

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

HOME

1908.

I

PUBLIC.
POLITICAL.

Part B.

Proceedings *April*

Nos. 76

SUBJECT.

Diary of Mr. Hughes Buller, District Magistrate of Backerganj,
for the month of February 1908.

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LETTERS, ETC.

PROGS.
NOS.

76

Letter from the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam,
no. 974-C., dated the 25th March 1908, forwarding the above.

Pub. *A.*, April 1908, no. 24
Poll.

PREVIOUS PROCEEDINGS.

LATER REFEPENCES.

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507c

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Public (Poll.) *April 08* *no*
BRANCH.

SUBJECT.

Many of Mr. Hughes. Buller, District Magistrate
Bachergany for the month of February 1908.

Pro no 76.

Letter from the Govt of E B & A No 974 c d by the 25 3

Submitted for information. D.C.I may see.

4/24

H. Altman
5.4 08

4/24

6.4

See

*Each Seat - with reference
to the District & the British India
distribution.*

D.C.I. n.o.

W.D. no 507c of 074/08

*5/30
6/4
6.4.08*

2

Seen and returned with many thanks.

Of the same kind

23/2/08

Home Department

C 9 D u/o 932 D/24-4-8

*My wife
686c*

[Notes in the Home Dept.]

Submitted. These papers may now be recorded.

$\frac{1}{25} \frac{1}{4}$

H. Althaus
25.6.08

Say

507
14/7/13

No. 974 C.

No. 60.76.

GOVERNMENT OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM.

Confidential

CONFIDENTIAL DEPARTMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL BRANCH.

Dacca,
Camp, the 25th March 1908

FROM

C.S.I.,
THE HONOURABLE MR. P. C. LYON, I.C.S.,

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

To

THE Secretary to the Government of India,
Home Department.

SIR,

+ Sent to
P.C.I. on
28/3/08.

In continuation of my letter No. 914-C, dated the 24th
February 1908, I am desirous to forward, for the information of
the Government of India, the attached copy of Mr. Hughes-Buller
diary for the month of February 1908.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

P. C. Lyon

Chief Secretary.

WV 1
Confidential Diary for the month of February 1908.

No. 865 C.

Dated Barisal, 21st March 1908.

Forwarded with compliments to the Commissioner of the
Dacca Division.

Matthews Buller
Magistrate of Bakarganj.

The District has been quiet during this month, although the undercurrent of agitation still continues, and shows itself by occasional small waves on the surface. Babu Aswini Kumar Dutt is not in the District, and though his place is filled by Satish Chandra Chatterji of the B. M. Institution, Aswini's absence conduces to the peace of the District.

2. The principal events of the month have been the Pabna Conference and the prosecution of Jadu Gopal Dhar of Sylhet under Secs. 124 A and 153 A, I. P. C.

The Pabna Conference.

3. I deputed special police officer to give me information about the Pabna Conference, as Satish Chandra Chatterji and Bhabaranjan Mazumdar of the B. M. Institution and Rajani Kanta Chatterji of the Jhalakati School attended as delegates, as well as several pleaders from Barisal.

Satish Chatterji was most zealous in working up the delegates, and their election, and was very anxious that Aswini Kumar Dutt should be made President of the Conference. Aswini did not attend, however, either owing to ill-health, or, because the Calcutta Moderates did not like an Extremist of his type, and therefore would have nothing to do with him.

On the

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On the 11th of February, the first day of the Conference, Satish Chatterji was seen with the Calcutta delegates, including Professor Lalit Mohan Das Gupta, of Goila, about whose work in connection with the agitation and boycott I have already submitted a report.

The following day, the 12th February, Satish and Lalit Mohan Das Gupta were seated behind Babu Surendra Nath Bannerji and Mr. Chaudhri on the platform when Babu Surendra Nath made a speech about the posting of additional police in Bakarganj and Mymensingh Districts and impressed on the audience that unless the Jhalakati people were helped the cause of boycott was lost. It is reported that this inspiration came from Satish and Lalit Mohan Das. The result was the formation of a Committee with Mr. Chaudhri as Secretary, to raise subscriptions for the purpose. About Rs. 300/- were subscribed on the spot and about Rs. 400/- were promised. Mr. Chaudhri then spoke of the so-called police shop in Jhalakati which was started for the sale of Manchester cloth. I have reported in detail about this. It will be remembered that Mr. Keir Hardie also interested himself in the matter, and that the men who kept the shop were not really police but town chaukidars.

During the final part of the proceedings, when tributes were being paid to people such as Kali Charan Bannerji, Bepin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai, Satish Chatterji made a short speech expressing sorrow at the imprisonment of Leakat Husain and praising him for the sacrifice he had so bravely made for his country's sake, and his attitude when receiving judgment at the Sessions Court. Satish, with other Barisal delegates were also present at a mass meeting reported to have been held in the bazaar, at which Surendra Nath Bannerji spoke about the boycotting of foreign goods.

Jadu Gopal Dhar.

4. Government orders sanctioning the prosecution of Jadu Gopal Dhar, author of the seditious pamphlet 'Arya Bhumi' were

received last month. Inspector Jogesh Chandra Bahumik after securing a warrant of arrest proceeded early this month to Sylhet and arrested him on the 11th. Proceedings were instituted against Jadu Gopal Dhar in the Court of the Additional Magistrate and the case was fixed for the 24th when the accused applied to the Court for mercy pleading guilty. The case was again~~st~~ postponed to 14th March 1908, and under orders of Government has since been withdrawn. I have since been able to ascertain that Jadu Gopal himself was neither the author nor the publisher of the seditious pamphlet, but has been made ^a ~~the~~ cat-spaw in the affair by his cleverer friends. I enclose a copy of a confidential report by Inspector Jogesh Chandra Bhaumik which not only gives the history of the pamphlet but also an additional proof of the fact that a strong link exists between the agitators in Calcutta and Eastern Bengal and that the latter takes its cue from the former. I have also submitted to the Commissioner a detailed report showing that Jadu Gopal Dhar received direct encouragement from Aswini Kumar Dutt in connection with his business of distributing the seditious pamphlet and the Head Masters of several High English Schools, gave him direct or indirect assistance. After his arrest, one of his uncles, Prionath Dhar, came to Barisal to lo^ok after his case and was taken by Satish Chandra Mukerji, teacher B. M. School, to Professor Satish Chandra Chatterji to discuss the question of defraying the cost of the defence.

Nishi Kanta Bose.

5. Nishi Kanta Bose the local agitator, made a tour in the direction of Gaurnadi, where the state of feeling against the Government is most pronounced. He visited Madaripur in Faridpur, Goila, Torki, Sarikol, Mahilora and other places, his object being to raise subscriptions for defending Swadeshi cases and for the establishment of a National School.

Srish Chandra Rai.

6. Srish Chandra Rai, another Swadeshi worker, visited Jhalakati, in whose commercial affairs he takes much interest,

in order

in order to dissuade people from dealing in foreign sugar. The Jhalakati merchants in these days, are wiser, if poorer, men, as his mission seems to have failed. I have evidence that any feeling that there still is, is only kept alive by a few irreconcilables such as Banamali Roy, Binod Pal and Sanatan Shaha encouraged by Rajani Kanta Chatterji and Sashi Acharji of the local High English School. Srish Roy also visited Narathampur, Nalchiti and Kalaskati. At Narathampur, of which place he is a resident, he held a meeting on the 11th February 1908 at which one Kamini Babu, teacher Gava School was also present. The object was to keep up the boycott of Liverpool Salt.

Mukanda Lal Das and Professor Satish Chandra Chatterji.

7. I have received some interesting corroboration of the alleged connection between Mukanda Lal Das, of Jatra party fame and Satish Chandra Chatterji as Secretary of the Swadesh Bandhab Samiti. Only the other day I came across a copy of a telegram addressed by him to Satish asking his advice as to whether he should take advantage of a flaw in the injunction issued against him under Sec. 144 Cr. P. C. by the Magistrate of Jessore. Sarat Chandra Guha who may be called the retained pleader of the agitators here, replied advising against action. I have also seen several other telegrams indicating that Mukanda Das was being employed by the Swadesh Bandhab Samiti to advance the cause of political agitation. Mukanda Das had another order under Sec. 144 Cr. P. C. issued against him by the Magistrate of Faridpur.

'Batasha boycott.'

8. On the evening of the 15th February, two boys of the B. M. School, Jatendra Nath Guha, student 2nd class, and Ramini Ranjan Gupta also of the same class were seen sticking up notices headed 'Batasha boycott' (copy enclosed) or boycott of sugared cakes, inviting the public to boycott 'batasha' cakes, because they are made of foreign or Java sugar. We have strong evidence

about the affair which we can utilize in connection with the B. M. case. The idea of boycotting batashas made of foreign sugar is also being introduced by the Barisal leaders and the Jhalakati school masters.

Boycott of Liverpool salt at Kushangal

9. At Kushangal, P. S. Malchiti, it was reported that, on a recent hat day, Liverpool salt was taken away from a shopkeeper. The Dutta ~~beys~~ Babus of Kushangal are the proprietors of the hat and as the Hindu combination is very strong the man had not the courage to lodge a legal complaint.

Swadeshi and other cases.

10. Out of the four cases against the police constables of Patuakhali, 3 have since been dismissed with costs. The Munsif found that the agents of Mahim and Rajendra Babu had been paying for the cost of the cases. The fourth is still pending in the Munsif's 4th Court. In the cases brought against persons who tore down notices offering a reward for the capture of Mr. Allen's assailant, Hem Chandra Sen, Anath Bandhu Dutta and Abani Mohan De were acquitted for want of complete identification. One Kshitish Chandra Rai was convicted on his own admission and warned.

Shibbari Mela.

11. The proceedings at Shibbari near Jhalakati in connection with the Shivratri festival have been reported by the Superintendent Police. A party under Professor Satish Chandra Chatterji attended to collect subscriptions for the National Fund.

Mr. Malabari.

12. I hear that Mr. Malabari, the social reformer of Bombay accompanied by two gentlemen signing themselves, J. Singh and Zulfiqar Khan, visited Barisal. They arrived on the evening of the 21st and left for Dacca on the night of the 23rd. I presume, Malabari was enquiring into the state of affairs down here.

Sd. R. Hughes-Buller.

Magistrate of Bakarganj.

I beg to report that I have obtained the following information from Jadu Gopal Dhar son of Kailash Chandra Dhar of Sylhet, against whom a case under Secs. 124 A. and 153 A. I. P. C. is pending in the Court of the Additional Magistrate and in which case Jadu Gopal Dhar has admitted his guilt and filed a petition for the mercy of the Government.

2. Jadu Gopal stated that the pamphlet "Arya Bhumi" was edited by one Basudeb Bhattacharji of Calcutta who is a member of the Anti-Circular Society (Calcutta). Jadu Gopal himself having been enlisted as a member of the Society was required to have the pamphlet printed and published in his own name and then to distribute it Eastern Bengal. He accordingly came on his mission to this Province and either sold copies of the pamphlet at one anna per copy or distributed them free of cost. He states that he was introduced to the Society for the first time by one Satish alias Sarat Chandra Ganguli of No. 53, Harrison Road, Calcutta, who was a friend of his. He says that the Society counts among its members some 6,000 to 7,000 people. Every member has a card warrant bearing a peculiar symbol of the Society, but such a warrant is not granted to members until he has been a member of it for a term of at least 2 years. Being quite a fresh member of the Society, the secrets of the Society were not disclosed to him yet. He had his faithfulness yet to be put to test. The names of such members with whom he became acquainted are as follows :-

(1) Nagendra Nath Chaudhri, (2) Dwarkanath Pal, a member of the Calcutta Brahmo Samaj and (3) Jogendra Nath Ghose. Jadu Gopal

further stated that the Society had an Akhara or a meeting place in Heramba Das's Lane, close to College Street, Kalibari (more than a bigha of waste land having been leased for the purpose) where within a very safe enclosure the members were taught the use of guns and were regularly trained in the art of fighting.