

and by the improved market in London. Ah recent Colombo sales the market has been firm and active throughout, fine teas have advanced strongly also good mediums while all other kinds are very steady broken grades being especially favoured. The quality of the offerings in the island is showing improvement and the selections are now very fair. The small amount of green tea which goes to auction at Colombo is fetching an equal average with black. The Ceylon crop is much smaller this year, but the deficit has taken effect entirely upon London actually more tea out of the smaller total having been shipped to outside markets thus reducing London supplies by more than the deficit in production.

#### IF INDIANS TAKE TO TEA DRINKING.

An important element in the future prosperity of India tea is gradually growing into shape. If the great population of India ever take seriously to tea drinking their power of absorption would create a huge local market for our produce. It is now becoming apparent that tea is being used in the country in increasing quantities. To take certain quantities first, Messrs. Carrut Moran Co., in their review for 1909-10 say, "Allowance must be made for a considerable quantity of tea which is absorbed from the Calcutta auctions for the requirements of India herself and it is estimated that fully 54 million lbs. have been consumed in this manner; of the 70½ millions which have passed the hammer in Calcutta only 65½ are shown in the figures supplied by the Port authorities as having been exported." This amount has therefore certainly been consumed in India itself, but it does not by any means represent the full amount that has been consumed here for there are other channels through which tea reaches the people. The Department of Commercial Intelligence from a rough calculation on the estimated production and the known exports which leaves about 18,000,000 lbs. of tea altogether as having been consumed in India. This figure is necessarily uncertain, but it demonstrates that the consumption of tea in India has reached very respectable proportions and that India as a customer is now only second to our most important market outside the United Kingdom, Russia, and far and away a better customer than Australia which is generally supposed to be second on the list.

#### IMPORTS OF FOREIGN TEA INTO INDIA.

To the above must be added the amount of foreign tea which is imported into India from China and Ceylon which last year totalled 6½ million pounds. Of this a proportion was re-exported leaving nearly 6 millions in India. There is no reason why this trade should not be supplied with Indian instead of foreign tea, of course if the Indian Government imposed a heavy duty in Ceylon tea as the Ceylon Government does upon Indian tea, Indian tea would displace that amount of Ceylon tea at once, but even without this Indian tea aided by the small 5 per cent., ad valorem duty ought to hold its own in India itself. The total figures of Indian and foreign tea absorbed in India should make this country quite an important factor in producer's estimation as making all allowances the quantity consumed here cannot be far off 20,000,000 lbs., and as the small European population cannot account for so large a consumption there can be no doubt that tea is becoming more and more acceptable to the populace.

#### VICTORIA MEMORIAL.

##### PRESIDENCY JAIL REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT.

Rumours have been current in Calcutta that work on the Victoria Memorial is to be stopped because the site of the Presidency Jail is no longer available for the purposes of the Memorial. The Government of Bengal, we understand, have informed the Committee that the jail site is no longer available, but this need not interfere in any way with the progress of the building work as the site on which the jail stands was intended for use as a garden attached to the Memorial institution. Certainly the contractors, Messrs. Martin and Co., have received no notice to suspend operations and the scheme for water supply to the Memorial Hall, which has only just been passed by the Government, is to be carried into effect forthwith. It will be seen, therefore, that the Government have no intention of impeding the building work.

For the present it would seem the authorities require the Presidency Jail for the accommodation of prisoners, the newly built jail not being sufficient. A proposal is under consideration to build another large jail out side Calcutta, and the probability is that until further accommodation for prisoners is available the Government do not wish to have the Presidency Jail demolished.

#### STRIKE ON THE B.-N.-R.

##### GRIEVANCES OF THE NATIVE LOCO STAFF.

##### ALLEGED OVERWORK AND INADEQUATE PAY.

A strike is reported to have occurred on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway among the native loco staff since Monday morning.

The strikers made a petition to Mr. Watkins, Loco Superintendent to the effect that they had been overworked and that no consideration had been made regarding their pay. Formerly they had to work trains to and from Adra and Kharagore but now they have to run to and from Adra and Shalimar.

Mr. Watkins, it appears, promised them an increase but no arrangement having been made they informed Mr. Blake, District Superintendent, by wire early on Monday morning and went on a strike. The strikers were sent for but they refused to return to work until and unless their pay was considered and an increment granted. All of the strikers collected at Adra and refused to yield until their grievances were redressed.

Matters came to such a pitch that the services of the police had to be requisitioned. Four of the strikers were arrested and were taken to the thana, the rest who had formed themselves into a mob, however, dispersed. Being interrogated, they mentioned four native firemen as the ringleaders, who were summarily dismissed and their pay forfeited.

As the attitude of the rest of the strikers was not favourable, the services of the loco staff from Asansole side had to be obtained and European firemen worked the goods trains. Every possible action was taken against a breach of the peace which was at one time, apprehended.

The four men who were taken into police custody were released and some of the strikers returned to work unconditionally yesterday morning.

A departmental enquiry is proceeding in the matter and the police are on the alert ready for an emergency.

#### JUTE MILL STRIKE ENDED.

It will be remembered that some five hundred weavers and spinners of the Clive Jute Mills at Matiabruz struck work for some time owing to grievances already reported. Mr. Ferdinand, the Divisional Inspector, made a thorough enquiry into the case, and came to the conclusion that the alleged grievances had no foundation whatsoever, and that the Assistant Manager and the Babu were not to be blamed. He however restored confidence among the men and persuaded them to join work. All the strikers resumed work on Monday.

#### DEATH OF MRS. SWINDON.

##### AN EXAMPLE OF SYMPATHY.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Jamtara, Aug. 24.

Never did the King say a truer word than when, on his return to England, after his great Indian tour as the Prince of Wales, he told the people that the one thing needed to solve all the problems of the European in India was sympathy. Never was this sympathy more beautifully illustrated than in the small up-country station of Jamtara last Sunday afternoon, on the death of Mrs. Swindon, the wife of Mr. C. H. Swindon, who on and off, since the year 1874, has been a Magistrate in this District. Mrs. Swindon had been a great sufferer for the last five years. The Christian patience and resignation she had shown have been an inspiration to all who have been privileged to come in contact with her. Some two years ago, Mrs. Swindon went under the treatment of a specialist in London, but all to no avail. The end came peacefully at the last. The funeral at the little Mission Cemetery was a scene so solemn and impressive that none who were present are likely to forget it. In the unavoidable absence of the Rev. A. H. Bowman, the oldest friend of the family who arrived too late through the non-delivery of a telegram, the service was conducted by the Rev. W. Hearn. No one thought of inviting Hindus and Mohammedans to a Christian funeral; but all were there. The Raja of Jamtara and his brother followed the procession. One of the leading Indian gentlemen, holding a high position, begged to be allowed to put his shoulder to the coffin; though being a high caste Hindu it was at the risk of caste prejudices. Old men burst into tears. Many salaamed the coffin reverently and lovingly calling the departed "Mother." The boys of the High School walked bare-foot and bare-headed all the way in the blazing sun. It was the universal testimony that Jamtara had never seen such a sight.

#### Letters to the Editor.

##### GAME PROTECTION.

##### ASSOCIATION FORMED IN DARRANG, ASSAM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "ENGLISHMAN."

Sir,—A very representative meeting was held in the Tezpur "Clummetry," on the 18th inst., with the object of forming an Association for the protection and preservation of big game, birds and fish, in the above district, as if the present state of affairs continues, their extinction in a few years is inevitable. The number attending the meeting (about twenty) at this busy season of the year is a strong indication of the interest and importance attached to the matter, and a hope was expressed that Government would regard it in the same light, and lend sympathetic assistance in attaining the desired objects.

Amongst those present at the meeting were Mr. A. V. Munro, Conservator Forests, E. B. and A.; Major Halliday, D.C., Mr. D. P. Copeland, D.C., Forests; Mr. A. R. Giles, D.S.P., Mr. A. Milroy, Assistant Conservator, Forests; and Major Wood, I.M.S., by proxy. Besides these the following attended:—Messrs. Barker, P. Briscoe, W. Briscoe, Byrne, Felce, Grey, Hick, Lloyd, Moore, Wilde, etc.

Major Halliday was voted to the chair, and Mr. Milroy put the object and aims of the intended Association very lucidly and logically before the meeting. It has been mainly due to this gentleman's efforts, that the matter has taken concrete form, and he deserves the thanks of all those interested for the trouble he has been to, to make the meeting a success.

Mr. Munro and Mr. Copeland showed great sympathy with the objects of the meeting, and promised their valued aid in furthering the scheme and placing the matter before Government in a favourable light, and as meriting unstinted assistance.

It was finally decided to form an Association with the object already indicated, and the following Committee was elected:—President: Major Halliday, I.A., Deputy Commissioner; Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. F. Milroy, Assistant Conservator of Forests Tezpur District; Messrs. Felce, Hick and Wilde; Bishnath District: Messrs. Davidson and Lawes, Manguaidi District: Messrs. Bruce and Bridge.

Mr. Copeland made some very practical and useful suggestions, which should be kept in view by the Committee in framing rules and regulations, etc., i.e., that a close season should be recognised and strictly adhered to; that Nepalese buffalo grazing grounds should be demarcated, and the animals confined strictly to such areas, instead of being allowed to roam all over the country to evade grazing dues. The Nepalese, who troop down from Nepal, in their myriads are not British subjects, and bring nothing with them, except a frowsy blanket and a rusty "Kukree" but they return to the "Arcadian" delights of their native clime, with wealth, derived from the sale of diluted buffalo milk, and the composition called "ghee." These unwelcome visitors cause no end of damage. They snare birds, trap and shoot anything they can, and are a fruitful cause of the extinction of game. They pay a very nominal tax of eight annas a head annually for their buffalo, but it is practically impossible to collect the revenue. These people are highly objectionable in many other respects but enough has been said to show that their removal is more desirable than their company, and that their incursions should be discouraged.

It is rather to be regretted that the composition of the working committee is not more cosmopolitan, and it would be better leavened by a stream of officialdom. One member for each of the outlying districts would have been ample, as it is most unlikely a quorum can be formed for transaction of business with only three working members of Committee available at headquarters. There are two keen sportsmen (officials) in Tezpur, who go about the various districts touring, and know and see more than planters confined to their own limited locality. This, however, will probably be eventually remedied, if the scheme makes any headway. Should it do so, no doubt other districts will follow suit, and the preservation of game in Assam will be assured.

"AN OLD SHIKARI."

#### Local Intelligence.

**AN EXEMPLARY PUNISHMENT.**—Mr. Salam, Third Presidency Magistrate, disposed of a case, on Friday, in which Court Inspector and Constable, changed, three coolies with criminal breach of trust in respect of 12 annas given to them to purchase straw. The Magistrate sentenced the accused to three months' rigorous imprisonment each, and a fine of Rs. 2.

**Motor Car Accident.**—On Friday morning, while Rai Heera Lal Basu, Bahadur was being driven along Dufferin Road in a motor car, a coolie in attempting to cross in front of the car, was knocked down and injured. The car was immediately stopped and assistance rendered to the injured coolie who was removed to the hospital where his injuries were attended to and he was discharged.

**Strange Death of a Bengali Girl.**—It is reported that a Bengali girl, named Satyabala Dasi, aged about 16 years, had quarrel with her parents with whom she was living in Durga Charan Mitter's Street over some domestic affair on Friday. On the same evening she was found hanging from the roof in a room in the servant's godown. The Police were informed and the body was removed to the morgue for a Coroner's inquest.

**MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF A COOLEY.**—An Oriya coolie working on the steamer "Workman," lying at the Kidderpore Docks on Thursday, suddenly got a fit of coughing and dropped down dead. The body was removed to the morgue, where a post mortem examination was held by the Police Surgeon, who was unable to ascertain the cause of death. The contents of the stomach have been forwarded to the Government Chemical Examiner for analysis. The case has been reported to the Coroner for an inquest.

**OBITUARY.**—The death of Babu Nanda Prasad Surma, Sub-Deputy Magistrate of Sivan (Saran), on leave, took place, at Arrah on the 17th instant. He was a young man of about 29 years of age. He entered the Registration department as probationer in 1906 and was appointed as Sub-Deputy Collector in 1908 in recognition of the good and valuable services rendered by his father Babu Jagdam Sahai, Deputy Collector and Deputy Magistrate, who retired only on the 13th of April last.

Death of a Telegraph Official.—Intimation was received on Saturday of the death in England of Mr. A. W. Ford, late Director of telegraphs, Punjab Circle. The Calcutta Telegraph Office Staff on receipt of the sad news sent the following telegram to the Director-General Telegraphs, Simla:—"Respectfully beg tender our condolence at loss you and service have suffered by death of Mr. Ford. Beg you kindly convey same to Mrs. Ford and deceased officer's bereaved family-Staff." Mr. Ford was much liked by the subordinate staff who found him always a kind and sympathetic officer.

**CALCUTTA MORTALITY.**—The total number of deaths registered during the week ending 20th August 1910, was 342 against 335 and 360 in the two preceding weeks, and lower than the corresponding week of last year by 62. There were 12 deaths from cholera, against 13 and 6 in the two preceding weeks; the number is lower than the average of the past quinquennium by 5. There were 12 deaths from plague, against 4 and 7 in the two preceding weeks. There was 1 death from small-pox during the week against nil in the previous week. There were 26 deaths from tetanus against 20 in the previous week. The mortality from fevers and bowel-complaints amounted to 74 and 36 respectively, against 92 and 33 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 21.9 per mille per annum, against 25.1 the mean of the last five years. Death-rates calculated on an estimated population of 1,000,000 was 17.6 per 1,000.

#### SIBPORE HIGHER CLASS ENGLISH SCHOOL.

##### PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

Mr. W. S. Hopkyns, I.C.S., Magistrate of Fowbar, performed the pleasant function of distributing prizes to the deserving students of the Sibpore Higher Class English School, on Saturday afternoon when the thirty-sixth annual general meeting of that institution was held at the school premises in Grand Trunk Road. There was a fair gathering of gentlemen from Calcutta, Sibpore and the neighbouring places which included Mr. Justice Chatterjee and Rai Kali Prosonno Mozumdar, Bahadur.

While presenting the prizes, Mr. Hopkyns encouraged each of the prize winners with suitable words. Then in briefly addressing the meeting he congratulated the school authorities on the steady progress of the school, and was glad to notice much discretion exercised in the matter of sending up boys for examination agreeably to the University regulation which ought to be regarded as a sign of progress. He then urged upon guardians and students alike the importance of punctuality in attendance of school going boys, and was much pleased to find the spacious hall provided for the purpose of opening a science class, and called upon the guardians to see that it was suitably equipped.

The Secretary in moving a vote of thanks to the chair briefly explained the results of the British rule in the country and stated that the Britishers had saved the people from oppression and tyranny of former rulers and alluded to the good-natured and merciful disposition of the Britisher Alfred the Wanderer, an account of whom formed a part of the recitation by the boys.

Mr. Justice Mukherjee who gave some valuable advice to the students urged upon them the importance of the practice of self-help and of keeping away from agitation of all kinds, saying that they were liable to be led astray as they did not have trained minds.