

In the Barackpore Sub-division, the prospect of all the crops was very bad.

In Dum-Dum, *amun* was not expected to be more than 6 annas. *Bhadoi* crops had been poor for want of rain and the *rubbee* sowings for the season were entirely stopped.

Nuddea.

The prospects of this district as regards the late paddy and winter crops, excepting only in the Sub-division of Kusthia were not favourable. In Kusthia, sugarcane, *til*, *arhar*, turmeric, millet and jute did well and a 10 to 12 annas of *amun* crop was reported to have been harvested. In the remainder of the district the *aus* crop ranged from 10 to 12 annas. Of the *amun*, not more than a 2 anna crop was expected. The winter crop had everywhere been a failure, except *arhar* and *til*, the latter of which would be destroyed for want of rain. The price of rice rose 50 per cent.

Jessore.

Want of rain injured the grown up *amun* paddy, and retarded the sowing as well as the growth of the *rubbee* or winter crops. The *aus* crop, however, yielded a fair harvest ; but in this district the *aus* growing area being much smaller than that of the *amun* growing area : no hope even of a fair outturn of the *rubbee* crops was entertained.

Moorshedabad.

The *aus* crop in this district was estimated at 12 annas and the *amun* at a third of the average crop. A fair cold weather crop was also expected, and, if rain fell shortly, the result would be a three quarter crops. Sugar-cane and indigo were also thriving. Oilseeds were estimated to retain about $\frac{2}{3}$ of an average crop. As to the prospects generally, the outlook was by no means such as was likely to cause any serious apprehension of famine, or scarcity approaching the famine limit.

Khoolna.

There was very little *bhadoi* or *aus* crop in this district and the *kharif* crop was guessed at $\frac{2}{3}$ of the whole ; remainder of the rice crops could be taken to yield a 10 anna harvest. Winter crops were not cultivated much in the district ; and what little space was devoted to it, had not been sown for want of rain. On the whole the outlook was not considered gloomy.

1891.

See page 244. (for Q. 234.)

1892.

Counterfeit Gold Mohurs.

At the instance of the Political Agent, Baghel Khand, the Government of Bengal asked the several Commissioners of the Divisions of Bengal to ascertain whether any counterfeit gold mohurs were manufactured in their divisions and if so to suggest a remedy to put a stop to it. The replies received were as follow :—

Chota Nagpore Division—No spurious mohurs were manufactured or circulated in any of the districts of this division. The Commissioner suggested that the best remedy to prevent the manufacture would be to legislate on the lines of the Metal Tokens Act I of 1889.

Calcutta—Spurious coins were not, manufactured in the town. The Commissioner of Police was of opinion that such coins were sent down from Delhi, Bombay, Jeypore, Jodhpore and other places and were bought by the superstitious men on the belief that they would bring good luck; generally. No special legislation was necessary, so far as regards the people of Calcutta.

Orissa, Chittagong, Dacca, Presidency, Bhagulpore and Burdwan Division.—No counterfeit mohurs were manufactured in any of the districts of these divisions.

Patna Divisions.—The Commissioner reported that imitation gold mohurs were not manufactured or Known in any district of the Patna Division except Mozaffarpore. In Sitamarhi they were manufactured to a small extent by *sonars* for export to Nepal and were used for boarding and ornamental purposes only. The mohurs sold in Mozaffarpore were imported from Bombay, Calcutta and the North-Western Provinces, and contained 80 per cent gold. Ornaments were sometimes manufactured of them, but they were chiefly used as presents at marriages.

The Commissioner thought that the manufacture of these gold mohurs should be discouraged; but it was scarcely possible that they should be declared as "coin" by a legislative enactment. He thought, therefore, that nothing could be done beyond warning the public against frauds of this kind

and suggesting that persons who were deceived might take action in the Criminal Courts.

From a copy of the judgment of the Calcutta High Court in the case *Crown versus Chandkhan &c.*, received with the letter of the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, it appears that the Hon'ble Judges upheld the above opinion that the coin did not come within the definition given in Section 230, Indian Penal Code and that such cases did not come within Act I of 1889.

Rajshahi Division.—In the Dinagepore district imitation coins were manufactured to a certain extent but they were used for ornaments and not for export to native states. The Commissioner thought that so far as this division was concerned, the provision of the existing law was quite sufficient and no further steps were necessary.

1894.

Working of the Arms Act with regard to bird-shot and bullets, when possessed in quantities exceeding one cwt. at any one time.

In July 1892 the Commissioner of Sind brought to the notice of the Bombay Government the fact that 33 cwts. of bird-shot had been despatched by a broker by rail from Karachi to Killa Abdulla in Baluchistan without a license under the Indian Arms Act, 1878, and pointed out that advantage had evidently been taken of the ruling of the Government of India contained in their letter No. 1814, dated 19th December 1883, to the address of the Government of Bengal, directing that bird-shot should not be regarded as ammunition for the purposes of the Act in order to evade the provisions of the Act regarding the exportation of lead.

A reference, made by the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, in respect of a previous consignment of bird-shot to Killa Abdulla, brought forth similar instructions from the Government of India. Some doubts having been felt by the Government of Bombay as to the validity of these orders, they represented the matter for the orders of the Government of India :—

The Government of Bombay considered that the Government of India, in their letter No. 1814, dated 19th December

1883, treated bird-shot as "lead" with reference to the definition of "ammunition" contained in the Act, which expressly excluded "lead, sulphur or saltpetre." In the opinion of the Bombay Government, it was similarly treated as lead with reference to the definition of "Military Stores," which expressly included "all lead, saltpetre, &c.," to which any section of the Arms Act might be extended. It was also pointed out that as under the Government of India notification No. 508, dated 1st March 1888, the prohibition and directions regarding Military Stores contained in Section 6 of the Indian Arms Act, 1878, were extended to "all saltpetre and lead (except sheet lead used for packing tea) in all districts on the external land frontier of British India," the exportation of bird-shot or of any shot made of lead from the frontier districts of Sind to Baluchistan therefore, required a license under Section 6 of the Act.

It appeared to the Government of India that neither bullets nor shot should be dealt with as "ammunition" within the meaning of the Arms Act, in as much as the description of ammunition expressly excluded "lead," and bullets and shot were species of "lead." They could not, be dealt with as "Military Stores" which did not include all lead. The mischief intended to be provided against in the case of lead in bulk applied with much greater force to bullets and to shot in such quantities as those described in the letter from the Government of Bombay. It was therefore considered that the best means of meeting the difficulty was to notify that bird-shot and bullets exceeding 1 cwt. at any one time should be deemed to be Military Stores, and as such subject to the same restrictions as those placed on lead in Bulk. Before taking action as indicated above the Government of Bengal were consulted on which the views of the Commissioners of the Divisions the Inspector-General of Police, Bengal, of the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, were obtained.

The Commissioners of the Presidency, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Orissa, Patna, Chota Nagpore, Burdwan, Bhagulpore and Dacca Divisions; and the Inspector-General of Police Bengal, reported that the course suggested by the Government of India, would meet the difficulty represented by the Bombay Government. The Commissioner of police, Calcutta, however, thought that the proposed declaration would be readily evaded by any one desirous of possessing a considerable stock of bird-shot or bullets, since, the quantity which might be possessed without a license was restricted to 112 lbs., a

smaller quantity might be bought and transported over and over again without any check. Thus, in his opinion, the law would be practically inoperative, unless action could be taken under Section 25 of the Arms Act, which contained provisions for search by seizure by a Magistrate; but this, was likely to be extremely rare. He added 'when a licensed dealer was under no obligation to enter a "sale, and the police had no power to seize articles actually "under transmission, any such provision as that "contemplated would be of little practical utility.



PART

III.

QUESTIONS.

Question Papers—

Clerk-Ship Examination	...	P.P.	I.
Sub-Service „	...	„	LXXIII.
Accountant-Ship „	...	„	AI.
Police Sub-Inspector-Ship	...	„	A33.

Answers	...	„	BI.
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Clerk=ship

Examination Papers.

UPPER DIVISION—1883.

LETTER DRAFTING—500.

—00—

1. Carry out the orders indicated in the notes below. —

On the 27th August 1881, a Circular was addressed to Local Governments and administrations, in which the Government of India desired to be furnished with a report on the following points, *viz* :—

- (1) The practice which has hitherto prevailed in dealing with escheated estates which may have belonged to Hindus, Muhammadans, and others to whom the Indian Succession Act does not apply, together with particulars in regard to the treatment of the more important cases which may have occurred in the several Provinces :

- (2) The pecuniary value of such escheats during the last ten years ; and

- (3) Whether the existing practice is in accordance with Native custom and feeling.

As regards the general question of the escheat to Government of property belonging to persons not subject to Indian Succession Act the replies appear to show that such escheats are seldom of any considerable value, while the purely financial issues involved are insignificant and need scarcely be taken into account. The point for consideration appears to be whether dictates of humanity or liberality require any change to be made in the existing practice. On this question it is submitted that, as regards cases of escheats due to illegitimacy, in which an estate escheats to Government by reason of an illegitimate person not being entitled under the Hindu or Muhammadan law to inherit it would be only fair to apply the spirit of the rules which at present govern the disposal of the escheated property of illegitimate Europeans and Eurasians. There seems no sufficient reason why any distinction should be made in this matter between persons subject to the Indian Succession Act and persons not so subject.

Besides escheats due to illegitimacy in which the next-of-kin by reason of being illegitimate is not entitled under the Hindu or

Muhammadian Law to inherit, there are other cases in which liberality might perhaps very properly be exercised, *e. g.* cases of the kind noticed in the letter from the District Judge of Bankoorah in which the deceased leaves some relatives, more or less distant who, though not legally heirs, have in fact an equitable claim to some portion of the property. It is of course impossible to specify in all cases of the kind which might arise in practice, but the point to be looked to should apparently be to make such arrangements that persons who were dependants upon the deceased should not be left in destitute circumstances owing to the enforcement by Government of its strict legal right. In such cases it would apparently be unnecessarily liberal to apply rules such as those which govern the disposal of the property of illegitimate Europeans and Eurasians, and it seems impossible to specify with any precision the allowances which should be given. These must depend upon the particular circumstances of the case, the principle to be observed being that persons who have been dependent for their livelihood upon the estate which has escheated to Government to the absence of legal heirs, should not be left in a state of destitution, but should be liberally treated, and that due regard should be had to the intentions of the deceased. The final disposal of such cases might be left to Local Governments in accordance with any general principles which may be laid down by the Government of India.

No change of the law appears necessary to give effect to the above proposals, which could be provided for by executive orders.

F. C. D., 14-10-82.

Taking the general question first, I submit that there is really very little ground for moving in the matter at all. Escheats are, owing to the constitution of Native society, so rare, that the matter is of no practical moment; and when the State does step in, the evidence goes to show that it is held by Native opinion to be justified, and that it acts with due consideration of all possible claims. There would, however, be no objection to the issue of an order to Local Governments, requesting them, in disposing of escheats, to give liberal consideration to the claims of any persons who, but for illegitimacy, would have been entitled to succeed. Such case would be reported to the Government of India for orders, with suitable recommendation. (I would not apply the Succession Act, as that might be very unsuitable, but leave each case to be dealt with under the orders of the Government of India, just as the Secretary of State passes orders in European cases.)

A. M., 23-10-82.

HONOURABLE MEMBER.

I agree—J. G., 24-10-82.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

I agree that Local Governments should be addressed, as pro-

posed by Mr. Mackenzie, but after the words "entitled to succeed" I would insert the following words—"or who for any reason have a moral, though not a legal claim to consideration"

R., 24-10-82.

2. Put into official form so much of the following orders as you think necessary to convey clearly their substance and intention :—

(a) I don't think that we should continue this correspondence. The case has been badly handled throughout, and although the Deputy Magistrate strictly speaking, deserves some severe punishment, I would let him off this once with a sharp reprimand for his irregular proceedings. For the rest the Government should be told that the Government of India does not intend to pursue the matter which should accordingly be allowed to drop.

(b) Inform the Local Government courteously that their request is declined, and that the Government of India can not interfere in the matter. Add that it is a pity that the question should ever have been raised at all, unless there are facts behind of which we are ignorant.

(c) Decline to re-open the case, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Commissioner, but remark that in so doing we do not wish to be thought to approve of everything that was done in the first instance. We must guard ourselves against being considered to fall in with much that is said (with little thought apparently in some respects) in the course of this lengthy correspondence.

(d) Acknowledge receipt and say that we shall be quite ready to do our best to help the Local Government in starting this scheme which, if sufficient attention is paid to minor matters of detail, ought to be a great financial success, besides being worthy of support from other points of view (*e.g.* administratively). The idea which underlie the scheme is by no means a novel one although it has never been quite fairly tried in practice. It should certainly be encouraged but should not be hurriedly worked out. Care and foresight are essential, otherwise its success may be jeopardized.

ENGLISH COMPOSITION—500.

Write an essay on any *one* of the following subjects :—

1. The uses of Industrial Exhibition.
2. The National Character.
3. Opium as a legitimate source of revenue (in the form of discussion between two speakers A and B).

PRECIS-WRITING.

Having read the accompanying Correspondence—

1. Make a short abstract or docket of the papers numbered 12, 13, 16, 26 and 27.

2. Draw up a Memorandum. or Précis. *i. e.*, a brief and clear Statement of what passed, not paper by paper, but in the form of a consecutive narrative.

*Correspondence regarding the detention of certain cargoes
of Petroleum under the Petroleum Act
(Act VIII of 1881).*

No. 1.

Telegram, dated 11th May 1882.

From—SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, LONDON.

To—VICEROY.

Detention of petroleum at Calcutta on *Ross Dhu*. Blackwood represents that Board of Trade state that allowance for error on testing apparatus of one degree is made in England and that tests by separate inspectors vary to similar extent ; also advised that oils which flash at 71 degrees in Calcutta are considered safe.

No. 2.

Telegram, dated 15th May 1882.

From—HOME SECRETARY.

To—BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

Secretary of State telegraphs on 11th instant ; Message begins :—

[See No. 1.]

Message ends. Please take necessary action. Report awaited.

No. 3.

Telegram, dated 14th May 1882.

From—MESSRS. HOBSON CONNOR AND COMPANY,
CALCUTTA.

To—THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO HIS EXCELLENCY
THE VICEROY.

Three large ships detained with Cargoes petroleum under Act VIII. One ship leaking seriously, immediate discharge imperative. American official test over seventy-three Abel ; oil not dangerous. Variation here simply climate effects. Respectfully suggest taking opinion, Chemical Examiner whether these Cargoes more dangerous than if seventy three here. Importers suffering heavy loss from demurrage. We are willing to land oil under police supervision pending final settlement ; this course adopted at Bombay. Please request Bengal Government take prompt action and excuse this application. Matter is most urgent.

No. 4.

Telegram, dated 16th May 1882.

From—HOME SECRETARY.

To BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

My telegram 15th instant. Following telegram received from Messrs. Hobson Connor, Calcutta ; Message begins.

(See No. 3.)

Message ends. Please take early action.

No. 5.

Telegram dated 16th May 1882.

From BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

To—HOME SECRETARY.

Three ships arrived with petroleum found to be dangerous. Mean of six tests sixty-eight point five. Two further cases tested in presence of consignee gave result 66. At instance of consignees, Lieutenant-Governor has given permission to land oil at a safe place near Meteabrooj selected by Commissioner of Police and Port Commissioner, in order that the cargoes may be satisfactorily tested on the distinct understanding that all oil found to be dangerous according to test prescribed by law will be re-shipped and removed from the port forthwith. It is reported that danger much less from the oil on shore than oil afloat, as explosion during flood-tide would be most disastrous. This shews urgent necessity for rules to enable Lieutenant-Governor to stop oil at a point down the river. With reference to telegram from Secretary of State, Lieutenant-Governor desires to point out that the law fixes absolute limit of 73 degrees, and that tests have been applied with special apparatus obtained from England. The Secretary of State's proposed limit of 71 degrees would not meet the present case. Full report by letter will follow.

No. 6.

Telegram, dated 16th May 1882.

FROM—SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, LONDON.

TO—VICEROY.

Mine eleventh. Further complaints of detention of petroleum on *Viscount* at Calcutta, by Wallace Brothers. Cargo tested at New York gave average of 76 and half degrees and samples sent London about 78 degrees, at Calcutta only 68; also by Blackwood ship *Tintern Abbey*. New York test 73 to 76, and at Calcutta 68 and half by your analyst, 70 by independent analysts. These representations by firms of high character in trade of such importance seem to call for careful enquiry, and possibly temporary relaxation of standard. Many cargoes afloat on certificate of public Analyst in New York. If refused admission, heavy losses will ensue.

No. 7.

Telegram, dated 18th May 1882.

From—HOME SECRETARY.

To—BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

Many Cargoes petroleum afloat certified over 73 degrees by State Analysts, New York and elsewhere. Please have tests under Indian Act carefully applied by Board of two Analysts, including Government Chemical Examiner, and allow Cargoes to be landed in safe place, as already done in cases reported by you, to save demurrage subject to re-shipment. Petroleum Rules under consideration.

No. 8.

Telegram, dated 18th May 1882.

From—VICEROY.

To—SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, LONDON.

Test for dangerous petroleum under Indian Act 73 absolute. Not open to Government to relax it by order. But we have instructed Lieutenant-Governor Bengal, to allow Cargoes, to be landed in safe place and to appoint Board of Analysts to apply test most carefully.

No. 9.

Telegram, dated 22nd May 1882.

From—SECRETARY OF STATE, LONDON.

To—VICEROY.

My sixteenth and yours eighteenth, petroleum. Very serious questions have arisen. Large trade endangered. Heavy losses impending. Have consulted Abel and Redwood our best authorities. They agree that conditions of climate make test provided by Act so uncertain as to be inapplicable in India. Act is therefore unsuitable and must be amended as soon as possible. This should receive your earliest consideration. Meanwhile to meet cases of cargoes arrived and now afloat could not short Act be passed forthwith admitting such cargoes on test of Public Inspector, New York. Redwood states that petroleum so admitted would certainly not be less safe than that hitherto imported.

No. 10.

Telegram, dated 25th May 1882.

From—VICEROY.

To—SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, LONDON.

Your telegram of 22nd May 1882. Will introduce temporary Act admitting petroleum certified by Public Inspectors, America, not to flash below 100 open test or 73 Abel's test. But please send full instructions regarding supposed inapplicability of Abel's test here and information as to suitable permanent test.

No. 11.

* Telegram, dated 26th May 1882.

From—HOME SECRETARY.

To—BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

Secretary of State declares Abel's test inapplicable here. We are passing Act admitting temporarily petroleum certified in America to be not under 100 open test or 73 Abel's. Please give effect to the forthwith. Letter follows.

No. 12.

No. 712, dated Simla, the 26th May 1882.

From—A. MACKENZIE, ESQ., SECY. TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

To—THE SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL.

In continuation of my telegram dated the 18th instant, regarding the testing of some consignments of petroleum, recently imported into Calcutta, I am directed to say

* Dated the 22nd May 1882. that a telegram^o has since been received from the Secy. of State upon the same subject.

2. It is therein stated that Messrs. Abel and Redwood, the best authorities on the subject, report, on being consulted that Abel's test prescribed in the Schedule to the Petroleum Act VIII, of 1881 is, owing to conditions of climate, so uncertain as to be inapplicable to India. The Petroleum trade is a large and important one and heavy losses are involved in the strict application of the present test. The telegram proceeds as follows :

"Act is therefore unsuitable and must be amended as soon as possible. This should receive your earliest consideration. Meanwhile to meet cases of cargoes arrived and now afloat, could no short Act be passed forthwith admitting such cargoes on test of Public Inspector, New York. Redwood states that petroleum so admitted would certainly not be less safe than that hitherto imported.

3. The Government of India have accordingly decided to pass, as an ad-interim measure, a temporary Act admitting without further test in India imported petroleum certified by any Public or State Inspector in America not to flash below 100 open test or 73 Abel's test, and the Secretary of State has been so informed. At the same time His Lordship has been asked to send full instructions regarding the supposed inapplicability of Abel's test in India and for information as to any suitable permanent test.

4. Pending the receipt of the above information. I am directed to request that with the permission of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor you will be good enough to obtain and submit, at the earliest possible date careful reports on the question of test applicable to this country from the most experienced analysts in Bengal.

No. 713.

Copy, with copy of the papers marginally noted, forwarded	to the Government of
Telegram from Secretary of State, dated the 11th May 1882.	Bombay with a request
Ditto to Govt. of Bengal, dated 16th May 1882.	that with the permission
Ditto from Govt. of Bengal, dated 19th May 1882.	of His Excellency the
Ditto from Secretary of State, dated the 16th May 1882.	Governor in Council
Ditto to Government of Bengal, dated the 18th May 1882.	similar reports may be
	obtained from the ex-
	perienced analysts in
	the Bombay Presidency
	and submitted for the
	information of the Go-
	vernment of India.

No. 13.

Office Memorandum No. 714, dated Simla, 26th May 1882.

The undersigned is directed to forward to the Legislative Department copies of telegrams from and to the Secretary of State, noted on the margin and to request that, in accordance with His Lordship's suggestion immediate steps may be taken to prepare and introduce into the Legislative Council of the Governor-General a short Bill, admitting, temporarily without further test in India, imported petroleum certified by any Public or State Inspector in America not to flash below 100 open test and 73 Abel's test.

Ditto	ditto	19th ditto	grams from and to
Ditto	ditto	18th ditto	the Secretary of
Ditto	ditto	22nd ditto	State, noted on the
Ditto	ditto	25th ditto	margin and to re-

quest that, in ac-

cordance with His Lordship's suggestion immediate steps may be taken to prepare and introduce into the Legislative Council of the Governor-General a short Bill, admitting, temporarily without further test in India, imported petroleum certified by any Public or State Inspector in America not to flash below 100 open test and 73 Abel's test.

A. MACKENZIE,

Secy. to the Government of India.

No. 14.

Telegram, dated 26th May, 1882.

From—SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

To—VICEROY.

Your telegram 25th May. I agree to your proposals regarding immediate temporary Act. A despatch on the subject will follow on receipt of information needed.

No. 15.

No. 734, dated Simla, the 27th May, 1882,

ENDORSED BY THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

Copy forwarded to the Legislative Department for information in continuation of the Office Memorandum from this Department, No. 714, dated 26th instant.

No. 16.

Telegram, dated 27th May, 1882

From—BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

To—HOME SECRETARY.

Commissioner of Police has been instructed to act upon the orders conveyed in your Telegram. As the Government of India contemplate legislating to admit petroleum certified in America to be not under 100 open test or 73 Abel's test, Lieutenant-Governor deems it his duty to invite attention to Paragraphs seven to ten of the report of the Petroleum Committee, of which copy was submitted with this Government 901, dated 15th November 1879. The opinion of the Committee in regard to the danger of admitting into India oils flashing even at 100 open test is recorded in paragraph ten. Lieutenant-Governor would also invite attention to paragraph four of this Government letter 601, dated 21st July, 1879, and paragraphs three and four of resolution of same date. The oil now in port appears to be not less dangerous than that which so nearly

caused so serious disaster in April 1879. The whole papers of previous enquiry demand, in April 1879. The whole papers of previous enquiry demand, serious consideration. They seem to the Lieutenant-Governor to shew clearly that tests accepted in America or England are not applicable to India, and it seems further open to question whether American certificates should be unreservedly accepted in this country. As to apparatus for testing see paragraph sixteen of Committee Report.

No. 17.

Telegram, dated 30th May 1882.

From—VICEROY.

To—SECY. OF STATE FOR INDIA, LONDON.

Petroleum. Temporary Act intended to carry out instruction, in your telegram 22nd, will be introduced without delay, as stated in our telegram of 25th. But I am bound to say that I have serious doubts whether proposed alteration of test is safe.

No. 18.

Telegram, dated 30th May 1882.

From—MESSRS. SCHRÖDER SMIDT & CO, CALCUTTA.

To HOME DEPARTMENT, SIMLA.

Schröder Smidt respectfully request Government to delay repealing the Petroleum Act, 1881, pending proofs which they can submit that test made on Abel's instruments in America agree exactly with those made in India of same oil. If the dangerous oil now in port is passed the people interested in good oil will suffer loss estimated at several lakhs.

No. 19.

Telegram, dated 30th May 1882.

From—VICEROY.

To SECY. OF STATE FOR INDIA, LONDON.

Following received to day from Schröder Smidt and Company, Message begins—

(See No. 18.)

Message ends.

No. 20.

Telegram, dated 30th May 1882.

From—BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

To—HOME SECRETARY.

"American certificates to quality of petroleum purport to be given by the inspectors to the New York Produce Exchange. Are they to be accepted as valid and conclusive."—Message ends. As India is legislating on the matter, Lieutenant-Governor sends this for orders. He has no cognizance of the test referred to bring an official test and is bound himself for the present by existing law.

No. 21.

Telegram, dated 21st May 1882.

From—VICEROY.

To—SECY. OF STATE FOR INDIA, LONDON.

Bengal telegraphs : Message begins —

(See No. 20.)

Message ends. Please tell us precisely what certificates may safely be accepted here.

No. 22.

Telegram, dated 31st May 1885.

From—HOME SECRETARY.

To—LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, BENGAL.

Petroleum Act amendment Bill postponed. Act on existing law meantime, allowing oil to be landed in safe place, but not to be delivered as ordinary petroleum yet.

No. 23.

Telegram, dated 31st May 1882.

From—SECY. OF STATE FOR INDIA, LONDON.

To—VICEROY.

I have received your telegrams of 30th and 31st. Petroleum. I have Professor Abel's authority that his test is uncertain in India—see reasons my telegram 22nd. Think you may temporarily accept certificates of New York Produce Exchange Inspectors universally recognized by New York trade. Assume you will not repeal Act 1881, but will enact that during your pleasure oil may be admitted on satisfactory New York certificates. Schröder Smidt's statement about losses apparently mean loss of gain from prospective enhanced price.

No. 24.

No. 769, dated Simla, the 2nd June 1882.

ENDORSED BY THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

Copy, with copy of telegram to the Secretary of State, dated the 1st instant, forwarded to the Legislative Department for information, in continuation of endorsement No. 734, dated the 27th ultimo.

No. 25.

Telegram, dated 7th June 1882.

From—HOME SECRETARY.

To—CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CALCUTTA.

Petroleum Bill not passed to-day. Any representation of your views submitted promptly will be fully considered

No. 288, T.—M., dated Darjeeling, the 3rd June, 1892.

From—COLMAN MACAULAY, ESQ., SECRETARY TO
THE GOVT. OF BENGAL, FINANCIAL DEPT.

To—THE SECY. TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 712, dated the 29th ultimo, in which it is stated that the Government of India have under consideration the early amendment of the Petroleum Act VIII, of 1881, and reports are called for from this Government on the question of test applicable to this country.

In reply, I am to say that the orders conveyed in your letter are

being acted upon and that a report will be submitted as soon as possible. Meanwhile I am directed to submit, for the consideration of the Government of India, the accompanying letter^a from Messrs

Schröder Smidt and Company,

^aDated the 30th May, 1882.

Calcutta, on the subject, and to say that it seems to the

Lieutenant-Governor that, from the point of view which the firm takes of the case, the Government would not be justified in changing the law without sufficient notice being given to those who during the past years have been conducting their operations under the strict requirements of Act VIII of 1881. Four native firms concerned in the same trade have made similar representation.

Dated Calcutta, the 30th May, 1882.

From—MESSRS. SCHRÖDER SMIDT AND COMPANY,
CALCUTTA.

To—THE SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL, GENERAL
AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

As the oldest and at the same time large importers of Kerosine oil in this city, we take the liberty of addressing you on a question which is of the highest importance to us as well as the trade in general.

You will be aware that a large quantity of dangerous petroleum has been imported (some 100,000 cases) in the following vessels : *Viscount, Ross Dhu, Tintern Abbey, and Celtic Monarch*. Part of the oil has been discharged in spite of the provisions of the Petroleum Act, 1881, which say under paragraph 6—"All dangerous petroleum which is kept at any place after seven days from the date on which it is imported, shall be contained in vessels which shall bear an indelible mark or a label in conspicuous character stating the nature of the contents thereof." No such precautions with regard to the safe keeping of the oil have been taken. This circumstance as well as the fact that importers of the Cargo *ex, Tintern Abbey* have given notice to the buyers that the oil had passed Government requirements and would be delivered under contract, necessitates our making enquiries whether any dangerous petroleum can really be sold for burning purpose, although the Act distinctly says it cannot.

We have always been of opinion that an Imperial Act like the Petroleum Act. 1881 could not be arbitrarily set aside, and acting in good faith that Government which passes the law would protect the interest of those who act up to it, and would guard all interested as well as the public in general against any infringements, we invariably imported oil of a superior quality and at a high price, although we were fully aware from information received from our American Correspondents several months ago, that other Calcutta firms were about to import an inferior quality of oil at lower cost. This our information proved to be true and it now appears that by an appeal *ad miseri cordiam* the importers want to induce Government to repeal the existing law.

If this repeal should be granted the public would be put into a

state of unsafety, which must be doubly felt after the heavy conflagrations which have been raging in Calcutta during the present year. Moreover, Government would severely and undeservedly punish those who have been doing their best to act in accordance with the Petroleum Bill: The loss which our firm would sustain in case the market is allowed to be flooded with inferior oil cannot be estimated below Rs. 50,000. Our protesting against any measures which are in opposition to our interests might be considered selfish but where it is a question of serious and undeserved loss, it simply means acting in self-defence and we confidently trust that Government will protect us from such a heavy blow.

We shall feel greatly obliged if you would either tell us that no repeal and modification of the existing Act, which would involve losses to our firm, are contemplated or in case steps to this effect have already been taken, if you would put this petition before Government with a view to avoid an unjust administration of law.

No. 27.

Dated the 3rd June, 1882.

From—H. W. I. WOOD, SECRETARY TO THE BENGAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CALCUTTA.

To—THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Under instructions from the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce I had the honor to address to you the following telegram dated the 31st Ultimo :—

“Englishman Newspaper of to-day states a Bill is to be introduced and passed to-day amending Petroleum Act upon suggestion of Secretary of State. If such is the intention of Government, the Committee of the Chamber would respectfully urge that Commercial community of Calcutta should first be allowed an expression of opinion before the Act is altered, because large interests are affected.”

The immediate cause of sending that message was an article in the Englishman Newspaper of the same date, and which no doubt, has since come under your observation.

The Committee of the Chamber have delayed further correspondence upon the subject, in expectation of receiving from the Government of India some authoritative communication of what alterations in the Act regulating the import of Petroleum were contemplated.

The Committee would still have adhered to the original intention of awaiting such a communication from Government before taking any further steps in this matter, had it not been for certain communications addressed to them by members of the Chamber, with copies of correspondence, relative to the importation of a large quantity of oil which is now in course of landing, but regarding the quality of which divergent opinions are expressed—whether the same comes under the denomination of dangerous petroleum, or can be passed as the ordinary article of commerce, which under

the petroleum Act, can be dealt in without the more stringent condition attached to dealing in the first named quality.

The Committee do not feel justified in expressing any opinion on the merits of the pending dispute. Their attention is confined solely to the fact that an amendment radically affecting the existing Act is to be passed by the Viceroy in Council, without the mercantile community, who are largely and primarily concerned having had an opportunity of considering the terms and effects of the intended amendment.

The Committee would point out that the trade in petroleum has largely developed under the existing law and large interests are now involved and that the trade has settled itself into certain customs and method so that any sudden change in the law under which the trade has been hitherto carried on may, and it is alleged will, cause most serious inconvenience and loss to many of those concerned in it.

The opinion of the mercantile community has previously been sought by Government and acted on in connection with the Petroleum Act, as may be proved by reference to the Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the 4th February 1881.

It would appear to the Committee that the necessity for due notice being given to the trade and to the public at large, which existed when the present Act was passed, is now greatly intensified owing to the fact, already noticed, that under the Act the trade has become large and important; and ^{on} due notice were thought necessary when the Act was passed, at least no less notice should be given in respect of any amendments.

The article in the Englishman alluded to also states that the contemplated alteration or amendment of the Act is to be carried out immediately under special orders from the Secretary of State communicated by telegram to His Excellency the Viceroy. Hitherto the Chamber of Commerce have had the assurance—if not definitely expressed, at all events implied—that the Secretary of State would like to see the Commercial community consulted in any question affecting large Commercial interests; and it is upon these grounds that the Committee of the Chamber urge their respectful request to be made acquainted with the intentions of the Supreme Government in order to give warning to their fellow merchants of any material change in the Act or the working of it.

No. 28.

Telegram, dated 8th June 1882.

From—HOME SECRETARY.

To—BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

Petroleum Bill postponed pending receipt of professional reports from you and opinion of Chamber.

LOWER DIVISION—1883.

LETTER DRAFTING—500.

Put into official form so much of the following orders as you think necessary to convey clearly their substance and intention (leaving numbers and dates blank) :—

(a)—This man is a perfect nuisance. Send the petition to the Punjab Government, and tell the petitioner in reply through that Government that his request is inadmissible and cannot be complied with.

(b)—Acknowledge receipt of his letter, and tell the Manager of the newspaper that his bill will be paid on presentation to the Local Accountant-General. Add that, although we do not wish to enter into any dispute on the point, some of the items charged for in the bill appear to be rather heavily priced.

(c)—Tell the applicant that this Department will take ten copies of his work for our own use, but that it rests with Local Governments to take copies, if they want to do so for their own officers. The Government of India can hardly make arrangements to meet the needs of all the Local Governments and Administrations, and if the applicant wants their patronage, he should apply to them direct.

(d)—Reply to the ^{if} _{ast} ^h _{:-} ^{respon} _{:-} ^{er} _{:-} petitioner that the Government of India cannot listen to any representation which is not submitted through the Local Government and add that we cannot interfere unless he shows that there are very good reasons for interference. At present the reasons put forward seem singularly weak. A far stronger case would have to be made out before we could consent to intervene in the matter especially as it has been before the civil tribunals.

(e)—Ask the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Government to inform the petitioner that his prayer for pardon has been laid before the Governor-General in Council, but that we see no reason to doubt the propriety of the sentence. Add that it was open to the Local Government to have commuted the sentence if it chose to do so.

(f)—Return the memorial to Mr. A., and tell him that we absolutely decline to pay any attention to a memorial couched in such terms. (Some of the passages are very impertinent). Tell him also that if he wants the matter to be considered by the Government of India he had better alter the tone of his letter and submit it in the regular way through his Local Government, *i.e.*, the Government of the Punjab.

DOCKETING—500 MARKS.

(Time allowed—3 hours.)

Enter in the accompanying forms the necessary particulars regarding the annexed papers. The abstract of contents must be carefully and legibly written and must not exceed for each paper the space allotted for it.

(a)

Dated Benares, the 14th July, 1879.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA.

The humble memorial of Doorga Persad,
Resident of the City of Benares,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,—That your Lordship's humble Memorialist addressed a petition to Your Excellency under date the 3rd March, 1878, praying for the unconditional pardon of his father, Gunesh Pooree, a convict in the Straits Settlements.

2. That the petition in question was disallowed under orders (No. 985) issued from the Home Department on the 30th of July, 1878.

3. That your humble Memorialist in again venturing to address Your Lordship on the same subject does so in the earnest expectation that on the present occasion his prayer will not be refused.

4. That in placing this solicitation before Your Lordship, your humble Memorialist would respectfully submit that his father, Gunesh Pooree, is almost a *Septuagenarian* now, and considerably debilitated not only by age but also by *asthma*—a malady which is as persistent in its adherence to the system as it is distressing in its nature.

5. That the assertion of Your Lordship's Memorialist in respect to his father's age will be borne out by the latter's personal appearance, as depicted in the accompanying photograph, which your Memorialist humbly submits for Your Lordship's inspection.

6. That the age and infirmities of your Memorialist's father offer but little prospect of his continuing for very long in this world ; and as the best portion of his life has been spent in exile, it will be an act of graceful consideration to permit him to pass the few remaining years of his existence in the bosom of his family and under the skies of his native land.

7. That your Memorialist's aged mother, whose earthly happiness was completely shattered by the calamity that befell her husband, my father, was, for a short time cheered by the prospect of being, by the clemency of the Government, remitted in the sunset of her life to the unfortunate partner of her youth, but all her hopes, were dashed to the ground when she became acquainted with the verdict contained in the Government order above-quoted.

8. That your Memorialist does now, as a filial duty which he owes to both his parents, fervently implore Your Lordship to have pity on their respective conditions, and to grant an unconditional pardon to his father, who, your Memorialist earnestly assures Your Lordship, will not only be sincerely grateful for the consideration but at the same time so regulate his conduct as to be beyond the reach of censure.

9. That if the boon sought is graciously granted, Your Lordship's humble Memorialist shall, as in duty bound ever pray.

DURGA PERSHAD.

(b.) Dated Calcutta, the 13th December, 1879.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY LORD LYTON, the MOST NOBLE
the VICEROY AND GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA, &c., &c., &c.

The humble petition of KRISHNA PATEL, of Hurdlee,
Zillah Bhandara, Central Provinces.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH—That Your Excellency's humble petitioner has undertaken a long and tedious journey of over 1,400 miles in order to lay before Your Excellency the papers attached setting forth his legal claims to the proprietary right to a village named Bachora in the zillah abovenamed ; but from the enjoyment of this right your humble petitioner has been deprived owing to some miscarriage of justice.

Your humble petitioner will not take up Your Excellency's time by entering into the details of his case, but earnestly trusts that your Lordship will be pleased to have its merits carefully examined, so that your petitioner may have his lawful rights restored by a reversion of the Central Provinces Court's order.

Your petitioner, relying on the wisdom and clemency of Her Imperial Majesty's Representative in India, humbly beseeches early consideration of this appeal, and hopefully trusts that his arduous journey in search of justice at Your Excellency's hands may not have been undertaken in vain.

Your humble petitioner is undergoing great hardships in this city, and he humbly prays that Your Excellency may be pleased to command an early investigation of the facts advanced in support of his claim.

For which act of mercy and justice your petitioner, as in duty bound will ever pray.

KRISHNA PATEL,

Care of Casiram,

Sadar Bazaar Sitabuldi, Nagpur.

(c)

Dated Konnagore, the 25th December, 1900.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE MARQUIS OF RIPON, K.G.,
P. C., G. M. S. I., VICEROY AND GOVERNOR-GENERAL
OF INDIA.

The humble petition of Tarruk Nath
Mitter, inhabitant of Konnagore, *via*
Konnagore Post Office, Konnagore,
Zilla Hooghly in Bengal, India

Respectfully Sheweth—That your petitioner had been a pleader of Munsif's Court, and used to earn Rs. 50 or 60 a month whereby he gave a scanty subsistence to a family of ten or twelve persons, when unfortunately, on the application of one Gopal Chunder Sircar, with whom your petitioner had enmity, the Munsif instituted proceedings against him under section 16. Act XX of 1865. That upon the report made by the Munsif communicating the result of the said enquiry that no such misconduct was proved against your petitioner as to warrant a recommendation for removing him from the bar, and the case was remanded on the 26th November 1874, with instructions that if there was any fresh charge of misconduct to inquire into the same.

That in the meantime anonymous petition was sent in by post to the High Court of Calcutta before the Chief Justice casting certain imputations on the Munsif of Serampore, and it was forwarded by the said Honorable Court to the District Judge of Hooghly for enquiry.

That upon the information furnished by some men of Babu Raj Kissen Mookerjee, a zemindar of Otterparah, whose names are annexed in the schedule, the judge caused proceedings to be instituted against your petitioner, and upon the evidence of some of the persons who signed the application, and who are the servants and dependants of Babu Raj Kissen Mookerjee, as also bearing deadly hatred against your petitioner, and whose names are mentioned in the schedule, unjustly held that the petition against the Munsif was got up by your petitioner, and recommended his dismissal on that ground to the Honourable High Court of Calcutta on the 1st May, 1875.

That on the 21st May, 1875, the Honourable High Court at Calcutta disbarred your petitioner upon unjust report being made by the District Judge of Hooghly relying on the statement of his enemies unsupported by any evidence.

That the said Honourable High Court did not grant any indulgence of hearing the objection of your petitioner notwithstanding he has made two applications.

That for setting aside that order, or an order for its re-consideration your petitioner made an application on the 30th October, 1878, to the Most Honourable the Privy Council. Their Lordships

have kindly filed it, and it has been ordered on 30th December, 1878, that no action shall be taken until your petitioner engages a Solicitor and Counsel in London on his behalf.

That your petitioner with his family lives upon the charity of the generous public, hence he has not means enough to engage a Solicitor or an Attorney to conduct his case before the Privy Council. He craves your justice only in the hope of you being merciful.

That it is great misfortune that can befall your petitioner in the unjust disbarment which has been decreed against him without taking into consideration his innocence. Besides he holds certificates of good conduct from the presiding officers of the Court, copies of which have been filed with the schedule, and no one has ever been known to bring any suit against him concerning that on the ground of which he has been disbarred, neither there is any evidence against him to that effect on which any reliance can be placed.

But to his great misfortune he has been disbarred with all his innocence, in consequence of which, and as he has not means enough, he is in great distress of supporting himself and his large family. Herewith he lays before you the copies of certificates given to him by the officers of the Court, and one that has been given to him in confirmation of the truth of the statement of his poor circumstances by the gentlemen of his native village.

The great splendour of Your Worship's fame throughout India in being righteous, and the compassion Your Worship takes alike upon poor men, whether they be foreigners or natives, had induced him to acquaint you with his poor circumstances in the hope of redemption. Therefore he begs most humbly to Your Lordship that your Worship shall be pleased to pardon him from the order that was passed against him on the 21st of May, 1875 by the Honourable High Court of Calcutta, and thereby to save your petitioner with a large family depending on him from starvation.

Bycunt Nath Bhuttacharjee and others, mentioned in the schedule, admitted their signatures on the petition submitted to His Lordship the Chief Justice, and deposed that your petitioner got it signed by them, but owing to the misfortune of your petitioner, the Judge abovementioned did not take it into consideration.

Neither the Munsif on whome the imputation was cast by the petition in question, nor the Government, nor any of the persons who deposed that your petitioner had got their signatures under false pretence prosecuted your petitioner. Section 16, Act XX of 1865, distinctly provides that proceedings shall be instituted against a pleader upon the complaint of any person. But no one complained against your petitioner.

The deponents, Bycaunt Nath Bhuttacharjee and others, are creatures of Babu Raj Kissen Mookrjee, Zemindar of Otterparah,

and it will appear from the petition sent to his Lordship the Chief Justice that the case mentioned therein, in which the conduct of the Munsif was found faulty, was the case in which Babu Raj-Kissen Mookerjee was interested. Under such circumstances, it was a great misfortune to your petitioner that he should have been supposed to have got up the petition. The said Bycunt Nath Bhuttacharjee and others are professional witnesses in the service of Babu Raj Kissen Mookerjee, and your petitioner had from time to time to comment sharply on their evidence as witnesses in several cases. It was not, therefore at all surprising that they should have come forward to depose against your petitioner and to injure him. The learned Judge was entirely wrong in finding your petitioner guilty simply upon the confidence of those witnesses unsupported by any other proof.

But, unfortunately, the Court did not decide those objections, nor did it direct any enquiry to be made regarding their character. Far from this, they were taken to be gentlemen on the mere test of their family title, and I was improperly removed from practising as a pleader.

That on the 4th March, 1875, it was ordered that the first summons should be served on your petitioner ; but before that date, in his absence and without taking requisite oath ; Ashootosh Bose, his professed enemy, being questioned through a school-master, deposed against him on the 13th March, 1875. Your petitioner forwarded an application to the effect that the deposition of Ashootosh Bose cannot legally have any effect against him, as he was not present there, and oath not taken when the deposition was made. It was an error, therefore, to have written his deposition in the report stating therein that no objection was raised by your petitioner.

SCHEDULE.

Bycaunt Nath Bhuttacharjee
Kally Das Aditya
Deno Nath Chowdhury
Haran Chunder Singhe
Issen Chunder Ghose
Manic Chunder Chatterjee

} These men signed the petition.

} Wrote the address of the petition.

All these are inhabitants of Konnagore.

And your petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray.

TARRUCK NATH MITTER.

(d.) No. 753—40 P. A., dated Rangoon, the 28th August 1882.

From—G. D. BURGERS, Esq.,

SECY. TO THE CHIEF COMR. OF BRITISH BURMA.

To—THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I am directed to submit the following question for the favourable consideration and orders of the Government of India. Under Finance and Commerce Department Resolution No. 1622, dated the 10 June 1882, an officer transferred from the service of Government to service which is paid for from a Local Fund under such circumstances that it does not qualify for pension and leave under the rules in the Civil Pension and Leave Codes, is required to pay a contribution of $14\frac{2}{7}$ per cent. of his gross salary in order to continue entitled to pensionary rights.

*No. 124 (see Public Proceedings June, 1882, No. 207).

In the Chief Commissioner's Resolution No. 4A, dated the 28th April 1882, on the extension of Self-Government in municipal and other towns (a copy* of which is submitted for ready reference,) the Local Government promised (paragraph 13) to solicit the permission of the Government of India to the retention of school-masters and others transferred to Municipal service on the general pension list. This promise the Chief Commissioner would now wish to redeem. I am therefore directed to solicit that if subscriptions for pension are required from the transferred officers in such cases, the provincial Government may be permitted to pay them.

1. I am to explain that the position, prospects, and efficiency of school-masters may be effected if they are suddenly removed from the pension list, or if they are suddenly called upon to pay $14\frac{2}{7}$ per cent., of their salaries as a contribution for pension. The Local Government cannot ask Municipalities to pay the subscription over and above the salaries, for it has made over with all schools a corresponding credit to Municipal towns. In the credit so made over, these pension subscriptions were not included. Therefore, if Municipalities have to pay the subscription, the Local Government would be, in some degree, bound proportionately to increase their educational allotments.

2. I am to explain that the position, prospects, and efficiency of school-masters may be effected if they are suddenly removed from the pension list, or if they are suddenly called upon to pay $14\frac{2}{7}$ per cent., of their salaries as a contribution for pension. The Local Government cannot ask Municipalities to pay the subscription over and above the salaries, for it has made over with all schools a corresponding credit to Municipal towns. In the credit so made over, these pension subscriptions were not included. Therefore, if Municipalities have to pay the subscription, the Local Government would be, in some degree, bound proportionately to increase their educational allotments.

3. As a considerable number of school masters and others who have served Government for shorter or longer periods will, under the orders contained in the Chief Commissioner's Resolution be transferred to Municipal service, I am to solicit that the Government of India may be pleased to accord its sanction to the names of these persons being allowed to remain on the list of officers who are earning pensions from the Provincial Government. For the future, school-masters and others appointed by Municipalities will of course come under the same rules as to pension or gratuity that govern the cases of municipal servants.

(e.) Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Department of Finance and Commerce,—No. 4493, dated Simla, the 25th October 1882.

READ the undermentioned correspondence :—

Memorandum from DIRECTOR-GENERAL of POST OFFICES, No 51, dated 2nd June, 1882.

Letter from the MILITARY DEPARTMENT, to the DIRECTOR of the INDIAN MARINE No. 798, dated the 14th July, 1882.

Letter from the DIRECTOR of the INDIAN MARINE, to the MILITARY DEPARTMENT, No. 4285, dated 19th September 1882.

Letter to DIRECTOR GENERAL of POST OFFICES, No. 4268, dated 11th October, 1882.

RESOLUTION.—Under the existing contract with Government for the maintenance of steam communication in Indian waters, the British Indian Steam Navigation Company enjoys an almost exclusive monopoly of the conveyance of mails and Government stores and passengers from one Indian Port to another, and a large subsidy is annually paid to the Company for the service. One of the objects of the present contract was the encouragement of interportal trade. Desirable as this encouragement may have been in the earlier stages of the trade of the country, the time has now arrived when the profitable existence of steam communication between most Indian ports is possible without Government support, and existing arrangements are not only a source of expense to Government, but may tend to retard the development of other steamship companies. The Governor-General in Council has therefore resolved to terminate the existing contract on 30th April 1884, and to make any new arrangements that may thereafter be found necessary the subject of open competition. The Director General of the Post Offices has accordingly been instructed to communicate this decision of Government to the Managing Agents of the British India Steam Navigation Company.

2. The existing lines of steam communication, which are described in the list appended to this Resolution, are maintained either for postal or for military and political reasons, or on general grounds.

3. The Governor-General in Council is of opinion that for postal and political purposes there may be certain lines for the regular maintenance of which it would be expedient to enter into contracts and even to pay moderate subsidies, but that it will not be necessary to enter into any contract for the maintenance of any lines of steam communication on merely general grounds, or to pay

any subsidy for the conveyance of troops. Government Stores and passengers to and from any Indian Port. For such services it will be advantageous to have recourse to the local freight market as occasion arises. His Excellency in Council is further of opinion that a separate contract should be entered into in respect of each line maintained for postal or political purposes and that the payment of subsidy should be confined to as few lines as possible. By such arrangements His Excellency in Council hopes that in future the total amount of annual subsidy will be considerably less than it has been in the past, while the charges for freight and for Government passengers will be reduced to a minimum.

4. Before arrangements are made for inviting tenders for any future contract, the Government of India, however, considers it desirable to settle what lines of steam communication should be maintained, and if necessary subsidised for postal or political reasons. In this view His Excellency in Council requests to be favoured with the advice of the Local Governments and Officers concerned with as little delay as possible, in order to enable the Government of India to complete all preliminary arrangements before the end of December next.

ORDERED, that a copy of the foregoing Resolution be forwarded to the Governments of Bengal, Bombay and Madras ; to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah and to the Director General of the Post Office of India, for the purpose indicated in paragraph 4.

Ordered also, that the Resolution be communicated for further consideration to the—

Military Department.*

Foreign Department.

Home Department.

Revenue and Agricultural
Department.

Public Works Department.

(True Extract,)

D. M. BARBOUR,

SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

(f) No. 332, dated Simla, the 31st October 1882.

From—THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

To—HER MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

We have the honour to transmit, for Your Lordship's consideration, a copy of the correspondence cited in the annexed list on the subject of the grant of fees to the President, Members, Secretary, and Assessors of the Civil and Military Examination Committee at Bombay.

2. The fee paid for each sitting of the Committee to the President, Members and Secretary is Rs. 15 each *per diem*, while that paid to the Assessors is Rs. 10 each *per diem*. It will be observed from the report submitted by the Bombay Government, with their letter of the 15th August last, that in the year 1881, one hundred and sixty-one officers were examined at a total cost of Rs. 8,610, representing an average expenditure of rather more than Rs. 53 per head. As this expenditure appeared to us to be excessive, we have requested the Bombay Government to consider whether it is not susceptible of reduction, and we have indicated the direction in which some economy might be effected. At the same time we have informed the Government of Bombay that we can only approve of the payment of these fees on the understanding that the Committee is a genuine working body, every member of which is fully qualified as an examiner, and from this point of view we have suggested that the members should in future be chosen solely on account of their linguistic attainments, and should ordinarily not be Government servants. In the meantime, as the daily fee of Rs. 15 to each member of the Committee for each sitting of the Examination Committee makes a considerable addition to the annual emoluments of such of them as may be in the service Government, we would ask Your Lordship, pending the carrying out of the reforms suggested, to sanction the present arrangement which has been in existence for several years past.

3. We would add that, pending the issue of final orders on the whole question, we have authorised the continuance of the payment to Government servants who may be appointed Assessors, of the fee of Rs. 10 each *per diem*, when required to attend the meeting of the Committee, but we have suggested that the Assessors should, as a rule, be chosen from outside the public service.

(g) Extract from the proceedings of the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, in the HOME DEPARTMENT (Public)—Nos. 49-1791 to 1807, dated Simla, the 8th November, 1882.

READ—

Circular letter to all LOCAL GOVERNMENTS and ADMINISTRATIONS, from the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA in the LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT, No. 1030 to 1040, dated the 8th September, 1882.

RESOLUTION—In the circular letter above read, Local Governments and Administrations were addressed on the subject of the possibility of giving greater publicity to means which may from time to time be under the consideration of the Legislature before they are passed into law, and certain suggestions were made with a view to effect this object. In addition, however, to legislative measures, properly so called, there is another important class of legislation which frequently affects the interests of the public to a greater or less extent, viz., that which takes the form of rules, Regulations, or notifications having the force of law, and issued by the executive

authorities by virtue of powers conferred upon them under the provisions of some Act of the Legislature. In regard to these it appears to the Governor-General in Council doubtful whether sufficient efforts are in all cases made at present to elicit an expression of public opinion before they are brought into force, and some measure seems to be required whereby greater publicity may be given to the drafts of such rules.

2. In order to attain this end, His Excellency in Council considers that the ordinary procedure to be followed should be that any rules, regulations or notifications which affect the outside public should, before being issued by Local Governments or Administrations or in cases in which the previous approval or sanction of the Governor-General in Council is necessary before submission to the Government of India, be published with a view to ascertain whether any valid objections can be taken thereto. Such publication might be effected in the local Official Gazettes and in one or two local newspapers (if any exist), English or Vernacular, which circulate among the classes of persons whom the proposed rules are likely to effect. A similar course might, in the opinion of the Government of India, be adopted with advantage in the case of many rules or notifications affecting the outside public which it is proposed to issue not under any Act or Resolution, but as executive orders. The practice which prevails in England under the Public Health Act, 1875 (38 and 39 Vic., Cap. 55), is described in Section 184 of that Act, a copy of which is appended to this Resolution. There may be some classes of rules which it is inexpedient or impracticable to publish before issue, but these will probably be found not to be numerous.

3. When any rules, regulations, or notifications of the classes referred to in this Resolution are submitted for the sanction of the Governor-General in Council, it should invariably be stated whether they have been published in accordance with the instructions now issued. If they have been so published, the result of such publication should be described; and if they have not been published, the reasons for non-publication should be fully explained.

ORDER.—Ordered that the foregoing Resolution be forwarded to

Madras.
Bombay.
Bengal.
N. W. P. & Oudh.
Panjab.

Central Provinces.
British Burma.
Coorg.
Assam.
Hyderabad.

the Local Governments and Administrations noted on the margin, and to all Departments of the Government of India for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

A. MACKENZIE,

Secy. to the Government of India.

1883.]

QUESTION ON DOCKETING.

Section 184 of 38 and 39, Vic., Cap. 55.

184. Bye-laws made by a local authority under this Act shall not take effect unless and until they have been submitted to and confirmed by the Local Government Board, which Board is hereby empowered to allow or disallow the same as it may think proper; nor shall any such bye-laws be confirmed.—

Unless notice of intention to apply for confirmation of the same has been given in one or more of the local newspapers circulated within the district to which such bye-laws relate, one month at least before the making of such application; and,

Unless for one month at least before any such application a copy of the proposed bye-laws has been kept at the office of the local authority, and has been open during office hours thereat to the inspection of the rate-payers of the district to which such bye-laws relate, without fee or reward.

The clerk of the local authority shall, on the application of any such rate-payer, furnish him with a copy of such proposed bye-laws or any part thereof on payment of six pence for every hundred words contained in such copy.

A bye-law required to be confirmed by the Local Government Board shall not require confirmation, allowance or approval by any other authority.

ENGLISH COMPOSITION—500.

Write an essay on *one* of the following subjects;—

1. The benefits derived from travel.
2. Commerce: the part it plays in the advancement of civilization.
3. The recent war in Egypt.

UPPER DIVISION.—1884.

ENGLISH COMPOSITION—500 MARKS.

1. Write an essay on any one of the following subjects:—

- (1) Character of Native Society in Bengal, and how affected by intercourse with the English.
- (2) The use of travel.
- (3) The education of women.
- (4) The advantage of study of English in the form of a dialogue between A and B.

N. B.—*The essay should be neatly written, and should cover not less than four pages of foolscap of ordinary close writing,*

No mark will be allowed for quotations from standard or other works.

LETTER-DRAFTING—250 MARKS.

Put into official form so much of the following orders as you think necessary to convey clearly their substance and intention (leaving numbers and dates blank) :—

(a) In continuation of our last letter on the subject, send the Secretary of State's despatch of November, 1881, to the Bombay Government, and ask for the opinion of that Government on the enquiry contained in it as to the feasibility of insisting on Native Pilgrim Ships proceeding to the Arabian Coast carrying an efficient medical officer. This officer, it is suggested, should be a Muhamadan holding a diploma from the Medical College. Are doctors with these qualifications available in Bombay ?

(b) Reply to the letter from Bombay, requesting permission for Professor Smith to attend the Oriental Congress at Vienna on three months' full pay and allowance, that as no communication from Congress or India Office has been received regarding the Professor, no special concessions of pay and allowance can be sanctioned.

(c) In modification of the above (b) say that, in the circumstances explained, the case has been reconsidered and Professor Smith may have the leave on two-thirds pay, defraying his own expenses.

(d) Inform the Chief Commissioner that in the opinion of the Advocate-General the case was one of so much doubt, that it would have been well, had it been referred to High Court at Calcutta ; that it seems needless now to discuss the merits of the Judicial Commissioner's Judgment (though the Advocate-General is inclined to think the conviction might have been sustained), and that if he will refer the facts officially and show why legislation is necessary in consequence of the judgment, the Government of India will consider the point.

(e) Acknowledge the memorial of the Methodist Church Conference, advocating amendments in the existing Indian Marriage and Divorce Laws, affecting Hindu Christian converts and say the Government see no sufficient ground for modifying the law and must decline to reopen the question. Ask the memorialists however for further information as to paragraphs 4 and 6 of memorial. With reference to allegations in paragraph 4 that certain ministers solemnize marriages of children of tender age, specific instances should be given ; the same way with reference to paragraph 6 all cases of irregularities, which have come to their knowledge and which the existing Marriage Act does not adequately prevent by the penalties provided, should be stated.

LOWER DIVISION—1884.

LETTER DRAFTING.

Put into official form so much of the following orders as you think necessary to convey clearly their substance and intention (leaving numbers and dates blank):—

(1).—Refer the petitioner to the Act ; Government of India cannot advise on points of law.

(2).—The Government of India agree to the recommendation of the Local Government to impose the house-tax in the cantonment of Mian Mir, but unoccupied houses should be exempt.

(3).—Return the memorial and say that as a similar memorial has already been rejected by the Secretary of State, a second cannot be forwarded to His Lordship, in which no new matter is adduced.

(4).—Tell the Telegraph Department, in reply, that we cannot undertake to make copies of patent specifications free of charge. They should depute one of their own establishment (they have plenty of competent men), or we can do the work for them if they agree to meet the cost.

(5).—Inform the Jail Superintendent that, in consideration of the female prisoner's good conduct and of the 12 years she has already served, the Government of India is disposed to accede to his recommendation that she may be released, but that the Local Government must be first consulted.

(6).—Comply with Director's request for an additional copy of the report, and say his wish for two copies in future is noted.

(7).—Return application to petitioner for transmission through the Local Government.

(8).—Send this memorial from the Muhammadan Association to the Education Commission for their consideration. The opinion of the Commission on the value of the arguments adduced in it should be noticed in their final report.

ENGLISH COMPOSITION.—500.

Write an essay on any *one* of the following subjects :—

1. Describe your Native town or village.
2. Write an account of a Bengali play.
3. Cruelty to animals.
4. Town and country life.

N. B.—*The essay should be neatly written, and should cover not less than four pages of foolscap of ordinary close writing.*

LOWER DIVISION.—1885.

ENGLISH COMPOSITION—500.

Essay.—The choice of a profession treated particularly with reference to official and unofficial employment.

LOWER DIVISION.—1886.

LETTER DRAFTING.

Put into the form of an official draft or endorsement so much of the following orders as you think necessary to convey their substance and intention (leaving numbers and dates blank):—

1. The petitioner *will* not understand that the orders of 25th July last are final. Tell him so once more and say that we can do nothing for him.

2. This letter from the Madras Government may be allowed to lie over for the present, but we may acknowledge receipt and say that it will be considered by the Government in due course, though immediate orders can't be passed.

3. The Local Government asks for general permission to prescribe fees at such rates as may be thought suitable from time to time. Reply courteously that such general permission is opposed to the terms of the law and therefore can't be given.

4. No grounds are shown for interference. Return petition to writer with a remark to that effect, and tell him at the same time, that if he wishes to make any representation to the Government of India, he must submit it through the Local Government. Also return the one rupee telegraph stamp which he sent for a reply. (As the petitioner is a man of some position, orders had better be communicated to him by letter instead of by office memorandum or endorsement.)

5. Ask the Financial Department officially whether an exception might not be made in this case. (I think that the circumstances described are sufficient to justify us in strongly recommending that the matter should be treated as *being outside the general rules*. At the same time no case has been made out for retrospective effect. That part of the proposal must accordingly be abandoned, and need not be mentioned in writing to Financial Department.) Ask for an early reply, as the matter presses.

6. Sanction the extra establishment recommended,* but tell the Local Government that the sanction of the Government of India in such cases should not be anticipated, except for very sufficient reasons.

7. Acknowledge receipt of the report, which has been well drawn up and carefully reviewed. The review leaves little to be said by the Government of India. But we might usefully suggest to the Local Government that the statistical statements appended to the report might with advantage be curtailed and re-arranged. At present they are in some respects misleading, and it doesn't do to publish figures the real meaning of which is so doubtful. Remark in passing that future reports should be more punctual. In the present case there was a delay of something like six months. This is inconvenient.

8. It is difficult to see how the recommendation made in this case can be supported. Tell the Chief Commissioner politely that while there is every willingness to support him within reasonable limits, we really can't do what he asks in the present instance. The line must be drawn somewhere. We have already gone out of our way to make concessions.

UPPER DIVISION 1887.

LETTER-DRAFTING.

(Time allowed—3 hours.)

Put into the form of an official letter or memorandum the substance of each of the following orders:—

(The words in the margin indicate in each case the official position of the person issuing the order.)

1. The district Superintendent says there is no proper boundary line between thanas Nandgaon and Ram-
The Deputy Com- purwa. Some one drew a line on the map
missioner of— long ago, but there has been no survey, and
no one can show us this line on the ground.
The usual thing is to follow lines of survey mouzahs, but there are none, because these thanas have never been surveyed. Explain the muddle to the Commissioner and ask him to get Government to sanction a survey of the boundary,

2. Babu Rajkrishan Sarkar wants to go in for the Subordinate Executive Examination. He told the doctor
Chief Secretary to who examined him he was 25, and the Doc-
the Government of tor says he looks about that. Now he writes
Bengal. saying that when he said 25 he meant between 24 and 25. This won't do. Tell him that if he can't give us something *pukka* in the way of evidence that he is under 25—say his horoscope or a birth certificate—we must take that he's over age, and he can't appear.

3. Write a polite letter to the Chairman of the Municipality, asking him when he means to keep his promise to fill up that nasty cesspool of a tank
Magistrate of— just outside the cutcherry compound. It's a perfect nuisance to every one coming to cutcherry, and he must do something about it. Hint that there have been a good many complaints lately about the dirtiness of the town, and though I don't want to interfere under section 62 of the Act, I shall have to if the Municipal Commissioner's don't wake up.

4. Another petition from Jai Singh. Send him a memo in the 3rd person, telling him as plainly as possible that the Lieutenant-Governor won't go back on his last order, and won't look at any further letters from him. He will go on memorialising and petitioning till doomsday.