

# The Pioneer.

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## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

### REUTERS' PRESS MESSAGES.

#### THE WAR.

#### THE ACTION NEAR PRETORIA. RETIREMENT OF THE ENEMY.

LONDON, 14th June.

A despatch from Lord Roberts, dated Pretoria the 13th, says that he engaged General Botha all yesterday, the enemy fighting with considerable determination, but they evacuated their strong position at night, and are retiring eastward. Lord Roberts understands our casualties are moderate.

Lord Methuen is now at Rhenoster River, where the railway is being repaired.

A despatch from General Buller, dated Laing's Nek the 14th, says the town and district of Wakkerstroom have formally submitted.

General Buller's casualties on the 10th and 11th were 26 killed and 126 wounded. The killed include Captain O'Brien, of the Camerons, and Lieutenant Johnstone, 11th Hussars.

Later.

General Buller is encamped at Laing's Nek tunnel, which is little damaged by the Boers.

#### POLITICS AT THE CAPE.

#### RESIGNATION OF MR. SCHREINER.

Mr. Schreiner, the Cape Premier, has resigned, and his resignation has been accepted. Sir A. Milner has summoned Sir J. Gordon Sprigg to form a Cabinet.

#### THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

The *Daily Telegraph's* Shanghai correspondent says the Chinese are entrenching outside the walls of Peking. Their guns are trained on the British and American Legations.

A *Daily Mail* despatch from Tientsin says 2,000 Russians have landed at Taku.

The foreign expedition is now at Langfang, which is midway between Tientsin and Peking, which they do not expect to reach before Sunday. Ten thousand Chinese troops under General Tungfuhscang are preparing to resist the entry of the foreign troops into Peking. Seventeen hundred Russians with horses and guns have landed at Taku. Japan is also sending a regiment.

Later.

Mr. Brodrick made a long statement in the Commons to-night regarding events in China, and emphasised the complete accord that existed among the Powers. He added that arrangements had been made to supplement the force at Yangtse.

The Boxers have destroyed two bridges between Langfang and Tientsin, thus cutting the communications of the expedition.

#### THE ASIATIC SITUATION.

News from Coomassie dated the 4th says that Captain Maguire is dead and Major Morris and six others wounded.

#### DEATH OF MRS. GLADSTONE.

The death is announced of Mrs. Gladstone.

#### THE ASCOT CUP.

The following is the result of the race for the Ascot Gold Cup:

Merman  
Scintillant  
The Grafter

#### FOR INDIAN TELEGRAMS SEE PAGE 4.

THE BANK OF BOMBAY ON THURSDAY REDUCED its rate of interest to 5 per cent.

THE CONFERENCE ON RAILWAY TRAFFIC IS to meet at Simla on September 9th. Mr. Brereton, Director of Traffic, will be the Chairman and Captain McElhinny Secretary.

MISFORTUNE STILL ATTENDS DARJEELING. Hardly has the worst of the damage of last year's terrible storm been made good when the news arrives of another heavy downpour which has caused numerous landslips, blocked several roads and breached the railway. It has been raining continuously since Tuesday evening, and when the last telegram left there was no sign of a break.

THE RETURNS FROM THE FAMINE DISTRICTS for the past week show an increase of 240,000 in British Provinces, Bombay and Sindh being responsible for 208,200 out of this total. The numbers on relief in the Central Provinces rose by 20,200. There are now over 4,200,000 persons on the relief lists in British India, and nearly two millions in Native States.

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL of the United Service Institution of India held in Simla on Thursday it was announced that Lieutenant H. F. Thuillier, R. E., had won the gold medal for an essay on the use of 2ft. 6in. railways in Indian warfare, and the organisation and working of a railway corps. The essays by Captain Lubbock, R. E., and Major Dobbin, 1st Sikhs, were recommended for publication.

IT NOW SEEMS PRACTICALLY CERTAIN THAT the troopings from South Africa to India will not begin before September at the earliest, as there can be no large reduction of the field force before that month, and the Colonial Corps will in any case be the first to leave. The scheme of reliefs cannot yet be worked out, pending Lord Roberts' decision as to the strength of the garrison to be eventually left in the Transvaal and the Free State.

A CHANGE WILL SHORTLY BE MADE IN the colours of the Indian postage stamps, in order to bring them into line with those of the Postal Union. There are three standard rates in the Union, namely 5, 10 and 25 centimes, the colours being green, red, and blue. The adoption of these for India involves the following changes: 1 anna stamp, slate grey; 2 annas, pea green; 1 anna, crimson; 2 annas, violet; 2 annas, blue.

THE SHORT-SIGHTED POLICY OF THE AMIR of Kabul in imposing heavy fiscal burdens upon the trade between India and Afghanistan via Dacca and the Khyber country is having the worst results. His Highness has now created a monopoly in *pustun* (sheepskin coats), assafetida, almonds and pomegranates; he has forbidden the export of horses and mules altogether, and also the import of Indian salt. The result is that while the trade in the four articles first named is stimulated, that in regard to the others is nearly extinct. Thus in 1899-1900 only 33 horses reached Peshawar as against 266 in the year preceding; while in the matter of salt the figures were 62 loads (camel, mule and bullock) as against 2,385. These figures speak for themselves, and it may be added that the tax on sheep is so high that the numbers exported fell from 16,137 to 6,132 in the year. There seems no hope now that the Amir will ever depart from the false lines that he has so persistently followed.

ONE SERIOUS DANGER WHICH THREATENS IN China in connection with the Boxer disturbances is that Europeans in remote parts of the country may be massacred. The powerful secret society which is directing the actions of the rebels for such they may now properly be called—has branches in all the provinces, and orders have plainly been given that foreigners are to be attacked wherever found. There are now in Yunan and Szechuen several British officials, and they have doubtless been warned by the local authorities to save themselves. We know that in Yunan, at least, the Viceroy has expressed his inability to protect Europeans, and a similar state of things probably obtains also in Szechuen. It may be expected, therefore, that our officers will make for Upper Burma, as they would run less risk in that direction than in any other. The Boxers have intimidated the various Viceroys, who will not dare to run counter to popular feeling, which can easily be worked upon in a country where nearly every male adult is a member of some secret society. The landing of sailors and marines from European men-of-war may save the position in the neighbourhood of Peking, but it is almost certain that we shall soon hear stories of massacre in the inland provinces.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL'S book, *London to Ladysmith via Pretoria*, is now available from Indian booksellers, and it is certainly one that every student of the war should obtain at once. The young author gives us in 300 pages not only a clear and picturesque account of the military operations which he witnessed, but he has an interesting story to tell of how he lay "in Africkander bonds" at Pretoria, and how eventually he escaped. As in his *River War*, his style is far above the level of the professional war correspondent, and the London *Morning*

*Post* must be counted fortunate in having him on its staff. We need not quote from the volume, as most of the letters have appeared already, but it may be stated that there are some excellent maps and plans which enable the reader to understand the operations at Colenso, Spion Kop, Vaal Krantz and other places. In his preface Mr. Churchill says: "The fact that a man's life depends upon my discretion compels me to omit an essential part of the story of my escape from the Boers, but if the book and its author survive the war, and when the British flag is firmly planted at Bloemfontein and Pretoria, I shall hasten to fill the gap in the narrative." So we have still something exciting to look forward to.

TRAVELLERS WHO HAVE VISITED THE KHYBER have doubtless had pointed out to them the Kuki Kbel villages and been told stories of the fierce feuds which rage among that section of the Afridis, but they little knew how terrible the truth is, regarding the murderous outrages which occur every year. The *malik* or headman of the section can never count upon a long life once he has assumed office. Thus in March 1880 Malik Kadir was murdered; on January 12th, 1884, his successor, Narullah, met with a similar fate, and two days later Abdulla Nur was killed. Akbar Khan lasted until February 1894, and the well-known Amin Khan from that month until December 1893, when he was shot by Kambar, one of his cousins. Zunan Khan, a younger brother of Amin, is now *malik*, but Kambar is ever on the watch to murder him. In June 1899 Mir Wali, formerly a subadar in the Khyber Rifles, together with six members of his family, were killed at Lala China below Ali Masjid by Herat, his heir. This offence was so gross that the tribe sent a force against Herat, burnt his house and fined him Rs. 1,000, which he had to pay. The Kuki Kbel live amidst surroundings that are savage in the extreme, and yet their villages are only ten miles distant from civilised Peshawar. If the Sikhs were in power in the Punjab there would be an end made of them forthwith; but British methods are milder than those of the Khalsa.

IN MR. JOHN ELIOT'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS to his forecast of the monsoon there is an interesting reference to the relation between the Nile floods and the rains in India. At the Meteorological Congress held during the Chicago Exhibition Mr. Willcocks stated that as there were no barometric, thermometric or rain-gauge stations in the upper valley of the Nile it was impossible to predict the character of the annual flood, but he added, "famine years in India were generally years of low flood in Egypt." Further he remarked that if the summer supply of the Nile were exceedingly low and exceedingly late a high flood might be expected, as the drought in the valley of the White Nile must create a powerful indraught from the Indian Ocean. Mr. Eliot states that his investigations not only confirm Mr. Willcocks' statements but suggest that the relation between the Nile floods and the south-west monsoon rainfall in India, more especially Western India, is more exact and complete than anticipated by Mr. Willcocks. He then goes on to show from statistics of 25 years, from 1875 to 1899, what that relation is. In five years during that period the average rainfall of India (excluding Burma) has been below the normal (41 inches) by more than 3 inches. In 1876 the Deccan and Mysore suffered from drought, but there was a good high flood in Egypt. In 1877, in 1891 and in 1896 all years of short rainfall, the Nile was low; while in 1899 the defect in the average rainfall in India was over 11 inches, the Nile showed the lowest flood of the century. Another table is given showing six years in which the rainfall in India was in excess, and in each of these years the Nile came down in very high flood. Mr. Eliot remarks on this—"The preceding data are sufficient to indicate that the two agricultural countries, Egypt and India, dependent almost solely for their prosperity on the distribution and amount of rainfall, are similarly affected by general meteorological conditions and variations of conditions from one year to another. These variations and their causes are, however, as yet very imperfectly known."

WE MUST REFER OUR READERS TO MR. ELIOT'S Memorandum itself for an explanation of the theory of this remarkable and interesting coincidence. In general terms it is said: "The rainfall of the period June to September or October

in Abyssinia, the South Arabian highlands, and Northern India is due to a common source. The whole area is intensely heated in May, but practically no rain falls in any part of these areas in that month. The solar action in India and the neighbouring land areas gives rise to meteorological changes which prepare for the advance of the monsoon currents, but which do not primarily and directly give rise to the advance." If these currents get deflected owing to local conditions in the land area or if the South-East Trade winds are weaker than usual there follows drought in India and small rainfall in the Abyssinian highlands. Last year the monsoon currents were deflected to South Africa, and hence the disastrous failure of the rains in the Bombay Presidency and further inland. As Mr. Eliot puts it—"After a short burst of humid winds in June the monsoon practically collapsed in the Arabian Sea and the air movements in July, August and September resembled that of May in character and brought up little aqueous vapour from the Indian Ocean." The difficulty from a practical point of view is to discover when the deflection of the currents is likely to take place. So far back as 1894 Mr. Eliot pointed out that until the Meteorology of the Australia and the Indian Ocean (and perhaps also of the Antarctic Ocean) has been fully linked on to that of the Indian monsoon area the missing factors in the problem of forecasting will not be forthcoming. Perhaps now that the new cable from the Cape to Australia is being laid, with a station on an island well south of Mauritius, it may be possible to get more information in good time.

THE POWERS ARE NOW FAIRLY LAUNCHED ON the policy of intervention in China. The Chinese Government having commended the "good subjects" engaged in the revolutionary movement, strengthened the reactionary element in the Tsung-li-Yamen, and pointed the guns of the Imperial army on the British and American Legations, is evidently prepared to help the Boxers rather than to punish them; and the considerable forces of the Powers now landed on the way will have to deal with the movement by themselves. Having embarked on a suicidal policy, the Government is evidently seeking the most direct means of accomplishing its end. What that end will be, one of yesterday's telegrams foreshadows. The statesmen of Japan perceive that the break-up of the Empire must follow if the Government persists in its present attitude, and they are determined that their share of the spoils shall not be lost for want of asking. The murder of a Japanese official by soldiers of the bodyguard is not likely to abate either the extent or the urgency of their demands. Nothing could more clearly indicate the state of anarchy existing in Peking, and the utter hopelessness of any serious attempt on the part of the Tsung-li-Yamen to grapple with the crisis. In fact they seem to be sublimely unconscious that a state of crisis exists, and to be drifting blindly to their own destruction. Yesterday's account of the fighting on the railway line shows that really serious opposition will not be encountered by the forces of the Powers, though until reinforcements arrive such incidents as the cutting of the railway must be anticipated. It is impossible that a half-armed rabble without leaders or organisation can make a stand against disciplined troops possessing modern arms, and the work of pacification is not likely to be a long business. The unfortunate thing is that the Powers will probably not stop at the suppression of the Boxers. The suspicious eagerness of Russia to undertake the whole business shows that the parcelling out of the Empire can hardly be long delayed, for Russia having overrun the country with troops will not be easily persuaded to withdraw them. Indeed the events of the last few weeks have made it evident that the whole administration must go if there is to be any guarantee for the lives and property of foreigners in the country. The policy of bolstering up the rotten and effete Government has been swept away at the first breath of insurrection, and we are not likely to hear much more of it. Whether it will be possible to build up a reformed administration on the ruins of the Manchu dynasty remains to be seen, but the action of Japan does not look promising. If Japan joins the ranks of the Powers seeking spheres of exclusive influence, England and the United States can hardly maintain the integrity of the Empire in the face of the world, especially as the States are not in the least likely to fight in such a cause.

A RELIGIOUS CHALLENGE.

The following curious invitation has been issued to the Right Reverend the Bishop of Lahore. We have not yet heard whether his Lordship proposes to take advantage of it; but undoubtedly great interest will attach to the meeting if Dr. Lefroy does decide to enter the lists.

We, the undersigned, respectfully beg leave to submit the following proposal to you. As our transient worldly life is passing away like a summer cloud and the time draws near when it shall pass away into eternity and leave not a wrack behind, it is our deepest concern that the pilgrimage of life should come to a close in true righteousness and heavenly bliss, and that we may breathe our last as professors of a faith which shows the path to Divine Will. If we are not on the right path we are ready heart and soul to accept the truth provided it is elucidated to us with clear and cogent arguments. If any one can pluck up courage to come forward and prove to us the truth of the Christian religion he shall lay us under the greatest obligation. It is our hearts' inmost desire and we are always anxious that an inquiry be made into the comparative merits and excellences of Christianity and Islam and that on the result of the investigation we should bow submission to the holy prophet who transcends the whole world in the purity of heart, excellence, Divine power and moral rectitude. Since we have heard of your lectures at Lahore on the subjects of "The innocent prophet" and "The living apostle," we are of opinion that among the Christians of this country you are unrivalled in religious learning. It has since occurred to us that no one can better represent the Christian faith than yourself on account of your vast and practical knowledge, your acquaintance with Arabic, Persian and Urdu languages and your amiable and polished manners. On the other hand when we cast a glance on the learned men among the Muslims, we are convinced that the best representative of Islam is Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (Qadiri), the chief of Qadian, who not only lays claim to the Promised Messiahship but has made good that claim by strong and conclusive arguments, and has proved himself to be the Promised One whose appearance has been foretold in the holy Quran and the Bible. About thirty thousand persons living in different parts of the world have a staunch belief in his doctrines and admit him as their spiritual leader. In short among the learned Christians in the Punjab and India your presence is of the utmost importance, and among the Muslims that of the Mirza whom God has chosen and anointed with His own hands. Fortunately, for us, therefore, we may avail ourselves of your abilities on the one side, and of God's Messiah on the other. On these considerations we humbly request you to hold a controversy with the Promised Messiah on several contested points. The Messiah has kindly given his consent to discuss the following five questions:—

1. Which of the two prophets, Jesus or Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of God be with them, can be shown, from his own book or by other arguments, to be perfectly *ma'sum*?
2. Which of them can on the same authority as above be deservedly called the Living prophet and possesser of Divine power within him?
3. Which of them is on like authority entitled to be the Intercessor?
4. Which of the two religions, Christianity or Islam, can be called the Living faith?
5. Of the teachings inculcated in the holy Quran and the Bible, which is the more excellent and natural? Discuss on Unity and Trinity falls under this head.

The controversy shall be regulated by the following conditions:—

- I. One day shall be dedicated to the discussion of each question, and thus the controversy will come to an end in five days.
- II. Three hours shall be allowed to each party every day.
- III. Each party shall bring forward proof in support of his own prophet or book and shall not be allowed to attack the book or the prophet of the opposite party. For such attacks are not conducive to any good and often injure the feelings of the party attacked. The public on a comparison would be able to know the strength or the weakness of the arguments brought forward by each party. Each party shall, however, have the right to refute attacks which contain any likelihood to be made by the other.
- IV. The controversy shall be conducted in writing and each party shall be attended by an amanuensis who shall write whatever is dictated to him. Each party shall also be attended by a person who shall read aloud to the audience the contents of writing. After this copy of the writing duly signed shall be furnished to the opposite party.
- V. The controversy shall take place at Lahore. The fixing of the date of the meeting and other necessary arrangements shall be in your power.

VI. After the close of the controversy either or both of the parties shall publish the speeches of both the parties in the form of a pamphlet. No addition or alteration shall be made by either party.

The Promised Messiah, the leader of the Muslim side has given his consent to these conditions and as they are very plain and equitable we hope they will meet also with your approval and that you will kindly inform us at your earliest convenience to the time when you are prepared to hold such a controversy. We also humbly beseech you not to reject this proposal but to accept it in the name and for the honour of Jesus Christ. We hope that for the sake of that beloved and chosen prophet of God you will intimate to us your acceptance of our proposal by means of a printed letter. In this request there are no set and conditions or terms from which reason may recoil. The controversy is to be conducted on entirely unbiased principles and is based on good wishes and a search after truth. Moreover when our request to an eminent person like yourself is accompanied with an adjuration in the name of Jesus Christ, we are quite certain that you will accept this proposal, although the time at your disposal may be short, without any alteration or amendment for the honour of Jesus's name. For we know that it is a similar request had been preferred to us by any body in the name of Jesus Christ, we would have looked upon its rejection as a deadly sin and an affront to Christ's dignity. How can it be expected then of you who lay claim to an unbounded love for Jesus Christ, of judging which we have got this first opportunity?

The reply should be addressed to Moulvi Muhammad Ali, M.A., LL.B., Pleader, Qadian, who is the Secretary of this committee. Awaiting acceptance.

- We beg to remain,  
Reverend Sir,  
Your most obedient servants,  
The letter has a great many signatures, of which the first few names will be sufficient to indicate the widespread interest and expectation with which the Mahomedan community are looking forward to the encounter:—
- Moulvi Muhammad Ali, M.A., LL.B., Pleader, Qadian.
  - Moulvi Hakeem Nur-ud-Din, late physician to H. H. the Maharaja of Kashmir.
  - Sethi Abd-ur-Rahman Haji Allah Rakkha, Proprietor, Firm of Surjan Company, Madras.
  - Sheikh Rahmat-ullah, Proprietor, Bombay House, Lahore.
  - Nawab Mohammad Ali Khan, Rais, Maler Kotla.
  - Babu Taj-ud-Din, Examiner's Office, N.W.P., Lahore.
  - Mulvi Mohammad Sadiq, Accountant-General's Office, Lahore.
  - Mian Miraj-ud-Din, Successor to the late Mian Muhammad Sultan.
  - Mian Chiragh-ud-Din, P. W. D. Office, Lahore.
  - Mir Nasir Nawab, Government Pensioner, Qadian.
  - Hakeem Fazl-i-Ilahi, Lahore.
  - Khawja Kamal-ud-Din, B.A., LL.B., Pleader, Peshawar.
  - Khawja Jamal-ud-Din, B.A., Srinagar, Kashmir.
  - M. Muhammad Nawab Khan, Tehsildar, Jhelum.
  - Moulvi Aziz Bakhs, B.A., Record-keeper, Dera Ghazi Khan.
  - Hakeem Fazl-ud-Din, Rais, Bhera, Qadian.
  - Mirza Khuda Bakhs, Tehsildar, Maler Kotla State, Qadian.
  - Moulvi Abdul Karim, Sialkot, Qadian.
  - Sayyid Hamid Shah, Deputy Superintendent, Sialkot.
  - Zain-ud-Din Mahommed Ibrahim, Esq., Engineer, Sasson Mills, Bombay.
  - Seth Ismail Adam, Merchant, Bombay.
  - Munshi Rustam Ali, Court Inspector, Umballa.
  - Munshi Abdul Aziz, Clerk, Western Junna Canal Office, Delhi.
  - Mehr Nabi Bakhs, Lumbardar, Batala.

LONDON INDIGO TERMINAL MARKET.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—On the 11th June the London Indigo Terminal Market will be opened. We send you under cover the printed rules which have just been distributed to the trade and from which you will see that the London Standard indigo is of good average quality worth 3s. 7d. per lb. by the April sale 1900, with allowances both ways of 9d. per lb., so that the range of tenderable indigos will be from 3s. to 4s. 6d. This range of prices practically covers all qualities except very low ones and it will be seen that besides Bengal and Bihar indigo, some of the native marks, which have become popular, owing to good quality as well as to good packing, are also tenderable in all cases where the mark is stamped on the cakes. It is more especially stipulated that the London Indigo Association has the power to add to these tenderable marks, whenever it finds that a native mark has been improved to the necessary extent. It is hoped that this will induce natives to improve the quality to be reliable in their weights and packing and to stamp the cakes with their marks. As regards the advantages of a terminal market for indigo, we need only draw attention to Havre, where a terminal market was started about 15 years ago. At that time all the exporters in this article declared that it would be impossible to buy and sell indigo for future delivery on a standard and they prophesied that this terminal market would be a disaster. Havre had then almost ceased to be a market, as it could not in any way compete with London. This local market was, however, very rapidly reconstituted by the terminal market, because it was found to be quite possible to buy and sell indigo on a standard, the same as coffee, cotton or sugar. Gradually, during the last 15 years, Havre has again pushed itself forward and we find that quite a large proportion of the indigo crop which, in the ordinary course, would have been shipped from Calcutta to London, has solely owing to the success of this terminal market, been diverted from English to French channels. 12,000 chests per annum are now being turned over in this Havre market, which apparently was moribund 15 years ago, and its competition is being felt so severely that, even in pure self-defence, London has now had to do that which it ought to have done years ago, viz., establish a terminal market for indigo. Formerly when London was the most important market in the world for indigo this article, which signifies so much to the prosperity of our Indian Empire, used to be a great favourite with investors, but during the last years it has been neglected because it was found at certain times to be of purely nominal value and that holders could not always find ready buyers. The terminal market is a complete remedy for this, as it will be possible to deal with indigo in future at any moment like, say, with any stock. London will also have this great advantage over Havre that prices will be intelligible to every one in Havre, the basis of the standard is taken from 1861 when indigo was more than double its present value and prices in France have after all not much interest for planters or for many others, whereas with a fixed range for double its present value and prices in France matter becomes very clear to all concerned, from producer down to consumer.

CHARLES ANDREAE & CO  
24, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., 25th May

The Government of India has approved the proposal to grant the office equipment and tentage furniture for four officers of the Imperial Service Troops, when it is proposed to maintain for the use of inspecting Officers of the Imperial Service Troops on Field Service. The Royal Asiatic Society's Gold Jubilee Medal has been awarded to Dr. E. W. West in consideration of his distinguished services to historical research in the field of Zoroastrianism. It is understood that the presentation will be made on behalf of the Society by the Prince of Wales, who is a Vice-Patron.

THE ARMY CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

This House of Commons Committee appointed to inquire as to alleged fraudulent and irregular practices in connection with War Office contracts sat again on May 18th. Mr. W. L. Jackson presiding. Colonel Mellor took his seat for the first time, having been appointed in succession to Mr. Houston, resigned.

Colonel Dunno, deputy-assistant adjutant-general for supply inspection, said his chief duty was to take charge of the supply reserve depot in Woolwich Dockyard. He was responsible for all food and forage, and he kept in the depot a reserve of stores which were required for active service in case of war. Witness detailed the circumstances of the supply of the hay shipped on the Manchester Port. Both Bennett's and Brown's hay was inspected in the stack by Colonel Day. The ship was to have 140 tons, and an officer of witness's department wrote to Bennett to supply it. They were authorised to purchase hay to supply at market prices, and he believed they purchased it from John Brown. Witness got a memorandum asking him to replace the hay. He saw three samples taken by Mr. Houston at the ship side, and the hay was black and burnt and unfit for acceptance. He telegraphed for Bennett to replace the hay, which had gone bad, as the ship was coming to Tilbury, and ordered him to exchange 100 tons of it. Bennett did not give witness the impression of being very much surprised. He could see that the sample was bad—no one could deny that. He could only get 73 tons to replace the hay that was rejected, and a supply was taken from Woolwich in place of that received from Bennett. None of his was used in replacement. The hay for the Manchester Port was sent to Woolwich in coal barges, which were badly sheeted, and the weather was wet and stormy, so that the hay was wet and dirty.

Mr. Mellor—Who examined the hay at Liverpool? Witness: I am afraid there was a hiatus there. I must admit to a slip in that matter. The hay was not properly examined. There was a man representing me there—a Mr. James—but Mr. James had not instructions from me to inspect the hay as to quality. The form of the instructions given to Mr. James was then handed in and read by the chairman. They contained the words: "Your duty is simply to witness the shipment and record where supplies are stored."

The Chairman (to witness)—You say that there was a slip on your part. That is a recognition that so far as you are concerned, you were responsible for witnessing as to quality. Yes. Witness added that Mr. James was subsequently dismissed in connection with this transaction. Major Rasch asked why Mr. James was dismissed. Witness—Because the quartermaster-general considered it the duty of all persons who had any duty in connection with the shipping of supplies to see that good supplies were shipped. But he had no instructions to do so?—No. Replying to Mr. Mellor, witness said some hay was thrown overboard from the Manchester Port because there was danger of fire. That hay had been passed by Captain Dawson. Sir R. Ross—Don't you think that something is wanting to do justice to Mr. James? Witness—Yes, I do. Sir R. Ross—Don't you think that you had better do that justice by communicating with the quartermaster-general? Witness—Yes, I do.

QUESTIONS OF EVIDENCE. By the Chairman—In his view the dismissed officer had such a high idea of their duty that they were above suspicion as to bribes, but he did not say that of the non-commissioned officers. Witness was questioned as to a case in which he said he had heard of a bribe being offered, but which he did not report. It was a long time ago, and he had only heard of it in conversation. The Chairman—Do not know what you are going to do in your official position, but we shall have to make further inquiries. Who was the man who was offered the bribe? It was Major Griffin. It was offered by Mr. Ramsay, of Liverpool. Do you know of any more rumours of the kind?—Yes. Captain Cossey mentioned to me that a stranger who wanted to sell hay said that if Captain Cossey would get him £10s a ton he would give him 5s. a ton for himself. That was a few months ago. Captain Cossey did not report it officially, but said, "Rather a funny fellow, come here and wanted to sell hay, and he said he would give me 5s. a ton if I could get him £10s for the hay." Captain Cossey told him that that was not the way to do business.

Did you report the case or attach no importance to it?—I attached no importance to it, nor did Captain Cossey. I do not think cases of that kind are of frequent occurrence. Examined by counsel, witness said that after the Manchester Port incident, the attendant negotiated with the same contractors as to the purchase of French hay. Twenty tons of the Manchester Port hay would have been rejected in any circumstances. Witness, before leaving the chair, said he had acknowledged making a B44e slip, but it must be borne in mind that in October he had received orders to send out a month's supplies for one hundred thousand men.

The Chairman—You were hard pressed, owing to the outbreak of the war? Witness—Yes, I was, and I was also ill. Mr. A. Major, Director of Army Contracts, recalled that it had been brought to his knowledge that subscriptions towards dinners and concerts were given to employees of the Government by contractors, and he had caused those contractors to be communicated with on the subject. The practice was condemned, though it was stated at the time that no further notice would be taken of the specific incidents which had been brought under review. The committee adjourned.

NOTICE ABOUT THE UNDEVELOPED HAY. The Committee sat again on May 22nd when the Chairman said that he and members of the committee had received communications which rendered it advisable to state that in the case of any person coming forward and making a full disclosure on any subject or inquiry by the committee, the committee would recompense that person by a pension or gratuity to be imposed on him in respect of any offence or irregularity that he might admit and he felt sure

that the War Office would, as far as possible, give effect to that recommendation; and the contractors preferring charges of misconduct would not be prejudiced thereby in regard to future dealings with the War Office.

Captain J. F. Cossey, doing duty with the deputy-assistant adjutant-general for supply inspection, said he was acquainted with the circumstances connected with the shipment of hay on board the Manchester Port. Some of the hay was rick burnt, and some very wet, and about 10 per cent of it should not have been accepted. He had reported that there was no danger of spontaneous combustion, but subsequently Mr. Houston expressed some fear that fire might break out and after making a representation to headquarters he decided that all Liverpool-shipped hay should be left out. A percentage of the trusses consisted of bad grass from low, marshy land, and was quite unfit for use.

Mr. McKenna—Do you think the condition of the hay received from Mr. J. Brown justified his being struck off the War Office list?—No, I do not; and I examined it several times.

By Mr. P. O'Brien—He had known many cases in which bribes had been offered, and those who had offered them had been punished.

Mr. Houston, M.P., was examined as to his dealings with the steamship Manchester Port as chairman of the company owning the ship. The Government asked him to load the stores in the ship; therefore he had rather more than the ordinary responsibility in the case. On inspection of the hay about to be shipped on board the Manchester Port at Liverpool he found it black, and when cut open it was heating. He refused to allow the hay to be put on board, and samples were sent to the War Office. The War Office wrote saying that they could not approve of his action, consequently he took it that he and the master of the ship were exonerated from responsibility in the matter of spontaneous combustion. When the hay reached the Tilbury Dock the military board examined it, taking samples from different parts of the ship. They cut the bales open, and condemned the hay unanimously on account of its being heated, as well as of its general condition.

Mr. Howell—Is it the fact that it was because you wished to delay your vessel starting from Liverpool that you condemned the hay? It is absolutely untrue.

ROOTS AND BRIBES IN YORKSHIRE. Mr. Evans, staff clerk in the War Office acting under the Director of Army Contracts, said that acting under instructions from the Director of Army Contracts, he had on April 11th and 12th last visited certain boot manufacturers in the Leeds district to see whether certain of them were prepared to take up at once the manufacture of boots for the Army. He had exhibited samples and had asked at what rate the manufacturers would deliver and at what price. Among other firms he called on Messrs Dickson Brothers, of Bramley, near Leeds, and one of the members of the firm as he was leaving the factory, endeavoured to induce him to take a bribe. Witness immediately refused the money. He subsequently had an interview with the senior partner of the firm, who apologised for what had taken place, and this gentleman, at the request of witness, wrote a further apology. On his return to London witness reported the incident to his superiors.

Mr. J. Dickson, senior partner of Dickson Brothers, said that, generally speaking, the evidence of the previous witness was accurate. This was the only occasion on which he had known money offered in twenty years. Mr. Evans said to him that he was sure his witness's brother had no motive in what he did except to show his gratitude for information he had received. Witness expressed great regret that this incident should have occurred. His firm was not allowed to submit samples, and he would like this to be looked into, because, looking at the time and the circumstances, he thought the firm had been somewhat unjustly treated.

The committee adjourned. It was understood that at the next meeting the counsel in attendance would call witnesses on behalf of their clients.

A HOT WEATHER GRIEVANCE.

TO THE EDITOR. Sir,—Through the medium of your valuable paper allow me to draw the attention of the Traffic Manager of the B. N. W. Railway to the disagreeable arrangement of the ice contract on the B. N. W. Railway. I have most truly travelled on this railway between M. Kameghat and Bettah and Falezat and I have never seen any other train carrying ice and water in its train, and I have never seen any other train carrying ice and water in its train, and I have never seen any other train carrying ice and water in its train. I have often travelled by the evening train from M. Kameghat to Falezat, and have found neither ice nor aerated waters in the train, and the same applies to the train arriving at 8 p.m. at M. Kameghat. The station-masters at these stations are either powerless or indifferent to enforce the rules for the carriage of ice and aerated waters. I think some steps might be taken by the Traffic Manager to compel the contractor to carry sufficient ice and aerated waters of a better quality in all trains. The aerated water at present supplied by the contractor is from a native firm at Bettah, and a good deal of doubt is entertained about its quality. I think a little strictness on the part of the Traffic Manager will materially improve the present arrangements, and will thereby earn the thanks of the travelling public on the B. N. W. Railway.

S. J. COOPER  
Sawdip, 11th June

Four clerks of the Indian Post Office at Cape Town by the Pioneer on the 9th inst. for service in connection with the Army Post Office in South Africa.

The Germans from Colombo give improved accounts of the health of Miss Maclean, the daughter of the Chief Justice of Bengal; she had a bad relapse the day after leaving Calcutta, but is now steadily improving.

HORSE ALLOWANCES FOR THE R. A. M. C.—The question of granting horse allowance to junior officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps is under consideration. This has been one of the greatest grievances of junior medical officers for years, and the unfairness of regarding officers who are now members of the Imperial Service as dismounted officers in India has often been pointed out.—Civil and Military Gazette.

# The Pioneer.

New Series  
VOL. CXXII

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### FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

[REUTER'S PRESS MESSAGES.]

#### THE WAR IN CHINA. RELIEF OF ADMIRAL SEYMOUR. LOSSES OF THE FORCE.

LONDON, 28th June.

The American Admiral telegraphs that the Foreign Ministers from Peking are with Admiral Seymour who is entrenched at Peitsang.

Japan has chartered 35 transports.

Later.

A Reuter's despatch from Chefoo, dated to-day, states that Admiral Seymour has been relieved.

He failed to establish communication with Peking.

His force has suffered greatly and is now returning to Tientsin.

The Russian Colonel Stoessel, commanding an international force of 10,000 men, is supposed to be proceeding to Peking.

It is estimated that from 40,000 to 60,000 Chinese troops are before Peking.

Later.

The Russian Admiral telegraphs that Admiral Seymour was relieved on the night of the 25th, and that 200 wounded have been brought to Tientsin.

Later.

The reports from China are most confusing, and conflicting, especially as regards the whereabouts of the Legations.

The Viceroy of Nanking has notified to the Consuls at Shanghai that the Legations were safe on the 25th and arranging terms of peace.

Admiral Seymour has reached Tientsin.

The British losses in the relief of Tientsin were four killed and forty-seven wounded, including seven officers. The Germans lost eleven killed and twenty wounded.

### THE WAR.

LONDON, 28th June.

A Times' telegram from Lourenço Marques states that it is reported the Boers are entrenching in considerable force beyond Middeburg.

#### THE RISING IN ASHANTI. SITUATION OF KUMASI GARRISON.

A letter from Governor Hodgson from Kumasi, saying that he could hold out until the 20th June, only, reached Major Wilkinson at Bekwai on the night of the 21st. Continuous firing was heard that night.

#### THE KHEDIVE AT WINDSOR.

The Khedive and his brother dined with the Queen at Windsor to-day. The majority of the Royal Family were present and also Lord Salisbury, Sir R. Wingate and Mr. Rennell Rodd.

His Highness received the greatest honour.

FOR INDIAN TELEGRAMS SEE PAGE 2.

THE QUESTION OF STOPPING MILITARY LEAVE out of India on account of the China Expedition has been under consideration, but it is hoped this step may not be necessary.

AS REGARDS THE TWO ADDITIONAL COOLIE corps sanctioned for the expeditionary force, No. 2 will be under the command of Captain Watson, Central India Horse, with Captain Roddam, 5th Gurkhas, as second-in-command. The officers for No. 1 will be Captain Drake-Brockman and Lieutenant Beatty, 9th Bengal Lancers. As Lieutenant Goldthorp, nominated second-in-command of No. 1 Corps, is unable to proceed owing to ill-health, his place will be taken by Lieutenant Garratt, 3rd Bombay Infantry. Among other officers appointed to

the force are: Veterinary-Captain Hsington, as Veterinary Officer, Captain Rampini as Commissariat and Transport Officer, 2nd Brigade; Lieutenant Peart, 4th Sikhs, as one of the officers for Chinese transport. Colonel Campbell, at present Colonel on the Staff, Fyzabad, will be Base Commandant and in charge of the line of communications.

THE FOLLOWING FURTHER MOVEMENTS IN THE scheme of troops proceeding on active service have been ordered: Two squadrons, 7th Bengal Cavalry, from Fyzabad to Lucknow; 19th Punjab Infantry, Sialkot, to Kohat.

THE COOLIE CORPS FOR THE CHINA EXPEDITION are to be composed of Punjabi Mahomedans, recruited from among men accustomed to carry loads and to marching. Two British Non-Commissioned Officers (one regimental and one departmental) will be attached to each corps. The coolies will, if considered necessary, be armed with daos or kukries.

THE FALL OF GOVERNMENT PAPER CONTINUED on Thursday in Calcutta, the closing price being Rs. 85-9. In the London market Consols remained steady.

COLONEL SIR CHARLES LESLIE, BART, COLONEL on the Staff at Cawnpore, will officiate in the command of the Allahabad District when Brigadier-General Dyce goes as Deputy Adjutant-General to Naini Tal.

WITH REGARD TO THE FORTHCOMING REFER loan, it is officially intimated that the Government will be prepared to sanction transfers from the new loan to any other of the existing three-and-a-half per cent loans if such transfers are here after demanded.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAVE DECIDED, in modification of orders issued last September, that pending the issue of further orders Chaplains shall continue to be eligible, as before, for rewards for passing examinations in oriental languages under military rules.

NO OFFICER OF THE SURVEY DEPARTMENT has been appointed to the Staff of the Expeditionary Force, a curious omission, as it cannot be said the interior of China is already well mapped. All that has been done is to detail four native soldier-surveyors for duty with the Intelligence Staff.

DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, 177 MILES OF new railway were opened for traffic in India. This included 117 miles of the Hyderabad-Godavari Valley line, 34 miles of the Mandalay-Kuolon extension, 16 miles of the Sini-Cuttack extension, and 5 miles of the Hyderabad (Sind) to Kotri, including the bridge over the Indus.

THE VICEROY'S BAND HAVE ORGANISED A concert at Simla on Friday, July 6th, in aid of the Famine Fund. Lord and Lady Curzon will be present, and the Town Hall should be crowded, not merely because of the good music that is certain to be forthcoming, but also on account of the charitable object in view.

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF THESE PROVINCES will leave Naini Tal for his monsoon tour on the 9th July. He will visit Bafilly (10th), Mussorie (11th-14th), Meerut (15th-17th), Agra (18th-20th), Allahabad (21st-24th), Benares (25th-26th), Lucknow (27th-31st), Cawnpore (1st August), Lucknow (2nd-3rd), returning to Naini Tal on the 4th. His Honour will be accompanied by the Hon'ble Mr. Hardy, C. S. I., Chief Secretary, and Captain Bayley, Private Secretary.

THE PASSING OF A BILL IN CONNECTION WITH the census operations in India is necessary, as no permanent Census Act exists in this country. The Bill now before the Viceroy's Council is a very advanced one, as it requires anybody and everybody, when called upon by a constituted official, to help in taking the census, i.e., to act as supervisor or enumerator. It is justified, of course, by the general utility of the census, and the impossibility of prying enumerators. In Bengal alone during the last census of 1891, there were 340,000 enumerators, while the number in all India must have been enormous.

WITH REFERENCE TO THE REMARKS ON THE Nagpur water-supply, contained in the Pioneer of 24th June, we are glad to hear that Mr. Hankin's report on the bacteriological analysis of the Nagpur water has proved to be favourable. Regarding the sample taken from the body of the reservoir on the 16th June,

he states, "that no microbe resembling that of cholera was detected." There is, therefore, no object in pumping water from the infiltration trench in preference to drawing direct on the reservoir. The only possible result would be that the water might be a little clearer; but now that showers of rain may be expected daily, the water in the trench will be rendered muddier owing to earth washing into it from the hillside. No further preparations, therefore, will be made for pumping from the trench. The rain of the 25th instant raised the level of the water in the tank by over 1 1/2 inches. It is devoutly to be hoped that more will now fall and relieve finally the anxiety so long felt regarding the water-supply of the city.

THE 303 AMMUNITION WHICH IS BEING taken with the China Expeditionary Force is known as "Mark II." The bullet is a solid one cased in metal and has not the lead exposed at the point. It is, in fact, of the "humane" pattern such as our troops are using in South Africa. The so-called Dum-Dum ammunition is known as "Mark I," Indian pattern, and it is never likely to be employed except against a fanatical or savage enemy. We shall keep a reserve of 1,000,000 rounds or so in India, but it will only be issued in cases of emergency on the frontier, when desperate charges by Ghazis necessitate the use of a man-stopping bullet. The infantry of the Force for China will take the full complement of 750 rounds per rifle, and the Cavalry and Sappers 400 rounds. This will be an ample supply to start with, and more can be sent if the campaign lasts over the winter, or if the fighting is of such a kind as to involve great expenditure of ammunition. We may add that the infantry soldier carries 100 rounds in his pouches, and the 1st and 2nd regimental reserves are 80 and 120 rounds, respectively. The balance is in the Ordnance Reserve. Cavalry 50 rounds with 100 rounds in regimental reserve and 250 rounds in Ordnance charge.

THE ISSUE OF A NUMBER OF SMOOTH-BORE Snider carbines to all regiments and batteries in India is a step that we have long advocated, and the Government are to be congratulated on having passed orders on the subject. It was more than ever imperative to take action after the rearmament of the Native Army had been begun; for with 303 rifles fetching Rs. 1,000 across the North West Frontier, the temptation to thieve-thieves to rush sentries has enormously increased. It may seem somewhat superfluous to give smooth-bores and buckshot cartridges to troops far removed from the border; but it should be remembered that the thieves do not confine their attentions to the Punjab or Baluchistan. They have, in the past, worked down as far as Benares; and if they learned that in the Bengal and Madras Commands, and in parts of the Bombay Command also, sentries had rifles worth stealing, they would go further afield still. As it is, they will leave sentries alone for two reasons: firstly because a smooth-bore is not worth stealing and secondly, because the risk of being hit by buckshot is greater than that run when a single bullet is fired. All that is wanted now to defeat the thieves is a good arms rack for barracks and camps, and this is likely to be forthcoming shortly.

A PARAGRAPH, PURPORTING TO BE ON THE authority of the *Turkistan Gazette*, has recently been going the rounds of the English and continental papers, to the effect that Russia has obtained a concession in connection with the recent Persian loan, for the construction of a line of railway from Juba, on the Arras, via Tabriz and Hamadan, to Bandar Abbas on the Persian Gulf. It was further stated that work had been already commenced on the line, which was to be completed by 1903. The *Turkistan Gazette*, being a semi-official organ, and moreover a very moderate and reliable journal, its statement naturally excited considerable attention and credence. In a recent issue, however, it somewhat indignantly explains the manner in which the mistake arose. It seems that the *Trans-Caspian Review* reprinted the article in question from a German paper, duly acknowledging it. The *Turkistan Gazette* then copied the article, giving the authority. A St. Petersburg correspondent reading it casually, and overlooking the acknowledgment of the source from which it was drawn, promptly sent it to a continental paper as of the authority of the unfortunate *Turkistan Gazette*.

AT A TIME WHEN SO MANY OF THE TROOPS IN India have been despatched to distant fields or are on the point of starting, it is not irrelevant to take a backward glance at the tribal country beyond the Malakhand which in 1895 and 1897, and again at the close of 1898, commanded so much attention. Happily Surat, Boner, Dir, Bajour and Chitral are in a peaceful state: they are not simply declared to be so officially, but they are actually in that condition. The Mad Fakir is no longer heard of, and if he is still in the flesh, he is lying very low indeed. So with that arch-conspirator, the Hadda Mullah: he has apparently kept his word as to severing his connexion with mundane affairs, and the death of his patron, General Gholam Hyder, Commander-in-Chief in North-Eastern Afghanistan, doubtless has confirmed him in his intentions not to stir up strife again in Bajour. The annual Relief of the Chitral garrison, now reduced to 2 guns of a mountain battery, 1 company of Sappers, and a solitary battalion of Native Infantry, causes no anxiety to the military authorities. The autumn has been found to be the best time for the movement, as the Lowarai Pass between Dir and Killa Doshi is then free from snow and the road is in fair condition. The Beliefs which have just been published show that the only precaution that will be taken will be to move the 36th Sikhs from Rawalpindi to Dir, temporarily. They will march up with the 42nd Gurkhas, No. 5 Company of Beazai Sappers and a section of the Peshawar Mountain Battery, half at Dir, and then return with the troops relieved. By the time that the autumn comes round the railway from the Kabul River at Nowshera to Dargai at the foot of the Malakhand should be open for traffic, and the troops can thus be railed along this section of the route. The best sign of the country to be traversed is peaceful is the great increase in trade with India to which we lately drew attention. With over 11 lakhs worth of goods changing hands in the year, the people must obviously have put their fanaticism into the background; but still—they buy rifles when they can get them.

THERE IS THE SAME DIFFICULTY TO-DAY AS there has been previously in reconciling the telegrams from the Far East. On the one hand the American Admiral reports that Admiral Seymour has relieved Peking and is returning with the Foreign Ministers, having entrenched himself at Peitsang. Reuter and the Russian Admiral, telegraphing somewhat later, say that Admiral Seymour has been relieved and is returning to Tientsin. So far there is no difficulty about the messages; but the further news, supplied by Reuter directly contradicts the American Admiral's report, and is so circumstantial that it is impossible to believe there is no truth in it. We are told in this message that Admiral Seymour failed to establish communication with Peking, that his force suffered severely and has returned, that a Russian Colonel, with an international force of 10,000 men, is supposed to be proceeding to Peking, and that his way is blocked by from 40,000 to 60,000 Chinese troops. Latest of all comes the news that Admiral Seymour has arrived at Tientsin, but the Peking Legations are not mentioned, though they assuredly would have been had they been with him. Again the statement of the Viceroy of Nanking that the Legations were safe on the 25th, cannot be reconciled with their presence in Admiral Seymour's force. In fact, despite the repeated reports of his arrival at Peking, there is little reason to suppose that Admiral Seymour ever got near enough to communicate with the foreigners beleaguered in the capital. Ever since the foreign guards arrived at Peking early in the month, there have been continual reports that large Chinese forces were prepared to resist the passage of further troops to Peking. Even supposing Admiral Seymour was only opposed by the smaller number now said to be guarding Peking—40,000—it is very improbable that his force, 2,000 at the outside, would be able to break through, open the gates of the capital, guarded as they are by heavy artillery, and return with a large convoy of men, women and children, and an addition of only about 300 to his fighting strength. Admiral Seymour's attempt to rescue the foreigners at Peking was gallant enough to rank high even in the records of the distinguished services to which he belongs, but there appears to be little doubt that it was a forlorn hope. Now that larger forces are available, we may hope for better success, but the situation of the foreigners at Peking must by this time be exceedingly precarious.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE CHINA EXPEDITION.

SIMLA, 28th JUNE.

In order that the regiments of the force may become accustomed to the 303 rifle, it has been arranged to serve out fifty rounds per rifle for practice during the voyage to Hongkong.

CALCUTTA, 29th JUNE.

The transport Rajmoola sails from the Kidderpur Docks this afternoon with the remaining wing of the 7th Bengal Infantry, consisting of 21 native officers, 729 rank and file, 261 followers, 15 horses, 16 ponies, 102 mules, two sections No. 43 Native Field Hospital.

The next transport to sail will be the Inda, with the 12th Field Battery, consisting of seven British Officers, 175 British rank and file, 35 native rank and file, 214 followers, 139 horses, 14 ponies, 86 mules, the ammunition column, and B. Section No. 22 British Field Hospital.

General Gascolec and staff will sail in the Zebungla on Monday next. This transport will also carry the surveyors, printing and photographic sections, the Bombay telegraph and railway sections, the engineer field park and signalling units, a section of No. 25 British Field Hospital, the native military base depot, the Brigade Supply Column, 36 British Officers, 65 British rank and file, 43 native rank and file, 366 followers, 74 horses, 41 ponies and 96 mules.

A Maxim gun will be issued at Fort William to each infantry regiment proceeding to China, but as none of these regiments have had much practice with this arm detachments will be formed and trained on board the transports while at sea. For this reason 1100 rounds of ammunition per Maxim gun will be issued and used during the voyage to Hongkong.

The following officers proceeding with the force arrived in Calcutta yesterday:—General Gascolec, General Barrow, Major Scott Moncrieff, Captains F. Jermyn, J. A. G. Rainsford and C. N. Baker.

Lieutenant Colonel Spence, I.M.S., took over charge of the hospital of the 7th Bengal Infantry from Captain Walton, I.M.S., yesterday.

Captain E. C. Hayes, R.A.M.C., is attached to the station hospital, Calcutta, and will act as special sanitary officer for the various camps of the troops of the force as a temporary measure.

BOMBAY, 28th JUNE.

The transports already engaged to convey troops from Bombay to Hongkong are eight in number. These are the P. and O. ss. Balavat and Carthage, the B. I. Duke of Portland, Virava, Savada, Isabela and Upeha, and the R. I. M. Cassing, sailing between the 5th and 15th of July.

POONA, 28th JUNE.

Captain Pictou and Lieutenant Boileau, Royal Engineers, proceed to China from Poona. The 33rd Hospital Corps is mobilising Poona, and the 28th Bombay Pioneers have received orders to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to China.

BANGALORE, 28th JUNE.

Captain F. C. Rainpi, Assistant to the Chief Commissariat Officer, Bangalore, has been ordered to proceed with the Madras Pioneers and Sappers and Miners for service in China. About 282 mules, No. 1 Transport Corps of the Bangalore Commissariat Department are being despatched with the regiments from here. No. 63 Native Field Hospital is being fully equipped by the local Commissariat Department for despatch at the earliest opportunity. Its strength is one Sergeant, and about 130 bearers of the ambulance establishment. Sergeant Colquhoun, Commissariat Department, proceeds in charge of the party.

Major Youngerman, I.M.S., 2nd Madras Lancers, Lieutenant Williams, I.M.S., 25th Madras Infantry are ordered to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to China.

PUBLIC WORKS POSTINGS.

SIMLA, 28th JUNE.

Mr. Jacob, Traffic Superintendent, North-Western Railway, to officiate as Manager during the absence of Mr. Finlay on privilege leave.

Mr. Bischoff to officiate as Traffic Superintendent, in Class I, grade 1.

Mr. Stanley, District Traffic Superintendent, North-Western Railway, to officiate as Deputy Traffic Superintendent, in Class I.

Mr. Pope, Traffic Superintendent, Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, to officiate as Manager of that railway in addition to his own duties during the absence of Colonel Wilson on privilege leave.

Mr. Dease, Executive Engineer, State Railways, is permitted to retire.

Mr. W. D. Barrow to officiate as Consulting Engineer to the Government of India for Railways, Assam.

Mr. Taylor, Assistant Manager, North-Western Railway, is appointed to officiate as Deputy Manager of that railway during the absence of Major Browne on privilege leave.

Mr. Burn, to officiate as Accountant-General and Deputy Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, vice Becher.

Major Waller to officiate as Deputy Accountant-General, and Under Secretary to the Government in the Public Works Department, vice Burn.

WESTERN PRESIDENCY.

BOMBAY, 28th JUNE.

Mr. Justice Candy is proceeding on leave shortly. His post will be occupied by Mr. Batty, legal Remembrancer.

The Presidency Sanitary Board has been reconstituted, the Surgeon-General presiding, and the Sanitary Commissioner and Sanitary Engineer being members. Formerly the last two only constituted the Board.

POONA, 28th JUNE.

His Excellency Lord Northcote held his first levee at Poona this evening, which was largely attended. Her Excellency Lady Northcote, who was accompanied by Miss Macleod and Miss Beresford Hope, occupied seats in the ladies' gallery. His Excellency Lord Northcote arrived at 4.30 accompanied by the Private Secretary and the Hon'ble Mr. Greville A.D.O., and was preceded by a carriage containing Captains Greig and Wood and Major Croly, R.A.M.C. The Governor was received by a guard of honour of 100 of the Poona Volunteers under Captain Armstrong with the band and colour. His Excellency proceeded to the Durbar hall, where the levee was held. The ceremony concluded about 5.30. The galleries were filled with an assemblage of ladies, the whole function being brief but brilliant.

THE DECCAN.

SECUNDERABAD, 28th JUNE.

The native mercantile community is in a flutter of excitement over the detection by Mr. O'Grady, District Superintendent of Police of what appears to have been a very extensive and lucrative business, carried on uninterruptedly for a good many years past, by certain native merchants in Secunderabad, who have now been found in possession of gold bars alleged to bear a colourable imitation of the trade mark on the gold bars imported by the National Bank of India and the Agra Bank. The gold imported by these banks is of superior quality, with a great reputation among local natives but the inferior bullion bearing their trade mark on moulded blocks appears to have been sold in large quantities to an unsuspecting public. The account-books of two wealthy shroffs and some moulds have been seized by the police. To assist in the investigations now being pushed forward by Mr. O'Grady the National Bank has entrusted Mr. Judge, a local solicitor, to prosecute the case vigorously, while the accused shroffs have retained a number of local pleaders.

SIND.

KARACHI, 28th JUNE.

The 19th Bombay Infantry is instructed to be in readiness to proceed to Quetta District in relief of the regiments proceeding to China.

THE WEATHER.

POONA, 28th JUNE.

Little rain has fallen in Poona though heavy clouds prevail. In the outlying districts of Poona good rain has fallen.

BOMBAY, 28th JUNE.

Although the wind is still variable the monsoon seems to have fairly set in. Rain commenced again last night and the total is now over fifteen inches, only six behind the corresponding period of last year. The cautionary flag signal of disturbances at sea has been lowered, the cyclone being no longer feared.

The Meteorological Reporter says the weather continues favourable for rain along the coast from Cochin to Bombay, but more particularly to the south of Ratnagiri to Mangalore, here moderate to heavy rain is still expected. A few local scattered showers are likely in Behar, the Central Provinces, and inland stations in the Bombay Presidency, and at the most northerly stations in the Madras Presidency, the weather is becoming slightly favourable for rain to the north of Bombay up to Surat.

THE PLAGUE.

BOMBAY, 28th JUNE.

To-day's plague figures show 20 cases and eight deaths. Cholera shows nine cases and 13 deaths. The mortality from all causes is 113. The week's total is 1,048, equivalent to an annual death rate of 64.10 per thousand.

MILITARY NOTES.

Lieutenant Howell, 5th Punjab Cavalry, and Lieutenant Clementi, 6th Punjab Infantry, are about to be appointed Squadron Officers in the Corps of Guides.

Captain Turner, Suffolk Regiment, officiates as Staff Captain, Intelligence Department, Simla vice Captain Norrie, proceeding on Field Service.

Captain C. W. Somerset, 12th Bengal Infantry, officiates as Garrison Quarter-Master, Fort William, vice Captain Drake-Brockman.

SUIT FOR THE RESTITUTION OF CONJUGAL RIGHTS.

BABU Jogendra Nath Ray, the Additional Subordinate Judge, at Alipore, recently delivered judgment in a case of restitution of conjugal rights. This suit was instituted by Prince Feridoun Jah, grandson of the late ex-King of Oudh, against Princess Soroor Jhigar Begum, the youngest daughter of the late Prince Sir Jehan Kedar Bahadur, nephew and son-in-law of the late ex-King, and against Prince Mokim, another grandson of the late ex-King and husband of another daughter of Prince Sir Jehan Kedar. The lady Soroor Jhigar Begum is admittedly the wife of the plaintiff, having been married to him in February, 1891, during the lifetime of her father. After the death of Sir Jehan Kedar, the lady refused to live with her husband in his house, and, according to the plaintiff, she did this at the instigation and under the advice of her brother-in-law, Prince Mokim. Mr. Garth, who appeared for the defendant, Princess, set up an ikarnama or agreement which Prince Sir Jehan Kedar had obtained from the plaintiff, whereby the plaintiff had bound himself not to obstruct or interfere with his wife's residing at her father's and sister's house at her pleasure and further not to marry again without the consent of the Princess. The contention of the learned counsel upon this agreement was that the lady was entitled to reside at her father's house as she was doing not only by reason of the residential clause of the agreement, but also because the plaintiff had taken another woman to wife without the consent of the Princess. He further charged the plaintiff with cruelty, neglect and misbehaviour and objected that the plaintiff's residence was not suitable for the habitation of a Mahomedan lady of her high rank; and lastly, Mr. Garth contended that non-payment of the lady's dower was a bar to the maintenance of the suit or at any rate was ground for making the decree conditional upon the payment of the dower. Babu Bhogoban Chunder Mukerjee on behalf of the plaintiff urged that the agreement was void as being the act of a Mahomedan, minor and being without any legal consideration; that the stipulations as to the residence and restraint of marriage were opposed to the policy of the Mahomedan law; and that in any case the argument must be held to have been obtained under coercion and, therefore, of no effect. He further contended that the agreement was a post-nuptial arrangement, the ostensible consideration for which was only a father-in-law's affection, and that the facts alleged did not amount to a charge of cruelty. The Judge gave effect to the contention on behalf of the plaintiff and decreed the suit as against both defendants with costs. The Judge came to no finding on the question of the amount of dower, alleged to be 25 lakhs of rupees, and whether any portion of it was payable to the lady or not.

THE NIZAM'S RAILWAY.—The Report of the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways for the second half of last year is now issued, and shows encouraging increases in both gross and net earnings. The gross revenue has grown from Rs. 19,35,907 to Rs. 23,50,511, and the net revenue from Rs. 11,01,553 to Rs. 14,91,062, making the net earnings in sterling, 690,775. Adding this to the net earnings of the first half-year, and deducting the payments to the Indian Government on account of the Bezwada extension, and making provision, also, for the interest and sinking fund of the debentures, the net return to the capital of the Company for the whole year is 5.31 per cent.

INDIAN STRETCHER-BEARERS' FUND.—Among the more recent subscribers to the Indian Stretcher Bearer's Fund is the Baroness Burdett Coutts, who writes to the Globe:—"I observe in your journal that you are raising a fund for the benefit of the Indian stretcher-bearers who are rendering the soldiers left on the battle-field such cheerful and valuable aid in forlorn hours of anguish and pain. I am pleased to enclose £10 to your fund, per cheque on Messrs. Coutts. I have long wished to send aid to comfort and solace them, but I have hitherto failed to find any means of sending to these devoted Indians what would benefit them, their case and position being so widely different from all other camp followers and helpers."

PRESERVATION OF MANGOES.—Mr. A. C. Bolt, of Kissingunj, writes to Indian Gardening:—"I wonder the practice commonly practised in India is apparently not adopted, when despatching mangoes to Europe. In India the fruit is kept for months, sometimes as long as six or eight months. I believe the fruit is plucked before it becomes ripe and the stalks immediately sealed with sealing wax. This is the secret which enables one to purchase mangoes in India months after they would, under ordinary circumstances, be procurable. I have myself received the fruit six months after the date on which it was originally taken from the tree. I wonder if this plan could be applied to other fruit? I am not sure if the above procedure is applicable to all mangoes or only to certain varieties. Perhaps some of your readers will enlighten me."

A RELIGIOUS CHALLENGE.

The Bishop of Lahore has returned the following answer to the Mahomedans who sent him an invitation to meet Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian in a controversy:—

HARVINGTON, SIMLA, 12th JUNE, 1900.

DEAR SIR,—I have received a printed letter, signed by yourself and a number of other gentlemen, asking me to appoint a time and place for a public discussion with Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, on certain tenets of Christianity and Islam. I am sorry that I cannot accept the proposal which you make, and this chiefly for the following reasons:—

(1) I decline to meet Mirza Ghulam Ahmad in any such friendly relationship as the discussion which you propose would involve. The Mirza Sahib, in venturing to call himself the Messiah, assumes with no shadow of authority that name by which we Christians are called, and which we regard with profoundest reverence, and offers in my opinion a most grievous insult and dishonour to Him Whom I worship as my Lord and Master how then can I possibly consent to meet him in a friendly way?

(2) You refer in your letter to my own desire in all controversy to conduct it with entire courtesy and with respect for the feelings of those with whom in matters of belief I am compelled to differ. I can honestly say that it always has been my sincere wish to conform to this rule, and to utter nothing which could legitimately hurt the feelings of those who hold views differing from my own. When, however, I read what the Mirza Sahib has from time to time written on the subject of the Christian Faith, and see with what bitterness and scurrility he refers to incidents in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ as narrated in the four Gospels which we Christians receive and reverence as part of God's Holy Word, I can only draw the conclusion that he does not set before himself the same standard of courtesy and respect for the feelings of an opponent in controversy, as that at which I have always aimed. On this ground therefore again I am not willing to meet him on a common platform.

(3) The Mirza Sahib may as you assure me, have a considerable number of followers, but no one can deny that his claim to be the Messiah is entirely rejected and indeed treated with ridicule and contempt by an overwhelming majority of Mahomedans in this Province; therefore while I, however unworthy I may personally be, am in some sense truly representative of the Christian community by virtue of the office which I hold, the Mirza is not, in any sense whatever, representative of the Mahomedan community. Why then should I consent to meet him on an equal platform?

(4) It is necessary to remember that, since my appointment as Bishop of this Diocese, my primary work must necessarily be that of attending to the wants of the Christian Church, and doing my utmost to strengthen it and build it up from within in the true faith of God, and in his honest service, and that consequently the work of a simple evangelist (i.e., of one who devotes his time to preaching, and in various methods striving to bring to a belief in the Christian faith those who are at present outside of it) can only occupy a secondary place in my time and thoughts. It is indeed a work of which I am greatly attached, and in which I engage with much pleasure, but when God has called me to serve Him in another way, I must obey His voice. I cannot therefore in any case give up from my primary work the amount of time which you desire for the purpose of controversy of this kind.

(5) Lastly I think it very important to emphasise a great difference of standpoint between yourself and me as regards the possible results to be obtained from such religious controversy. In your letter you express your desire that "on the result of the investigation we should bow submission to the holy prophet who transcends the whole world in the purity of heart, excellence, Divine power, and moral rectitude." In other words you consider it possible to ascertain the path of true religion and prove conclusively the superiority of one religion over another by purely intellectual controversy. I believe that this view is fundamentally wrong and contrary to the teaching of God's Holy Word, and that its prevalence in the minds of many in this country is doing enormous injury. I cannot therefore consent to give countenance or support to it by any action of mine. We believe that religion appeals not to the reason only but to the whole of man, his will, his feelings, his moral desires, his capacity of faith, in short to his heart as well as to his head. In the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ the knowledge of God and of His true Faith is connected not so much with acuteness of intellect as with purity of heart and humble obedience to Him in the actions of life. Thus on one occasion Christ says: "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God" (St. Matthew, v. 8). And again in another place, which is, I think, of immense importance in this connection, He says: "If any man willeth to do His will (that is, God's will) he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself" (St. John vii. 17). My own firm belief, is that no man can be brought to a living knowledge of the true God except by the help of His Holy Spirit, and that such help is given as I have already indicated, to the pure in heart and to those men of acute intellect, who are best able to sustain well a part in religious controversy. It is quite true that I do think it very desirable for the members of the two faiths, Christian and Mahomedan, to come to know each other, and to understand each other's beliefs much better than has been the case hitherto. This is why I am myself glad on the one hand, at time to study those who write of your faith which may be tenable to me to understand its true contents and doctrine; and on the other to give lectures, such as the one recently delivered in Lahore, thereby affording an opportunity for questions to be asked by which those who are present may perhaps come to a truer and clearer understanding of the doctrines of one Faith than they previously possessed. But this, I think you will see, is very different from joining in a controversy the possible result of which is to be the acceptance by those who take part in it, of that religion, the claims of which to be divine should seem all such a thing to have been most convincingly demonstrated. It is not therefore possible for me at any time to engage in a discussion on this condition. Although this letter is not in print it is always open to you to have it printed, or to take such use of it as you deem desirable. I am sure that I am dealing with Mahomedans as honestly and fairly, therefore if printed at all, it will be printed entirely and without any variation, being to remain, Sir, your most obedient servant, and so forth, I thank you.

IN order to prevent the horses of the 12th Field Battery from suffering from the heat of the route through the plains to Ghazipur, arrangements have been made for three halts on the way, the horses being taken out of the carriage each, spending the heat of the day in cool stables, and continuing the journey at night. An officer of the Veterinary Department accompanied them as far as Calcutta to supervise these arrangements.