of Commons, Mr. J. A. Pease put a question to the Speaker with reference to the special report of the Cottage Homes Committee as to the publication in the *Times* of a portion of a document alleged to be confidential. In reply the Speaker stated that directions had been given that confidential documents sent by committees to be printed must be conveyed in locked bags or sealed envelopes. Mr. Paulton having drawn attention to the recommendation of the committee that the lobby representative of any newspaper which published privileged documents should be excluded from the precincts of the House, the Speaker intimated that, with regard to the particular case referred to in the special report of the Cottage Homes Committee, he should require further evidence before taking



any action. Mr. Paulton then drew attention to a paragraph in the *Times* on Friday which, he said, imputed to members of the committee the disclosure to which the special report referred, and he alleged that this paragraph constituted a breach of the privileges of the House.

TUESDAY, July 18.—The Volksraad adopted, with Mr. Kruger's approval, a seven years' prospective and retrospective franchise for Uitlanders instead of the nine years' period proposed in the new scheme.—Mr. Rhodes arrived at Cape Town.—Sir Gordon Sprigg asked his question in the Cape Assembly about the Government's views on the crisis. Mr. Schreiner deprecated any debate at the present juncture.

Esterhazy made another statement to the effect that he wrote the *bordereau* attributed to Dreyfus by order of his superior officers, who wanted to be able to produce some material evidence of the treason which they were morally certain had been committed by Dreyfus. He declared that Generals Gorge, de Boisdeffre, and Bilot all knew the document to be a forgery.

WEDNESDAY, July 19.—The acceptance by the Volksraad of an amendment to the Franchise Bill providing for the enfranchisement of aliens on a simple seven years' qualification was tolerably well received by the English Press. The *Times* published what was regarded as a quasi-official statement that the Government attached very great importance to the new proposals and that, if the cable account of them was correct, the "crisis" might be regarded as at an end.

## THE INDIAN SENIOR WRANGLER.

RECEPTION BY MR. AND MRS. W. S. CAINE.

[FROM OUR OWN REPORTER.]

On Wednesday evening last (July 19) a reception was held by Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Caine at the International Gallery, Knightsbridge, "to meet Mr. Raghunath Purushottam Paranjyee of Poona (Senior Wrangler, 1899)." Among those who accepted the invitation to be present were: Lord Kinnaird, Sir W. Wedderburn, Bart. M.P., Sir Wilfrid Lawson, Bart. M.P., Sir J. Leng, M.P., Sir S. Montagu, Bart. M.P., Sir M. P. Bhownagere, M.P., Mr. J. Fletcher Moulton, Q.C., M.P., Mr. H. J. Wilson, M.P., Mr. C. E. Schwann, M.P., Mr. T. Gair Ashton, M.P., Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P., Mr. E. H. Pickersgill, M.P., Mr. J. Herbert Lewis, M.P., Dr. J. Herbert Roberts, M.P., Mr. J. Swift MacNeill, Q.C., M.P., Dr. Farguharson, M.P., Mr. W. Hazell, M.P., Captain Pire, M.P., Mr. R. Cameron, M.P., Mr. A. Bilsell, M.P., Mr. H. Kearley, M.P., Mr. J. H. Dalziel, M.P., Mr. T. Lough, M.P., Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, W. C. Bonnerjee, Miss Bonnerjee, and Mr. K. W. Bonnerjee, Mr. Romesh C. Dutt, C.I.E., Dr. Sarat Mullick, Mr. N. G. Wagle, Dr. Babha, Mr. Tata, Mr. Tyabji, Sir George Birdwood, Sir J. Barran, Mr. S. Pope, Q.C., Miss E. A. Manning, Professor A. F. Morrison, Mr. W. Digby, C.I.E., Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal, Mr. S. Z. Balkhi, and most of the Indian gentlemen now resident in London, Oxford or Cambridge. A large company attended, and in the course of the evening Mr. Paranjyee was the recipient of many cordial congratulations on his brilliant success. The Hungarian Band played selections of music. Shortly before eleven o'clock a series of brief speeches were delivered.

Mr. W. S. CAINE, who was loudly cheered, said that many of his friends who were present that evening had not had the opportunity of being introduced to Mr. Paranjyee, and he thought he would take that chance of doing it publicly. Mr. Paranjyee came from an educational institution in India with which he (the speaker) for many years had been familiar, for he had always taken a deep interest in the Fergusson College. He might say that the gentlemen who formed the teaching staff of this college had entered into a self-denying ordinance to live on about £40 or £50 a year in order that they might give a cheap education to the natives of India. Mr. Paranjyee had taken the first place in every examination both at the Fergusson College and the Bombay University, and at Cambridge he had secured the highest position which was open to that University, that of Senior Wrangler. (Applause.) Mr. Paranjyee proposed, after remaining a year or two in this country, to join the teaching staff of Fergusson College, and he also was willing to enter into a self-denying ordinance at this College where he would teach mathematics, although a much higher career was open to him if he cared for it more than this self-denying work. In the name of the many friends present representing both India and this country, he congratulated Mr. Paranjyee upon having taken such a high honour for the whole of India. He would now call upon his friend, Mr. Naoroji, who would speak as the representative of the London Indian Society.

Mr. NAOROJI said he was very thankful to Mr. Caine for giving him the opportunity of saying a few words upon that occasion. That event was one of a very gratifying character, and he did not think there was anyone present, either Indian or Englishman, who felt more personal gratification than he did at that moment. Nearly half a century ago a proposal was made to him to open a commercial establishment in London, because it was thought essential in the interests of India that an Indian firm should be established in this country. He hesitated about changing his career to that of a merchant, but when the Civil Service in this country was thrown open to the Indian people he induced many of his Indian friends to send their sons over

to England to compete for academic distinctions. From that time forward they had been very successful, and every such event as the one they were celebrating was of the highest importance. Some eighteen or twenty young Indian students had passed the Civil Service examinations, and they all knew that Prince Ranjitsinhji had distinguished himself in cricket. He not only congratulated Mr. Paranjyee on his success, but he also congratulated the English people for allowing Indian gentlemen to compete in their colleges, because it was by such toleration as this that Englishmen had endeared themselves to the hearts of the Indian people. If they only showed the same spirit in governing India that state of things would continue, and the bonds of friendship between the two countries would be made stronger than ever. The kind of success was of a great value in India, and the Indian people were most grateful to the circumstances which had produced these events. He for one offered his hearty congratulations and best thanks to the English people for having produced a revolution of this character in India. (Applause.)

Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN, M.P., said he was extremely glad to take part in that gathering, and he thought they were all very much indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Caine for inviting them to meet together to give their congratulations to Mr. Paranjyee. Gatherings like that showed that not only did Indians rejoice at such brilliant success, but Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Welshmen were also proud of Mr. Paranjyee's achievement. (Hear, hear.) With reference to what Mr. Naoroji said as to the reason for congratulating themselves upon that wonderful success of higher education in India, for it produced men who were attached to their institutions and who were the best friends of the Government of India. That particular institution where Mr. Paranjyee was educated—the Fergusson College—he knew from the very beginning. Mr. Caine had described the method by which this college was worked, and the self-denying conditions under which the teaching staff devoted themselves to the cause of education. The object of that college was to secure that the Indian character should not be denationalised but revived, and that evening they had a remarkable example of the success which had attended their efforts. (Hear, hear.) Of all the congratulations which the Indian people had received in regard to this event, he did not think any of them had given greater satisfaction than the congratulation which Lord Curzon sent to the Fergusson College—(hear, hear)—and he would venture to say that kindly appreciation of that sort had done more to bind the people of India to British rule than many of the laws which had been intended to achieve that purpose. (Hear, hear.) In his opinion the only real way to get rid of disaffection was to create affection, and it was such action as he had alluded to which created affection in the minds of the Indian people. (Applause.)

Sir M. B. BROWNAIGREE, M.P., said he wished to associate himself with what had been said by the previous speakers in reference to their indebtedness to Mr. and Mrs. Caine for giving them the opportunity of saying a few words upon that occasion. Naturally, he could not but feel more than gratified with the success of Mr. Paranjyee and the honours he had gained for India, and he joined with his friends in saying that this achievement held out the promise of a brilliant career for the future. When young men came over here from India and directed their efforts in the right course and refused those pursuits which would take them away from their studies, then such results as they had seen in the case of Mr. Paranjyee were the result of their own intellectual activity. Mr. Paranjyee had secured a distinguished success which would stimulate many other young men to come over to this country from India and to endeavour to follow in his footsteps. Mr. Caine had referred to the future intentions of Mr. Paranjyee to devote himself to the service of his native country, and he thought that was a very laudable thing to do, for he had had a brilliant prospect of entering the Indian Civil Service, but he had mapped out for himself a nobler career by deciding to devote his high intellectual abilities to the education of his compatriots in his native land. He only hoped and trusted that Mr. Paranjyee's efforts would be thrown into those channels which would not only increase the resources and the prosperity of India but would also increase that bond of affection which now existed between the Indian and the English people.

Mr. SAMUEL SMITH, M.P., said he looked back with great pride to the many changes which had made in India since he was out there, for it now appeared to be almost a new country. There was no doubt that India was rising both intellectually and morally, and as members of Parliament they were doing as they could to do so in this respect. (Hear, hear.) Such events as they were celebrating that evening had the effect of binding together the two races still more closely, for they taught them to help one another. He desired to express his hearty congratulations not only to Mr. Paranjyee but also to all those young Indian people who were present that evening, for they would no doubt go back to India full of the kindest possible feelings towards the English people. (Applause.)

Sir JOHN JARDINE said that when he came into that room he told the host and hostess that their kindness in holding that gathering would be deeply appreciated by the people of India. As a Cambridge man himself he congratulated Mr. Paranjyee, and he felt sure that the academic body of the University of Cambridge would be filled with the same delight and satisfaction as they all were who were present that evening when they received the telegram announcing Mr. Paranjyee's success. (Hear, hear.) He thought that in the academical contest they would see a certain analogy to cricket; for just in the same way as English cricketers rejoiced at having among them Prince Ranjitsinhji so would the mathematicians of this country rejoice at finding that Cambridge had helped to bring out a graduate of Mr. Paranjyee's abilities. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. PARANJYEE, who was enthusiastically received, said he was deeply touched by the kind reception with which they had greeted him, and he could hardly find words to express his deep sense of gratitude for their reception. He hardly thought that he was deserving of this honour, and he took it more as showing the sympathy of Englishmen towards India, for he believed that such sympathy would tend to unite the two peoples together. (Hear, hear.) A singularly striking example of this sympathy had been shown by Lord Curzon,



who had personally congratulated his parents in India upon his success, and Lord Curzon had also personally congratulated him. (Hear, hear.) He need hardly say that mathematical training did not lead a man to make speeches, but he must not omit to mention that any success he had attained was due to the kindness of Professor Conway, of Fergusson College, who had placed within his reach opportunities of education which would otherwise not have been before him at all. Considering the services which Professor Conway had rendered him, he thought it was his duty to offer similar opportunities of higher education to every other Indian subject who desired it. (Applause.) He did not think this was any great personal sacrifice, for others in the same position would have done exactly the same thing. He felt it an honour to India that for the first time the Senior Wranglership had been obtained this year by an Indian, and he felt sure that if the opportunities which had been offered to him were within the reach of other Indian students more Indians would secure the Senior Wranglership. He again heartily thanked them for their congratulations. (Loud applause.)

LORD KINNARD proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Caine for affording them the privilege and opportunity of congratulating their friend Mr. Paranjpye upon the great distinction which he had won for India and for England. It was perfectly true that England had now opened her educational facilities to every citizen of the British Empire, and this event was one of the happy results of that policy. He felt sure that Mr. and Mrs. Caine would be very pleased at the success which had attended the efforts to bring these advantages within the reach of everyone, for they were all desirous that the educational facilities which they possessed should be extended to others. It might be considered selfish to have educational advantages and to stick to them, but he was glad to see that those advantages were being extended to others. They were now entering upon a very severe competition in education, but they were not afraid of it. He thought it was very pleasant to meet in such a way, and he was sure those present would always do their best to give all those students in their colleges and intermediate schools the same advantages which their own sons had enjoyed for many generations. In conclusion, he moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Caine for giving them the opportunity of conveying their congratulations that evening to Mr. Paranjpye. (Hear, hear.)

The vote of thanks was cordially agreed to, and amid considerable applause, Mr. CAINE, in returning thanks, said it had been a very great pleasure to Mrs. Caine and himself to meet their friends that evening, and he assured them that all they could do to increase the happy relationship which now existed between England and India they would only be too pleased to do.

## THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

### LORD CURZON'S SCHEME. OPINION IN CALCUTTA.

[BY CABLE, FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

CALCUTTA, July 15.

Lord Curzon's despatch on the Calcutta Municipal Bill has created profound disappointment.

His scheme is worse than the original Bill. Local self-government is seriously jeopardised by a 50 per cent reduction of the elected members of the Corporation, while the nominated members remain the same.

Taking the official chairman as president, the ratepayers' representatives will be in a minority in the Executive Committee, which will exercise real power.

They will be only one-third.—By Indo-European Telegraph.

### SOME OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

#### THE "SPECTATOR."

Lord Curzon clearly does not believe the elective principle to be applicable to India. A reform was proposed in the municipal government of Calcutta which the progressive party resisted, as not being liberal enough, but the Viceroy has decided on a scheme which is more conservative still. He has directed the Government of Bengal to reduce the number of the Council from seventy-five to fifty, of whom half are to be nominees appointed either by the Government or the commercial bodies. This body, again, will elect eight members of the Executive Committee, the remaining four being nominees. The plan works fairly well in Bombay, but in Calcutta we should rather have seen a paid Commission of five with extensive sanitary powers. Indian cities are best governed by strictly controlled and responsible public servants who are thoroughly educated, who have no axes to grind, and who really intend that the cities should be clean. No Native municipality, whatever its other merits, intends that, or intending it, has the nerve to realise its intention.

#### THE "MANCHESTER GUARDIAN."

The Indian correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs, with evident gloom, that the agitation against the Calcutta Municipal Bill will end in a way the agitators little expected; and if he has rightly reported the views expressed by the Viceroy, and if those views are accepted by the Bengal Legislative Council, the end of the agitation will be truly quite unexpected. The independence of the Bengal Legislative Council is, notwithstanding Lord George Hamilton's assertions to

the contrary, somewhat mythical, and so the Viceroy's recommendations, however absurd, may very probably become law. In that case the end of the agitation will be wholly unexpected, as unexpected as if a proposal to improve the procedure of Parliament ended in a measure to reduce the number of members of the House of Commons by halving the representation of urban constituencies. Like other Indian towns, Calcutta has hitherto enjoyed a considerable measure of self-government. The Corporation has contained fifty elected members and twenty-five members nominated by Government or selected by certain bodies representing commercial interests. This Corporation has, on the testimony of the present Lieut.-Governor of Bengal, assented to great and far-reaching schemes and has not shrunk from heavy taxation. No charge has been brought against its devotion to public interests, or against the character of its general policy. The charge which has been brought against it was that it interfered too much with its executive agents, and the Bill proposed to make the executive government of the city more independent, while leaving unchanged the constitution of the general body of the Corporation. The main blot in the Bill was that the fifty elected members of the Corporation were only to appoint one-third of the members of the Executive Committee. This was so manifestly unjust and absurd, and the proposal to that effect has been so ably attacked by some Native members of the Bengal Legislative Council, that Lord Curzon has apparently found himself compelled to yield on the point of the constitution of the Executive Committee and to advise (which means to command) that the Bill shall be amended so as to confine to the Corporation the power, which it has hitherto possessed, of appointing two-thirds of the members of the Executive Committee. But then comes the new proposal which is mildly characterised as unexpected; it would more appropriately be termed astounding. In future the members of the Corporation elected by the ratepayers are only to be twenty-five, or half the total number of members instead of two-thirds. And what is the reason of this? The allegation is that there are too many members and that they talk too much. Most other towns, however inferior in importance to the metropolis, do elect two-thirds of the members of the municipal authority, and a stroke such as this of Lord Curzon's is neither wise nor just. It may be held to be "smart," but "smart" men may be terribly out of place when they are set to govern great communities.

#### THE "MORNING LEADER."

The Calcutta Municipal Bill, which was designed to treat local self-government in Calcutta as Lord George Hamilton and Lord Onslow would, if they had dared, have treated the London County Council, seems likely to undergo a considerable change. The keynote of the Bill in its original form was to reduce the Calcutta Corporation (which has hitherto been a representative body) to impotence by depriving it of all real control over the Executive Committee (which does the actual work of municipal administration). This aim proposes naturally excited much indignation in Calcutta, especially as the Corporation has by general consent acquired itself admirably, and a protest in the House of Commons extracted from the Secretary of State a vague undertaking not to annihilate the representative principle. The Bill has now come under the Viceroy's notice, and Lord Curzon, in a context of claptrap about the "co-operation of all parties in the future municipal government of the City," proposes with no little acuteness to reach the same end by another route. He would restore control of the Executive Committee to the Corporation, but he would at the same time so tamper with the Corporation as to make both bodies official instead of popular. That is to say, he proposes to abolish one out of every two elective members of the Corporation, and it seems probable that this proposal, or order, will be meekly obeyed by the Bengal Government. Thus the Indian ratepayers of Calcutta will be deprived of all effective control over their own local affairs. Yet (if we may borrow a passage from the article in which a few days ago the *Times* shed crocodile tears over the hard lot of British Indians in the Transvaal) these men are "the fellow-countrymen of the young cricketer who held the wicket at Notts for England, of the young scholar bracketed Senior Wrangler at Cambridge this summer, of the young administrator who the other year headed the Indian Civil Service list, of the young savant who lately received an ovation from English men of science, and of the young Indian artist who has just arrived with good will from Paris, Munich, and Rome."

We await with some curiosity the indignant comments of the *Times* upon Lord Curzon's scheme for robbing Indians—already Outlanders in their own country—of such power as they have hitherto been permitted to enjoy in municipal government.

## Imperial Parliament.

Thursday, July 13.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### BRITISH INDIANS IN NATAL.

Mr. MACLEAN asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether he would explain on what grounds, at the recent celebration of the Queen's birthday in Natal, the children of natives of British India were forbidden by the authorities to view the festivities in company with the children of white people.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir. I have no information on the subject.

Friday, July 14.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### INDIAN WARRANT OFFICERS.

Sir CAMERON GULL asked the Secretary of State for India whether under existing regulations an Indian departmental warrant officer



being invalided to England during the summer months (non-trooping season) would be compelled either to pay for passages for his family to England or leave them in India, his furlough pay being only £5 or £5 10s. a month.

And whether it was proposed to take any action to remove the grievances of Indian warrant officers as regards furlough pay and passages.

**LORD G. HAMILTON:** My honourable friend has quoted the Regulations correctly.

I do not think I should be justified in incurring the expenditure which would be entailed by granting passages to families when troopers are not running.

#### EXCHANGE COMPENSATION ALLOWANCE.

**SIR SEYMOUR KING** asked the Secretary of State for India whether, in admitting the rights of certain of their civil officers to the exchange compensation allowance which was granted generally in 1893 to Anglo-Indian employees of the Indian Government, subject to reservations with regard to certain services and to special circumstances or questions of domicile, the Indian Government, in cases where it had been proved that the recipient's claim to the compensation was good from the first, had nevertheless brought such recipient under regulations which only admitted his claim to the compensation as having effect from April 1, 1897.

Whether he was aware of the case of Mr. Charles Edmondstone Ross, of the Public Works Department, who was refused the compensation allowance in 1893 on some interpretation of the law of domicile, but had since been admitted to the privilege, but only with effect from April 1, 1897?

Whether Mr. Ross had applied to the Government of India to grant him the full arrears of allowance having effect from the date when it was granted in 1893, on the ground that he was entitled to it at that date, citing in proof thereof the fact that it was then granted to his brother and sister, both in the Government service, whereas it was refused to him, and that as regards questions of parentage, service, domicile, etc., there was no substantial distinction between the conditions of his case and those of his brother and sister?

And whether he would explain on what ground, while recognising that Mr. Ross had a claim to the allowance, the Government of India had declined to grant him the full arrears of compensation conceded in other and similar cases.

**LORD G. HAMILTON:** Exchange Compensation was granted in 1893 under certain regulations in which the question of domicile was an important element. In 1897 the rules were altered, and the allowance was granted under other conditions one of which was that the allowance must not be given to a Native of India as defined by Statute. It is clear that many officers may have been eligible under the later regulations, who were not so under the earlier orders.

Mr. Ross is one of a large number of officers from whom memorials were received in 1894 and 1895, as to which the Secretary of State in Council decided that he could not entertain appeals from the decisions of the Government of India based on his general instructions.

#### THE INDIAN STAFF CORPS.

**SIR SEYMOUR KING** asked the Secretary of State for India whether married officers of the Indian Staff Corps who came home to attend the Staff College, though allowed personally to rejoin their regiments in India at Government expense, were not entitled to passages for their wives and families:

And whether, seeing that such officers lost a considerable amount of pay in coming home to attend the Staff College, and that moreover the two years at Camberley involved extra expenditure, the Government of India would consider the advisability of allowing married officers some compensation in the shape of passage money for their families or free passage by troopers when rejoining their regiments in India.

**LORD G. HAMILTON:** Officers of the Indian Staff Corps are not entitled to passages at the public expense for wives and families on joining the Staff College or on return to India after completing the College course, but they are eligible for non-entitled passages in transports where spare accommodation is available.

The allowance of officers of the Staff Corps at the Staff College were very considerably increased last year, and I see no sufficient reason at present for any further alteration of the rules in their favour.

#### BRANCH REGISTERS FOR INDIAN COMPANIES.

**SIR SEYMOUR KING** asked the Secretary of State for India whether he had yet come to any decision as to initiating legislation for enabling Indian Companies to open offices for the transfer and registration of shares in this country.

**LORD G. HAMILTON:** I addressed the Government of India on the subject of my hon. friend's on March 15 last, and I observe from the newspapers received by the last homeward mail that a Bill to enable Indian Companies to establish branch registers in this country was introduced by Mr. Dawkins in the Viceroyal Legislative Council on June 23.

#### LASCAR SEAMEN.

**MR. ALFRED THOMAS** asked the Secretary of State for India whether the officers recently appointed by him to superintend the transfer of Lascar seamen in the United Kingdom, and also occupying the positions of superintendents of Mercantile Marine Offices, now received no remuneration for this duty owing to the Board of Trade having given instructions that the authorised fee of 3s. for each transfer certificate should be credited to that Department instead of being retained by the officer performing the duty.

Whether the sanction of the India Office was obtained to the action of the Board of Trade in thus disposing of the authorised fees still payable by shipowners to the superintendents:

Whether the action of the Board of Trade in this respect would

apply to transfer officers who also held the appointments of collectors of customs:

Whether he was aware that much discontent existed at the course pursued by the Board of Trade among the recently appointed superintendents for the transfer of Lascars as well as the prospective holders of these appointments:

And, if, in conjunction with the Board of Trade, he would enquire into the subject with a view of removing any grievance that might exist.

**LORD G. HAMILTON:** The arrangement made by the Board of Trade in 1896 appears to be correctly described in the first clause of the question.

The arrangement was accepted by me subject to the proviso that the work connected with Lascars should be not less satisfactorily performed than heretofore.

The point raised in the third clause of the question has not, so far as I am aware, come under discussion. But I understand that the arrangement of 1896 will be applicable to all public servants who are appointed to be superintendents of Lascar transfers.

I have no knowledge of the existence of discontent with the present arrangements, and it would clearly be outside my province to make enquiry into the arrangements of the Board of Trade with its officers.

Monday, July 17.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

##### THE RED SEA AND INDIA TELEGRAPH.

**SIR JOHN LLENG** asked the Secretary of State for India what was the sum in rupees payable this year from the revenue of India to the late Red Sea Telegraph Company; how much has been contributed from the revenues of India to that Company since 1865 when its cable was lost; on what ground had this contribution been made; and would any plan of commutation or compromise be arranged with the representatives of the late Company for the relief of the Indian revenue from this charge.

**LORD G. HAMILTON:** In round figures the payment this year on account of the Red Sea and India Telegraph is estimated at 274,000 rupees. The exact payment will be £18,027.

2. The payments since April 1, 1865, have been £18,027 for thirty-four years (excluding the current year), amounting to £612,918.

3. The contribution is made to her Majesty's Exchequer under the provision of the Red Sea and India Telegraph Company Act of 1862 (25 and 26 Vict., c. 39, sec. 7.)

4. The last payment will be made on August 4, 1908.

##### THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

**MR. HERBERT ROBERTS** asked the Secretary of State for India whether he would state whether any recommendations had been made by the Viceroy to the Legislative Council of Bengal in regard to the composition of the corporation and of the general committee under the Calcutta Municipal Bill at present under consideration; and, if so, whether he was in a position to state their nature.

**LORD G. HAMILTON:** The Government of India, after receiving the Calcutta Municipal Bill as amended by the Select Committee of the Local Legislature, is consulting the Bengal Government as to the attitude of the Government on the further stage of the Bill. At the present time, while discussion between the two Governments is proceeding, it would not be convenient for me to make any statement regarding the views of the Government of India on the subject.

##### PRINCE RANJITSINGHI.

**SIR SEYMOUR KING** had upon the paper the following question:—

To ask the Secretary of State for India, whether, in September, 1878, Khumar Shri Ranjitsinghi Vibhaji, commonly known as Prince Ranjitsinghi, was formerly raised by his adoptive father, the late Jam Sahab of Nowanagar, to be the heir and successor of his Highness to the Gadi of Nowanagar, in accordance with Rajput custom, with the sanction and approval of the Indian Government, subject to the condition that nothing should be allowed to disturb his settled status and succession except the birth of a son born to Jam Sahab by one of his Rajput wives, wedded to him by such nuptial ties as alone were sanctioned amongst Rajputs by law, custom and religion, and were then entitled to the rank, dignity, and appellation of a Rani:

Whether he is aware that the late Jam Sahab had thirteen legitimate Rani wives and five Mahometan concubines, four of whom were sisters, and that none of the Rani wives bore him a son who survived:

Will he explain why in 1885, notwithstanding the above arrangement, the Indian Government, without any previous notice to Prince Ranjitsinghi or his natural father, and without public and legal enquiry into the facts, decided to allow the Jam Sahab to set aside Prince Ranjitsinghi as heir to the Gadi in favour of Jyantsinghi, the son of one of the aforesaid Mahometan concubines, who was not a Rani, and whose son, even if born to the Jam Sahab, was excluded from the succession by the instrument to which the Government was a party, under which Prince Ranjitsinghi's adoption and heirship could only be nullified by the birth of a legitimate son to a Rani:

Whether, in spite of repeated applications, Prince Ranjitsinghi has not been informed by the Indian Government of the grounds on which the Gadi was taken from him, and has been refused any enquiry into his rights:

And, whether he will order that a commission of enquiry shall issue as to the legal rights of Prince Ranjitsinghi in the circumstances, under Rajput law and custom, and the engagement of the Indian Government.

**THE SPEAKER** called upon the hon. gentleman to ask the question, but he was not in his place.

**MR. MACLEAN**, addressing the Speaker, said: I desire to ask you, Sir, whether it is in order for an hon. member of this House to



suggest, as is done in this question, that a Native Prince who has been duly recognised by the Government of India may not be the son of his supposed father, and that his mother was one of a family of four sisters, who were all concubines of the late Rajah?

The SPEAKER: The question, I understand, is not asked at present. The hon. member had better wait until it is asked.

Sir H. FOWLER: May I call your attention to the question, Sir, and ask you whether it is in order to put into a question a great many disputed questions as statements of fact? It is a very serious mode of making accusations both against the Government of India and certain Native Princes which, I think, when the question comes to be answered, will be found to be without basis in fact.

The SPEAKER: My attention has not been particularly called to the exact framing of the question, but I will look at it carefully; and if I think it is irregular I will take care that it is put down in an amended shape or not at all. (Hear, hear.)

Thursday, July 20.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### PAPERS PRESENTED.

East India (Accounts and Estimates, 1899-1900).—Copy presented, —of Explanatory Memorandum by the Secretary of State for India [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

### THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND INDIAN MANUFACTURERS.

Mr. HARWOOD asked the Secretary of State for India, if his attention had been called to the paragraph on p. 129 of East India (Progress and Condition), published June 7, 1899, in which it was stated that the Barrakar Iron Company had agreed to supply the Indian Government with 10,000 tons of castings and pig iron yearly for ten years; that the company was in a condition to increase their output from 30,000 to 50,000 tons a year when they saw an outlet; and that the quality was uniform and equal to Middlesbrough iron?

Had his attention been called to a statement by the chairman of the company at its annual meeting in London, to the effect that, whatever might be the movements of markets and exchange, this iron had to be supplied under a reduction in price below the average of English prices, which practically amounted to a protective duty in favour of English or continental iron?

And was it the invariable practice of the Indian Government to treat all Indian manufacturers on absolutely equal terms with British or continental manufacturers as ordered by paragraph 28 of Resolution 185, January, 1883; and, if not, would he explain on what grounds.

Lord G. HAMILTON: In 1896 the Government of India, being desirous of assisting the Barrakar Iron Company, offered to place with them a contract for the supply of 10,000 tons of iron annually at a price five per cent. below that at which materials of similar quality could then be obtained from England, the contract to be in force for ten years. This offer was gratefully accepted by the Company, as the terms were such as to give them at that time a fair margin of profit, and the certainty of steady employment for the next ten years. I am not aware whether the agreement has so far turned out advantageously for the Company or not; but I consider that it was a reasonable and proper agreement for the Government of India to make at the time when they made it; and, as I have said, it was then regarded by the Company as a very acceptable arrangement.

### THE TREATMENT OF INDIANS IN INDIA.

Mr. DAVITT asked the Secretary of State for India whether he could state the relative number of Native-born and British-born subjects holding seats upon the Governor-General's Executive Council in India, the Viceroy's Council when it meets for purposes of legislation, and the various Legislative Councils in Provinces which meet under the presidency of Governors and Lieutenant-Governors?

Whether these Native-born members were elected direct by the people or were nominated by the Government?

And, if he could see his way to introduce legislation with the object of making all the Legislative Councils in India elective, and of extending a franchise for that purpose to all British subjects Native or Foreign born, who were taxed for the necessities of Indian Government.

Lord G. HAMILTON: All the seven members of the Governor-General's Executive Council are British-born subjects. Of the Legislative Council, which at present numbers twenty-one members, seven are natives of India; in the Madras Legislative Council, ten out of twenty-three members are natives of India; in Bombay, twelve out of twenty-three; in Bengal, ten out of nineteen; in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Council, six out of fifteen; in the Punjab, four out of nine; and in Burma, two out of nine.

All the members of these Councils are nominated by the Government; but in every case except those of Burma and the Punjab a proportion of the seats is filled, as a matter of practice, on the recommendation of certain public bodies.

I cannot say that I am prepared to introduce legislation for the purpose of having all the various Indian Councils elected by universal suffrage.

### INDIA AND THE "IMPERIAL" INSTITUTE.

Sir M. M. BROWNAGREE asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Report of the working of the Indian section of the Imperial Institute for the year ending March 31 last was prepared and submitted to him?

Whether that Report, as well as those for the preceding two years, embodied the results obtained in the scientific investigations of selected natural products from India?

And whether, in view of the importance of the industrial utilisation

of those results and of promoting manufacture from the raw products of India, he would place those Reports upon the Table of the House.

Lord G. HAMILTON: The Report for 1898-9 has been received. It contains accounts of scientific investigations of Indian products, as do also the two preceding Reports. One hundred and twenty copies of each Report have been sent to the Government of India.

I shall be glad to lay copies of the three Reports on the Table on my hon. friend's moving for them, but I should in that case propose that only those parts which are likely to be of permanent interest should be reprinted.

### DISARMAMENT BEYOND THE FRONTIER.

Mr. HERDEBERG asked the Secretary of State for India when the order for the partial disarmament of the Pathans on the Punjab frontier came into operation?

What was the area to which it applied?

And whether any robberies of arms from and murderous assaults upon her Majesty's troops within the area affected had taken place since the order became operative.

Lord G. HAMILTON: On May 6, 1899, the Government of the Punjab, with the sanction of the Government of India, extended Section 15 of the Arms Act XI, 1878, to the Hazara, Peshawar, and Kohat districts. By this extension no person can have in his possession arms except under a license.

The area of the three districts is 8,206 square miles.

I have received no information on the subject of the third question.

### THE CLOTHING OF CAMP FOLLOWERS.

Captain NORZON asked the Secretary of State for India whether it had been brought to his notice that the camp followers of the different regiments engaged in recent campaigns on the Indian frontier were called upon to give up the warm clothing supplied to them at the commencement of the operations?

And whether, seeing that these garments when collected and sold did not realise more than a few pence each, he would consider the advisability in the future of allowing the wearers to become the owners of the garments.

Lord G. HAMILTON: No information in regard to the disposal of the extra clothing issued to followers in the recent campaigns on the North-Western frontier of India has been received by me, but a reference on the subject will be made to the Government of India.

### THE PROJECTED BURMESE EXTENSION RAILWAY.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Government had yet received any official report in reference to the survey of the projected Burmese Extension Railway, to connect the Burmese Railway when it reached the Chinese frontier with the capital of Yunnan; and, if so, whether he would indicate the nature of the report.

Mr. BRODRICK: The reports of the officers engaged on the recent survey will be addressed to the Yunnan Company, by whom they were employed. Most of them have now, I understand, either returned or are on their way home, and until their final reports are received the company will not be in a position to come to a definite opinion in regard to the trace of such a railway.

### NOTICES OF QUESTIONS.

Notices have been given of the following questions:—

Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received a memorial, signed by Indian judicial authorities of the highest position, urging the separation of judicial from executive functions in the Indian administration?

Whether he will state what action he proposes to take on this memorial?

And, whether, looking to the fact that the Government of India anticipates a surplus of Rs. 4,759,400 for 1898-9, and of Rs. 3,932,600 for 1899-1900, the time is opportune from a financial point of view for dealing with a reform which has been long prayed for by the Indian community. [Thursday, July 27.]

Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN: To ask the Secretary of State for India, whether Mr. Justice S. Subramanna Iyer has been appointed to officiate as Chief Justice of Madras?

And, whether there is any legal objection to such appointment being confirmed. [Thursday, July 27.]

### NOTICES OF MOTION.

On going into Committee on East India Revenue Accounts:—

Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN: To move, That under the existing procedure the superintending authority of Parliament over Indian affairs is not effectively exercised; that the salary of the Secretary of State for India should be placed on the Estimates; that the debate on the Indian Budget should be appointed for an earlier day in the Session; and that, with a view to the more effectual discharge by this House of its existing duty to the unrepresented Indian taxpayer, the East India Accounts should each year be referred to a Select Committee with instructions to report on any special features deserving the attention of the House.

Mr. WYLIE: As an amendment to Sir William Wedderburn's motion, line 1, leave out from "That," to end of Question, and insert "this House approves of the administration of Indian affairs and of the present system of administration." [An early day.]

The ss. "Malta" (P. and O.) leaves London on July 21 for Calcutta. She carries the following among other passengers: Lieut. Lockhart, Mr. Mahvad, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. N. Brock, Dr. Cecil, Mr. F. W. Bradbury, Mr. H. P. Fisher, Mr. C. H. Hurstlon, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. P. Griffiths, Mrs. Fish, Mrs. J. Wilden and infant, Mr. G. B. Forbes, Miss Lawrence, Mr. Y. Yallow, Lieut. H. Ozanne, and Mrs. Blakeman.



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