

CALCUTTA, OCT. 10, 1914.

THE LESSON FROM BUDGE-BUDGE.

THE REGRETTABLE RIOT AT BUDGE-BUDGE.

Budge should have a lesson of supreme value both to the representatives of the Government and the leaders of the people. It is clear that if the men who came back on board the "Komagata Maru" had any educated leaders among them, this riot would never have taken place. It is the work of pure ignorance and racial animosity. An educated man would have clearly seen the suicidal folly of outrages of the kind into which the men so fatally rushed. He would have sufficient imagination to recognise and explain the consequences of such acts of criminal violence. It would not have been difficult to make him understand the real position in which the different parts of the British Empire stood, and which conceded to Canada an absolute right of determining what class and number of emigrants she shall or shall not admit into her territories. He would have understood, in any case as soon as the matter was properly explained to him, that these emigrants from India had no right to force themselves upon the Canadians, simply because they were members of the same Empire to which Canada belonged. And understanding all these things, he would have most assuredly tried his level best to explain the situation to the men, and induce them to make the best they could of a very bad job into which they had been drawn. But these men had no educated leaders to guide and counsel them. It is very doubtful, indeed, if they had ever any close and vital association with the larger national thoughts and ideals of their own country. Many of them, it is said, are retired sepoys, who had all their life lived in almost absolute isolation from their English-educated countrymen. They had no political ideals at all, but had evidently been lured into this expedition by the prospects of quickly getting rich in Canada. They had joined this expedition attracted by the temptations which Mr. Gurdit Singh apparently placed before them. This gentleman had never been known in Indian politics. He was not a known leader of the public life of his own Province. He must be a man of considerable education. But he never received his schooling in political ideals and methods in the public life of the country. In fact it need not be concealed, that this very obscurity in the field of Indian political life and activities, made it as all possible for him to organise this expedition without any interference from the authorities, and indeed, as it seems, even without their knowledge. This expedition was manifestly organised in

to London, to add to the grandeur of the pageants organised in connection with the Jubilee of the late Queen-Empress's reign, and, subsequently, during the Coronation, first of King Edward VII, and lastly, in 1911, during the Coronation of His Majesty King George V, all these had a tremendous influence not only upon the men who went out to foreign parts, but upon the different communities to which they belonged. One has indeed, to talk to the present generation of these Indian peasants, and compare their outlook upon life with that of their fathers, to see how the new heaven has been at work in the country. They do not come to our meetings. They do not subscribe to our newspapers. But still it is surprising how much they actually know of every idea and ideal, especially, in regard to politics that ferment in the minds of their educated countrymen. They cannot, of course, get a complete view of any problem. But the very imperfect notions they imbibe from the very air which they breathe, so to say, constitute the greatest danger of the present situation. What secret influences are at work in the country, among the Indian masses, have been revealed by this "Komagata Maru" Expedition. If the Indian official, who so frequently seeks to pose as the friend and protector of the people committed to his charge, had really been in the confidence of these men, these emigrants would never have left their homes upon an expedition like this, without consulting them. They would, at least, have known of their movements beforehand. But they knew absolutely nothing about it. No body outside the circle of the family and personal friends of the men knew anything of this expedition until the "Komagata Maru" went and anchored in Canadian waters. The thing is significant. The issues raised by it are very serious. They prove the increasing complexities and difficulties of the problems of Indian Administration. And the latest development of this unfortunate expedition shows beyond the least shadow of a doubt that these problems will never be solved except through the loyal and trustful co-operation with one another of the representatives of the Government and the educated leaders of the country. These latter must be given their legitimate place as leaders of their own uneducated countrymen, or left to themselves, the masses will go their own way, or be worked by foolish enthusiasts or unscrupulous adventurers, to the more or less serious injury of the body politic in India.

The Universities Bill.

RECENTLY, towards the end of July, or in the beginning of August, a question was asked in the House of Commons as to the proposed Universities Bill. We find that the Calcutta University has

been misled. With reference to the question, whether the Governor of Bengal should not be Chancellor of the Calcutta University, the reply given was that the Viceroy had to continue to be Chancellor so long as the University exercises jurisdiction over different provinces. This looks plausible but is wholly misleading. The Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces is Chancellor of the Allahabad University which exercises jurisdiction over U. P. and the Central Provinces. (The latter province has a separate administrative head.) The Governor of Bombay is Chancellor of the Bombay University which exercises jurisdiction over the Bombay Presidency and also over Sind. Again the Governor of Madras is Chancellor of the University of Madras which exercises jurisdiction over the Madras Presidency as also over Ceylon (the latter being, as is well-known, under a Colonial Governor). The reason invented for keeping the Viceroy as Chancellor of the Calcutta University is clever but thoroughly misleading; and is falsified by the analogies mentioned. This illustrates the danger of taking implicitly on trust whatever is cabled from Simla, and if bad mistakes are to be avoided, there should be a public enquiry by a representative commission as to the present condition of the Indian Universities, and the effect of the legislation of 1904, before the Government launches upon further legislation. As a matter of fact, it is too early yet to judge how far the legislation of 1904 has been successful; the only University which has made a real start is the Calcutta University, the others are still initiating reforms which they could not take in hand up to the present time on account of want of funds. The Act was passed in March 1904 and came into operation towards the end of the year. In Calcutta, the new Regulations were not promulgated till the latter part of 1906 and did not come into full operation till 1909 and 1910; it is too early yet to say what their ultimate effect would be. In the case of the other Universities, the progress has been much slower, and some of them completed their Regulations only within the last two years. Why is there this hurry to press on new legislation; the Education Department of the Government of India is now isolated at Simla or Delhi, and there is a real danger of the country being plunged into an angry agitation, if their crude theories are sought to be forced upon us at this time without a preliminary public enquiry.

The Bengal Volunteer Field Ambulance Corps.

ANXIOUS enquiries are being made as to the progress of the scheme of sending a Volunteer Medical Contingent to the front from Bengal, as nothing has been heard of it for some time. We ask

ply. Surely Mr. Chopra, the father of is entitled to a reply. We appeal to the Viceroy to the matter. If is illegally kept in prisonment the Government is liable to a suit for damages, however that may be, doubt, the interpretation should have the doubt.

MAINLY ABOUT

Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee to Madhupore. His proved by the change gross is somewhat slow mented a great deal by and decrepit Subordinate ing for extension of

Mr. S. P. Sinha is n ling. He is spending in maturing a compreh for raising a Bengalee service in the present w

Mr. B. C. Mitter, we ing the air cure of Jal of the water cure at Vic

Mr. C. C. Ghose, we is trying to add to his pishments by taking ri on a Bhutia pony.

We are sorry to hear L. Mitter, who is now does not care for the ph

Rai Bahadur Radha taking a rest cure at place Diamond Harbour

Mr. Provas Chandra learn, is making strenu Darjeeling to reduce frame.

Dr. Dwarkanath Mit returned to Calcutta fro congratulate the learned his excellent strategic m

Mr. A. N. Chandhuri, 'terrible' of the Bar Lib sent at Darjeeling. he is thrilling all Darje story of a mortal comba and a wild bear at Son

Mr. S. R. Das is spre day at Darjeeling. T him very well for he ha size of his chops.

We hear that Mr. N being mistaken for an Goorkha regiment, wa flowers by some admirin tors, at Darjeeling.

We are pleased to Rajendra Nath Mookerj ed to Calcutta, much health by the embracing Simultala.

ASSAULT IN SMALL COURT.

ASSAILANT GETS SE

The Bengalee Oct 10, 1914

into this expedition by the prospects of quickly getting rich in Canada. They had joined this expedition attracted by the temptations which Mr. Gurudit Singh apparently placed before them. This gentleman had never been known in Indian politics. He was not a known leader of the public life of his own Province. He must be a man of considerable education. But he never received his schooling in political ideals and methods in the public life of the country. In fact it need not be concealed, that this very obscurity in the field of Indian political life and activities, made it at all possible for him to organise this expedition without any interference from the authorities, and indeed, as it seems, even without their knowledge. This expedition was manifestly organised in secret. No body in India, outside the circle of the family and personal friends of the men who joined it, had any inkling of it. The Indian public, and we take it, the Indian Government also, first came to know of it when the "Komagata Maru" went and anchored in Canadian waters. And all this is responsible for whatever has now happened in connection with this unfortunate expedition.

The suspicion and distrust with which any close association between the English-educated classes and the general masses in India has been viewed by the official mind, especially in those districts from where the Indian sepoys are recruited, has left these ignorant people practically to their own devices, or to the devices of half-educated and ambitious men without any lofty idealism, or any large outlook upon either their own national future, or upon the general world movements of our day. The official mind has overlooked the inevitable fact that though the Indian masses might be segregated from the intelligent leadership of their educated countrymen, it is utterly impossible to protect them against the influence of those modern ideas and ideals which have put a new life into the inert masses of every Asiatic country. The intellectual segregation of the Sikh or the Gurkha or the Punjabee, or even the Afridi communities is an utter impossibility in our days, when members of these communities, drafted into the military units of the British Empire, have to be sent to different parts, not only of India, but of the larger world, in the pursuit of their soldierly duties. Foreign travel is a great eye-opener to men. Contact with the foreigner, whether as friend or foe, inevitably breeds new ideas in the minds of men. In fact, the very association of these sepoys with the British nation must inevitably create a new psychology in them. These men are bound, thus, to get some idea, at least, of the outside world, even in the course of their service as members of the King's Indian Army. The presence of the Indian Contingent in the Punjab, during the trouble with the Boers, the subsequent visits of detachments of our sepoys

these problems will never be solved except through the loyal and trustful co-operation with one another of the representatives of the Government and the educated leaders of the country. These latter must be given their legitimate place as leaders of their own uneducated countrymen; or left to themselves, the masses will go their own way, or be worked by foolish enthusiasts or unscrupulous adventurers, to the more or less serious injury of the body politic in India.

The Universities Bill.

RECENTLY, towards the end of July, or in the beginning of August, a question was asked in the House of Commons as to the proposed Universities Bill. We find that the Calcutta University has not been consulted, and so far as we have been able to make out on enquiry, none of the other Universities has been consulted. It seems also that the Provincial Governments have not been consulted. Lord Carmichael knows nothing about the proposed measure. As Governor of Bengal and as Rector of the Calcutta University which will be affected by the proposed measure, he should certainly have been consulted before the Bill was drafted. As regards the provisions of the bill, so far as information has leaked out, the object plainly is to restrict still further the very small measure of freedom enjoyed by the Indian Universities in the matter of their internal administration. Any step in this direction will call forth an agitation over all India, the strength and volume of which is not realized in Simla.

It is perfectly plain that if legislation is to be undertaken with regard to the Universities, it should be preceded by the appointment of a Universities Commission as was done in 1902. Public enquiry by a Commission consisting of Europeans and Indians, officials and non-officials and specially of ex-Vice-Chancellors of whom there are several in the country, would enable us to get at the real facts and to ascertain the lines on which fresh legislation if necessary should proceed. Besides, the Commission if properly constituted would inspire public confidence. We do not want the country to be plunged at present into agitation, there is no very great hurry about legislation in University matters; no proposed reform can be undertaken, much less carried out, without large grants, and no money is likely to be forthcoming for sometime to come. The Secretary of State should be moved to postpone the proposed legislation till there has been a full enquiry by a representative Commission; let him verify meanwhile whether it is true that the Universities have not been consulted and that even Lord Carmichael is not aware of the contents of the measure.

Besides the allegation that the Universities have been consulted, there is another point upon which the Secretary of State has, we fear,

case of the other Universities, the progress has been much slower, and some of them completed their Regulations only within the last two years. Why is there this hurry to press on new legislation; the Education Department of the Government of India is now isolated at Simla or Delhi, and there is a real danger of the country being plunged into an angry agitation, if their crude theories are sought to be forced upon us at this time without a preliminary public enquiry.

The Bengal Volunteer Field Ambulance Corps.

ANXIOUS enquiries are being made as to the progress of the scheme of sending a Volunteer Medical Contingent to the front from Bengal, as nothing has been heard of it for some time. We ask these enquirers not to be impatient. Negotiations are in progress to place the scheme on a perfectly satisfactory basis, very different from the hasty and crude shape that it had originally taken. A week ago a prolonged conference was held at the Brigade office in Fort William between Colonel Kirkpatrick, the A. D. M. S. of the Presidency Brigade on the one hand and Dr. S. P. Sarbadhikary, the President, Dr. M. Mitter, the Secretary of the Bengal Medical Association and Mr. B. K. Lahiri representing Messrs. Sinha and Chuckerbutty on the other. At this conference the practical details of a well-thought-out scheme to send the first unit of the Corps to the front were discussed and it was decided that if the first instalment of the Corps were a success other units materials for which are also available will be taken in hand. It is strongly hoped that the scheme which is in able and energetic hands will soon be entirely successful and that a great and pleasant surprise is awaiting the country at large in this connection marking a new era in our national history.

The case of a Political Prisoner.

HERE is a curious case of a political prisoner to which we desire respectfully to draw the attention of His Excellency the Viceroy. One Nand Gopal, one of the "Swaraj" Editors, was sentenced to transportation. He was prosecuted simultaneously at Lahore and at Allahabad and was sentenced to transportation of five years in each Province. Neither of the Courts specified the time when the sentence may commence. It is obvious that under the circumstances both the sentences must operate simultaneously and be concurrent. That seems to be a clear proposition of law. If this be the legal position, Nund Gopal should have been released long ago. But he is still detained in Karachi Jail to which place he was brought from Port Blair about two months ago. His father has twice addressed the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab on the subject, but has received no re-

sponse of a mortal combat between a man and a wild bear at Sonada.

Mr. S. R. Das is spending his holiday at Darjeeling. The place suits him very well for he has increased the size of his chops.

We hear that Mr. N. N. Sircar on being mistaken for an officer of a Goorkha regiment, was pelted with flowers by some admiring French visitors, at Darjeeling.

We are pleased to learn that Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee has returned to Calcutta, much improved in health by the embracing (?) climate of Simultala.

ASSAULT IN SMALL CAUSE COURT.

ASSAILANT GETS SIX MONTHS.

The case of assault in the Small Cause Court, in which Mr. Dey was savagely struck on the head with a ruler by one Abdul Salam was disposed of yesterday by the Third Presidency Magistrate.

The offence was aggravated by the fact that the parties were litigants in a civil suit and that the attack was absolutely unprovoked.

The chaprasi and other people who saw the assault in the corridor before the Third Judge's Court bore out the complainant.

The Magistrate convicted the accused and sentenced him to six months' rigorous imprisonment.

A MOST LAUDABLE DETERMINATION.

WATER SCARCITY IN BURDWAN AND BIRBHUM.

The "Pratihar" of Murshidabad understands that the District Board of Murshidabad with Babu Kuladiprosad Roy as Vice-Chairman has determined to end the great evil of water scarcity within twenty years. This year the District Board has granted twenty thousand rupees for this purpose. Already the district has been fortunate in this direction. The Bhagirathi flows through the district, Maharani Swarnamoyee erected waterworks in the town of Murshidabad and Raja Jogendra Narayan Roy Bahadur has given one lakh of rupees for the excavation of tanks and wells in the villages. But the conditions of the neighbouring districts of Burdwan and Birbhum are heart rending. There is none to look after the wants of the people of those districts though there are very rich Rajas and Zemindars there. Thousands die in Burdwan and Birbhum every year for want of good drinking water. A large number of villages have already been totally ruined in these districts for want of drinking water. In village Paikar (thana Murari, Birbhum) three hundred people died last year of malaria and those still existing are more than half dead. Very few of the villages in Burdwan have got any supply of drinking water at all and the villages are turning into jungles fast. The District Board and the Local Boards of Burdwan are as apathetic as ever.